

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 19 JULY 2018

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 19 July 2018. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Democratic Services.

PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS (CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - 26 JUNE 2018)

Council **AGREED**

To introduce a twelve month pilot scheme to allow the public to make written representations at full Council meetings in accordance with the scheme set out at Appendix A.

WRITE OFF OF OUTSTANDING DEBTS

Council **NOTED**

The amounts written off under delegated powers.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO SOUTH CAMBS LIMITED, TRADING AS ERMINE STREET HOUSING (COMPANY NO. 08336413) AND SHIRE HOMES LETTINGS LIMITED (COMPANY NO. 10718044)

Council **AGREED**

1. The nominations of:
 - a) Mike Hill, Director of Health and Environmental Services, to serve as a Director of South Cambs Limited in an Executive capacity; and
 - b) Heather Wood, Head of Housing Advice and Options, to serve as a Director of Shire Homes Lettings Limited in an Executive capacity.
2. That the relevant current delegations of authority to the Director of Housing in these regards pass to the above named post holders.
3. That Stephen Hills be nominated to serve as a non-Executive Director of South Cambs Limited.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR GRENVILLE CHAMBERLAIN

The following motion was **LOST**:

That this Council continues to oppose congestion charging for Cambridge.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PIPPA HEYLINGS

Following alteration of the original motion by the mover, with the consent of Council, Council **AGREED** the following motion:

The issue of single use plastics is high in the public consciousness and the Council has a significant opportunity to reduce usage in South Cambs - through its roles as service provider, procurement agency, employer and advocate.

This Council notes:

- That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. Whilst some plastics have had a positive impact on our lives when used correctly, in many cases, such as plastic bags, straws, takeaway food containers, plastic bottles and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable, recyclable or sustainable.
- That 800 million tonnes of the plastic produced each year ends up in our oceans. Plastic which ends up in the River Cam and other watercourses locally contributes to this total, and can release toxic chemicals which harm the health of wildlife. In 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)
- That 78 million tonnes of plastic packaging is produced every year, of which only 14% goes to recycling whilst 32% leaks into land and sea (Ellen MacArthur Foundation).
- That marine plastic leads to coastal / offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain – including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.
- That South Cambridgeshire has a comprehensive recycling scheme for both householders and businesses and is able to collect the full range of plastic packaging for which recycling processes exist. We need to reduce the amount of plastic used whilst also ensuring that our collection system is used correctly and we capture as much of this plastic as possible. In 2017-18 the Shared Waste service collected 22,500 tonnes of recycling in the blue bins and 3,000 tonnes of this was plastic packaging.
- That the introduction of the 5p plastic bag levy has led to an 85% reduction in disposable plastic bag usage.
- That in 2015, Bristol adopted the “Refill” scheme which aims to get shops, cafes and businesses to offer free water refill points in every major city and town in England by 2021. Bristol city now has more than 200 free water refill points. It is estimated that if every city resident in Bristol refilled one bottle once a week, the city could cut the use of disposable bottles by 22.3 million a year. In December 2017, London Mayor Sadiq Khan pledged to create 20 new water fountains and other refill points together with a Refill app.

- That the Treasury has put out a call for evidence on Single Use Plastics and is exploring both a Deposit Return Scheme for plastic bottles and a reform of the Packaging Recovery Note system to strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility (a policy approach under which producers are given a significant responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products).

Accordingly this Council agrees to task the Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee, in co-ordination with the Environmental Services and Licensing Portfolio Holder and other relevant Portfolio Holders, with:

- (a) investigating ways in which this Council can significantly reduce the sale, provision and use of avoidable single-use plastic and influence its neighbours and partners to do likewise; and
- (b) bringing forward its final evidence-based recommendations to Cabinet before the end of this year.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PETER MCDONALD

Council **AGREED** the following motion:

South Cambs DC face a growing gap in the skills we need to become a truly 21st century business and those available in the market. In the past we have had problems recruiting staff for several reasons.

There is an untapped market of potential employees who are disabled.

According to the Government's Briefing paper on People with Disabilities in Employment published on 29th June 2018, only 50.75% of people of working age with a disability are employed as opposed to 81.1% of people without a disability. 9.1% of people with a disability are unemployed and 44% are economically inactive. Only a quarter of people with a learning disability, speech impairment or mental health condition are employed.

South Cambs Hall is fully DDA compliant. We have good parking, good access, a terrific working space and a supportive staff. However we will need to address public transport solutions so that people with disability can even better reach us from some parts of South Cambs.

This Council therefore requests the Employment and Staffing Committee to review the Council's activity to promote equality and diversity amongst its workforce and, in particular, actively seeks ways to make South Cambridgeshire District Council an Employer of Choice for people with disabilities.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR GAVIN CLAYTON

Council **AGREED** the following motion:

That South Cambridgeshire District Council write to the Government Minister responsible requesting the immediate suspension of the Universal Credit roll out in South Cambridgeshire. This is now imperative following the National Audit Office report that raised the potential negative impacts on lives of claimants and the questionable economic rationale behind continued implementation.

