

County Council – 10th May 2022

Chair's Announcements

Awards

Athene Communications Awards

The Internal Communications team at Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have been awarded the Internal Communications Campaign of the Year at the Athene Communications Awards in Peterborough on 25th March 2022.

Over the past couple of years, the Council has built an established health and wellbeing programme, using knowledge and expertise from internal communications, health and safety, human resources, learning and development, occupational health, IT and public health.

The award recognises the creative and engaging communications developed by Jennifer Wagstaff, Senior Communications Officer with the support of Bethany Clough, Communications and Content Assistant to share health and wellbeing messages to staff across the Council.

Council's web team

The Chair congratulates the Council's web team – and staff across the council – who have contributed to its website recently being judged second out of all local authority websites.

This national assessment by Monsido, a leading web governance organisation, looks at measures such as accessibility, content quality, response time and how easy it is to find key aspects of the site on search engines, such as Google.

Service Developments

Additional National Funding for Drugs and Alcohol

In 2021/22 additional funding was awarded to local authorities from national sources to invest in local Drug and Alcohol services. The Ministry of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities awarded £562,467 to address substance misuse among rough sleepers and homeless people. The Office of Health Improvement and Health Disparities (OHID) allocated £408,000 to invest in harm reduction and the criminal justice system. There have been significant delays in recruiting additional staff especially for the OHID funded work, but it is anticipated that the majority will be spent by the June 2022 deadline.

OHID is providing additional funding totalling £2,330,000 (exact amount will be confirmed shortly) over the next three years that has to be used primarily to increase

service capacity and improve quality. Work is under way to identify the urgent service improvements and areas of need to inform areas for investment.

Messages

Flag raising at New Shire Hall as New Chair

Since becoming Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council, the Chair has had the pleasure of attending New Shire Hall on many occasions to raise flags. Thus far he has raised the Commonwealth Flag, St Patrick's Day flag and the Welsh flag for St David's day. Together with the Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council, he stood in solidarity and raised the Ukraine flag at New Shire Hall.

Fenland District Council Civic Reception

The Chair had the pleasure of attending the Chairman of Fenland District Council, Councillor Alex Miscandlon's civic reception on 18th March in Eastrea, Cambridgeshire.

West Northamptonshire Council – Chairman's Civic Service

The Chair had the pleasure of attending the West Northamptonshire Council, Councillor Ann Addison's civic reception on 20th March. The civic service was in support of the Cynthia Spencer Hospice.

Official opening of community boxing gym and mental health facility in Yaxley

The Chair was honoured to be invited to the official opening of a Community Boxing Gym and Mental Health Facility in Yaxley.

Annual Peppercorn Lunch

The Chair was delighted to be invited to the Annual Peppercorn Lunch. On behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, he paid its annual fee of a peppercorn to Marshalls for the lease of Newmarket Road Park & Ride site.

Huntingdon St George's Day Service

The Chair was pleased to be invited by The Royal Society of Saint George and Huntingdon Town Council to the St George's Day Service Church Service at All Saints Church.

Siobhan Rouse celebrating 25 years as Headteacher at Harston & Newton Primary School

Lastly, the Chair wants to congratulate Siobhan Rouse on celebrating 25 years as a headteacher and her continuing headship at Harston and Newton Primary School.