

## County Council – 15th March 2022

### Chair's Announcements

#### People

#### Terri Henry

It is with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent death of Terri Henry. Terri started working for the Council in 1993 and was part of the IT Desktop Team. The Council's thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

#### Retirement of the Assistant Director: Education Capital & Place Planning, Hazel Belchamber

After a 35-year career in local government, Hazel Belchamber, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Assistant Director: Education Capital & Place Planning retires at the end of March 2022. Hazel began her career in Cambridgeshire in 1987 as an Administrative Assistant in the Further Education team before working through a number of roles as she rose through the council including being an Education Officer, Head of Schools Organisation and Planning and finally being appointed as an Assistant Director in 2018. This illustrates the career opportunities offered in Cambridgeshire County Council. She has led many high profile projects including:

- The special school review in early 2003/4 which resulted in the closure of 4 small special schools in the south of the County and the opening of Castle and Granta Area Special Schools
- The move from 3 tier to two tier education in Gamlingay which took over a decade to complete.

During her career she has moved through cycles of falling rolls, amalgamation and closing schools to a prolific phase of building new schools in the last 10 years. Hazel has left a huge mark on Education in Cambridgeshire. We wish her well in her retirement when she will have the time to indulge her passions for travel, nature watching and scuba diving.

#### Assistant Directors in Education

Following a competitive recruitment process the Council has appointed two new assistant Directors in Education who will be joining in April. Carley Holliman joins as Assistant Director, School and Settings Improvement from an Executive Headteacher role in the London Borough of Brent. Fran Cox takes on the role of Assistant Director, Education Capital and Place Planning from the London Borough of Hackney where she worked as an Assistant Director providing strategic leadership across school organisation, capital, SEND and Inclusion services. We wish them well with their new roles at the County Council.

## Awards

### Excellence in People Management Awards (PPMA) 2022

Cambridgeshire County Council has been shortlisted for the PPMA awards for the best health and wellbeing Initiative (including mental health, general health and safety). Winners will be announced on 28 April.

### First Cambridgeshire Apprenticeship Awards success!

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council hosted the first Cambridgeshire Apprenticeship Awards to recognise, showcase, and celebrate the commitment, hard work and achievements of individuals completing and supporting an apprenticeship within both areas. The winners were decided by a panel of independent judges.

The Apprentice of the Year award was presented by Mrs Sue Freestone, Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire. The awards ceremony was hosted by Al Kingsley – Chief Executive Officer of the EdTech company, NetSupport, an Apprenticeship Ambassador, academy chair and the chair of the Employment and Skills Board at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. The category winners and highly commended awards were presented by Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

On Friday 11 February, during National Apprenticeship Week, the winners of Cambridgeshire's first Apprenticeship Awards were announced.

The Apprentice of the Year award was presented by Mrs Sue Freestone, Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, and went to Faith Akinbo who works for Softwerx. Faith works as a Microsoft Research Analyst and is completing a degree level apprenticeship in digital marketing.

Faith won the overall Apprentice of the Year award as well as being the winner in the Personal Achievement category, Faith was nominated for her remarkable work, determination, and natural talent.

### Category Winners and Highly Commended

#### Apprentice Ambassador/Champion:

Winner: Hollie Setchell, Morgan Sindall Construction Plc

Highly Commended: Donya Taylor, South Cambridgeshire District Council

#### Apprentice Manager/Mentor:

Winner: Robin Lipscombe, Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group

Highly Commended: Shelley Kane, Cambridgeshire County Council

#### Behind the Scenes:

Winner: Sam Cox, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue

Highly Commended: Sema Aydin, Cambridgeshire County Council

### Personal Achievement:

Winner: Faith Akinbo, Softwerx

Highly Commended: Hannah Shimmens, Castle School

Highly Commended: Jeremy Franks, Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group

### Team Working:

Winner: Cathy Taylorson, Cambridgeshire County Council

Highly Commended: Phoebe Ward, Softwerx

Highly Commended: Mari Caruso Corrado, Cambridgeshire County Council

### Working with People:

Winner: Joanne Tagg, Cambridgeshire County Council

Highly Commended: Michelle Millwood, Cambridgeshire County Council

Congratulations to all of the Apprentices whose passion and commitment for their apprenticeship was celebrated through this process and thank you to all the managers, mentors, employers, and training providers who offer excellent support throughout their learning.

## Messages

### Invasion of Ukraine

Like most of the world, Cambridgeshire watched in horror as Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the early hours of 24th February. As a council we condemn this assault on Ukraine and the devastating impact on the way of life of ordinary Ukrainian people.

The Russian military is even as we speak, using tanks, aircraft and artillery to target major Ukrainian cities and population centres, some of which are now under occupation. Despite assurances that civilians would not be targeted, many - including children and vulnerable older people - have already lost their lives and it is estimated that more than 2.6 million people have fled to seek safety elsewhere.

There are many Ukrainians or people with Ukrainian heritage here in the United Kingdom, including those who live in Cambridgeshire, as well as from, or with connections to nearby Baltic States and Russia too, who have been profoundly affected by this war. As such, there is justifiable fear in our communities and from our own councillors and staff about the safety of family and friends in Ukraine and in neighbouring areas.

The United Kingdom is Ukraine's strategic partner and long-standing friend. In Cambridgeshire, we have a long and honourable history in supporting people fleeing conflict, and we are poised to do so again, as we have already done for those families most recently fleeing the restrictive regime in Afghanistan.

We in Cambridgeshire support the actions of the UK, EU and wider international community in backing Ukraine's democratically elected government against this unprovoked invasion.