

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

25th January 2022

Burgess Hall,
One Leisure St Ives,
Westwood Road,
St Ives
PE27 6WU

Cambridgeshire County Council Notice of Meeting

An extraordinary meeting of the County Council will be held at the Burgess Hall, One Leisure St Ives, Westwood Road, St Ives PE27 6WU on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 10.30a.m.

Agenda

Apologies for Absence

1. Declarations of Interests (oral)
[\[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available here\]](#)
2. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Samantha Hoy

To identify and open Young Person's Mental Health Hubs throughout Cambridgeshire

Young Person's Mental health services are in crisis. Waiting lists for counselling are months long and often rely on referrals that are complex for some families to understand. The situation has been made worse by the pandemic.

In July 2020, data from the NHS suggested that one in six young people now has a probable mental health disorder, up from one in nine in 2017. The Children's Commissioner reported that in 2019/2020 there had been a 35% increase in referrals to Children's mental health services, yet only a 4% increase in support.

Mental Health charity 'Young Minds' in 2019 surveyed young people about their experiences of early support, two-thirds told it that they could not find support when they first needed it. Three-quarters (78%) of young people in the same survey said that they had had to manage their mental health on their own when they couldn't find help elsewhere, but only 17% felt confident in their ability to manage their mental health by themselves.

It is acknowledged that the earlier a young person gets support for their mental health, the more effective that support will be and so it is important that this Council opens early help hubs for young people's mental health.

An early support hub is a mental health and wellbeing hub that provides open access, flexible, early support for young people under 25 in their communities. The centres bring together various services to support young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing - such as youth services; sexual health, drug and alcohol, health and wellbeing practitioners; and mental health practitioners - before they hit crisis point. The hubs, which would be accessed without referrals from doctors or schools and offer support up to the age of 25, already exist in some areas.

Whilst the Government does need to also recognise this issue and provide funding, the Council must do something in the short term. The performance of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is poor compared to other areas and with just 0.86% of the CCG's budget spent on Young People's Mental Health it is clearly not being made a priority for them. It is very disappointing that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG appears as one of 5 areas with the worst performance on the table for 'CCGs with the lowest performance on mental health service spending and waiting times for children in England for 2019/20.'

It is acknowledged that there is not a bottomless pit of money but the Council should see this as an invest to save. The evaluation of the 'Mind the Gap' project in the London Borough of Camden showed that for every £1 invested there was a social return on investment of £3.40 (social and economic benefit).

This council resolves to:-

1. ask the Chief Executive to write to Young Minds to join its call on Government to #fundthehubs – and press for more Government funding in mental health;
2. ask the Chief Executive to write to the CCG to urge it to urgently increase its proportion of spend on young people's mental health; and
3. with decentralisation, work with the CCG to open an Early Help hub in each locality; and
4. produce a guide to Mental Health and wellbeing support available to young people in their area, mapping the help available across both the statutory and voluntary sectors and providing information on how to access that help.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

(b) Motion from Councillor Steve Criswell

This Council is in receipt of a planning application to construct a healthcare waste energy recovery facility [incinerator] at the Envar Composting site in Somersham. In light of the Council's motion approved in relation to the incinerator proposed in Wisbech on 21st July 2020, that raised similar concerns to those raised for this proposal, it is vital that we as a Council act now to highlight concerns on the use of incineration at this site and support the issues and objections raised by our local residents.

The Council recognises that its Planning Committee will need to consider this proposal in due course on purely material planning related matters and that members of that committee and their substitutes will need to leave this meeting and take no part in the debate of this motion to demonstrate that they are not pre-determined in that decision.

Incinerators can be wasteful. We should be reducing waste wherever possible. The huge increase in the use of plastic during the pandemic should act as a catalyst to increase efforts to provide reusable, recyclable and sterilisable alternatives. An incinerator's continuous demand for fuel does nothing to incentivise

waste reduction. Incineration is a reaction to a problem rather than a solution. We do not need another one.

Energy from waste is not 'green energy' unless it is derived from renewable rather than finite resources.

Burning waste produces emissions. This is demonstrated by the need for strict controls and monitoring. However, it is impossible to guarantee the removal of all harmful pollutants, such as dioxins from those emissions. The Environment Agency's role is to ensure legal standards are met, not to ensure the elimination of risk. Public Health England guidance states that "While it is not possible to rule out adverse health effects from these incinerators completely, any potential effect for people living close by is likely to be very small". 'Very small' is too big if it is avoidable. Constructing an additional incinerator is avoidable.

Transporting waste further than necessary is harmful. The need to keep fuelling a new incinerator will create pressure to transport waste from far and wide. This uses fuel, increases road congestion and creates air pollution, which is contrary to this Council's climate change and Net Zero aspirations for the County. [Climate Change and Environment Strategy](#)

It is important that local people see that the elected councillors of Cambridgeshire County Council understand the strength of public opinion against the Incineration proposed at this site.

In doing so, Council notes the motion proposed by Councillor Count and passed by Council in December 2019 acknowledging the part the Council can play in improving air quality throughout the county.

It also notes the motion proposed by Councillor Tierney and passed by Council in July 2020 objecting to the building of a waste incinerator in Wisbech.

This Council supports the concerns raised by numerous local residents against the construction of a healthcare waste energy recovery facility [incinerator] at Envar Composting in Somersham.

In supporting the above this Council states that:

1. This Council will send a letter to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to raise the concerns being made by local residents on these proposals and to lobby Government to move away from incineration and instead, focus on the circular economy and using green solutions for energy generation.
2. This Council encourages the healthcare industry to move away from the use of plastics in favour of more sustainable alternatives.
3. Furthermore, in the meantime, the Council encourages those giving rise to clinical waste in this county to fully utilise existing facilities including the incinerator located at the Addenbrooke's Hospital site.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

(c) Motion from Councillor Simon King

Motion to safeguard the enhanced budget put forward by the previous Conservative administration with regards to the improved maintenance of roads, footpaths and cycleways and the additional funding allocated for flood prevention measures.

This Council requests that the Joint Administration undertake to continue the commitments made by the previous Conservative administration's budget amendments, and that the increased investment in our roads, footpaths, cycleways and flood prevention will be honoured in full and that any underspends within the Highways maintenance budget will be ring-fenced for roads, footpaths, cycle ways and flood prevention.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

(d) Motion from Councillor Kevin Reynolds

Motion to safeguard against the effects of the de-prioritisation of health as a consequence of the Joint Administration's reorganisation of committees

This Council notes that the merger of the Adults and Health Committees presents a potential danger that neither adult social care or the health of the wider community will be best served.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Joint Administration agree with this Conservative proposal that, as part of the return of the corporate peer review team, they are asked to prioritise and pay particular attention to examining how the new arrangements are working with regard to the safe and equitable delivery of these vital services across the County.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

Dated 17th January 2022

Fiona McMillan
Monitoring Officer

The meeting will be streamed on the Council's website, given the current Covid restrictions if you wish to attend in person, please contact Michelle Rowe at the County Council's Democratic Services on Cambridge (01223) 699180 or by email at: michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk