

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 18 JULY 2019

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 18 July 2019. 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.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

Council

- (1) **NOTED** and **ENDORSED** the following changes in Committee membership and substitute appointments:
 - (a) Scrutiny and Overview Committee:
 - (i) Councillor Peter Topping replaced by Councillor Graham Cone as a member of the committee; and
 - (ii) Councillor Alex Malyon replaced by Councillor Philip Allen as a substitute member of the committee.
- (2) **NOTED** that terms of reference of the Cambridge Fringes Joint Development Control Committee only permit two substitutes per political group represented on the committee and that the revised substitute arrangements were therefore as follows:
 - (a) Conservative – Councillors Graham Cone and Mark Howell; and
 - (b) Liberal Democrat – Councillors Sarah Cheung Johnson and Dr. Tumi Hawkins.
- (3) **AGREED** to appoint Councillor Bridget Smith, the Leader of the Council, as the Council's representative on Cambridgeshire Horizons.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON

Council **AGREED** to refer the following motion to Cabinet for review and consideration:

Council notes that domestic abuse against women is still too prevalent in our society. Men are also victims of domestic abuse but the statistics show women are overwhelmingly the victims. 2015 figures show two women a week are killed by a current or former partner and 6 out of 7 victims of Domestic Violence are women. This council commits to providing support to ongoing efforts by staff and councillors to take a stand against violence and to take the pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about men's violence against women.

This Council notes that the White Ribbon Campaign is part of a global movement to end men's violence against women, and the Council commits to becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Authority so that it can ensure it has the necessary policies and procedures in place to reduce male violence against women in

workplaces and public interaction.

Council understands that raising awareness plays a huge part in changing the cultural and social norms which are recognised as being highly influential in shaping individual behaviour, including the use of violence and Council will continue to work closely with local agencies and organisations involved in tackling violence against women to extend knowledge and understanding of the issues amongst South Cambridgeshire's population.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ALEX MALYON

Council **AGREED** to refer the following motion to Cabinet for review and consideration:

This Council has already noted with great concern the issues associated with single use plastics and the global problem of plastic pollution. Currently 320 million new items of plastic are made every year, with this set to double by 2034. Every day approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. There may now be around 5.25 trillion macro and microplastic pieces floating in the open ocean, weighing up to 269,000 tonnes.

The Plastic Free Communities initiative provides a toolkit for communities to work to tackle this issue on a local level. Communities can work towards Plastic Free Community status by raising awareness of the need to reduce single use plastic use through community events. They work with local businesses and other community influencers such as churches or schools, to reduce dependence on single use plastics and encourage the use of alternatives. Nationally there are 561 communities who have achieved or are working towards this certification including a local community group in Cottenham.

A resolution passed by this Council in July 2018 committed to exploring ways in which we can significantly reduce the sale, provision and use of avoidable single-use plastics. In doing so we acknowledged the important role that this Council had to play in influencing others to do likewise.

This Council and its individual members therefore commit to supporting, encouraging and promoting the work of community groups and parishes who wish to join this growing network of UK Plastic Free Communities.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NICK WRIGHT

Council **AGREED** to refer the following motion to Cabinet for review and consideration:

In the last year councillors have been receiving inch thick planning agendas and cabinet agendas sometimes over 700 pages. This is not only damaging Councillors' backs carrying them, but trees for paper supply; and causes unnecessary postage expenditure. The Conservative group proposes that SCDC Councillors' documents become paperless unless individual members request otherwise.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DR. IAN SOLLUM

Following amendment of the original motion, Council **AGREED** the following motion:

This Council:

Is deeply concerned by the financial outlook for schools in South Cambridgeshire due to a combination of inadequate government funding and increasing cost pressures.

Believes that successive Governments have not fairly funded schools which is jeopardising the education and future opportunities of young people in South Cambridgeshire and is particularly letting down more vulnerable children, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities, and those who need mental health support.

Notes with concern reports that many schools across the country are having to ask for donations from parents, cutting back teaching hours, reducing staff numbers, reducing mental health support and mentoring for vulnerable pupils. In South Cambridgeshire, where schools have historically been underfunded relative to other parts of the country, more extreme measures are beginning to be taken. For example, Fulbourn Primary School is switching to a four-and-a-half-day week from September, while another of our primary schools is likely to shrink to 3 classes from the current 4, meaning as many as 36 children from 3 different academic years, and up to 4 years age difference, will be taught in a single class. Many other headteachers in South Cambridgeshire are being forced to take similarly agonising decisions which will negatively impact educational outcomes. Schools are one of the cornerstones around which local communities in South Cambridgeshire are built and thrive, and the current funding situation risks real damage to those communities.

Further notes that years of real-terms pay cuts for teachers, coupled with the pressure caused by funding cuts in schools and an excessive workload that too often leads to physical and/or mental health issues, have led to difficulties in retention and recruitment in the teaching profession. This is driving thousands of dedicated professionals out of the jobs they love, and further undermining the quality of education in our schools.

Will make representations to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, calling for them to take action during the next spending review to:

- Reverse, in full, the real-terms cuts to per-pupil school budgets since 2015 – meaning schools in South Cambridgeshire would receive £3,837,946 additional funding in 2020.
- Guarantee that all basic equipment and resources, including support staff, are provided so that teachers can focus on delivering a high-quality education to their pupils and the number of talented teachers leaving the profession due to excessive workload may be reduced.
- Provide additional funding to Cambridgeshire and others across the country, to give more, fully funded support to children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Fix the historic underfunding of Cambridgeshire schools by putting in place genuinely fairer funding through the National Funding Formula.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN CLAYTON

Council **AGREED** to refer the following motion to Cabinet for review and consideration:

This Council condemns the recent spike in hate crime and in particular that of homophobic hate crime.

This Council notes the need for proactive policy development and recruitment of a specialist officer due to increased levels of hate crime as reported (in Parliamentary Briefing Paper Number 08537 , 28 March 2019, Hate Crime Statistics, By Grahame Allen, Yago Zayed). It shows Police Reported hate crimes by monitored strands in England have increased by 123% since 2011. In particular: Race 98% Religion 415% sexual orientation 415% Disability 313% and biggest increase of all for people who identify as transgender 427%

Now is not the time to be without a specialist Equality and Diversity Officer and with increasingly uncertain political and economic times ahead this council will work with neighbouring councils to build upon the Equality Pledge to construct and implement a Single Equality Scheme which is proactive in providing training across public, private and third sector partners and to join the Encompass Safer Spaces scheme so that there is a visible reassurance for LGBTQ+ residents of South Cambridgeshire.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR HEATHER WILLIAMS

Council **NOTED** that the following motion had been withdrawn for further consideration with a view to submission at a later meeting:

That this Council encourages youth engagement in local politics and specifically commits to organising a minimum of two events per year for those aged between 13 and 25. Parish councils and meetings would be invited by the district council to nominate young parish representatives to attend these events, and the Council would actively arrange and facilitate them, including meeting any associated costs.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MARK HOWELL

Council **AGREED** to refer the following motion to the Constitution Review Task and Finish Group for consideration as part of its review of the Constitution and recommendation to Civic Affairs Committee and Council:

That this Council amends the constitution so that there are recorded votes on all committees, including advisory committees.

MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR GRENVILLE CHAMBERLAIN

Council **NOTED** that the following motion had been withdrawn for further consideration with a view to submission at a later meeting:

This Council seeks to influence others towards good practice as well as ensuring its own approach is consistent with being an ethical employer. To achieve this, this Council directs the Chief Executive to ensure, on all future procurement activity, that suppliers of goods and services to this Council are encouraged to pay staff (both directly employed and sub-contracted staff) at rates which are not less than the Living Wage and that suppliers are encouraged not to engage staff on zero hours contracts.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PETER TOPPING

The following motion was **LOST**:

This Council instructs its representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board to inform that body that until the Council has completed and published its own assessment of the environmental (including carbon neutral) requirements and conditions of the next Local Plan, so far as they relate to transport construction projects, this Council's representative will not approve any further work on bringing forward proposals for a park and ride at Harston or along the A428.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PIPPA HEYLINGS

Council **AGREED** the following motion:

This Council recognises that:

- we are facing an ecological emergency as well as a climate emergency;
- the challenge to balance economic growth with measures to protect and enhance nature has never been more urgent, given the unprecedented investment in infrastructure in the district alongside the increasing decline in biodiversity;
- opportunities are available through the planning system for improving nature by embedding the “environmental net gain” principle into development, including housing and infrastructure, in order to deliver environmental improvements;
- the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment play a pivotal role in our economy and wellbeing, providing wide-ranging benefits such as clean water and air, food, timber, carbon capture, flood protection and recreation.

Therefore, this Council aims to double the area of rich wildlife habitats, tree cover and accessible green space in order for nature and people to thrive, and businesses to prosper. In order to do so, the Council will:

- Ensure the delivery of biodiversity and environmental enhancements through our planning policy and development control functions by providing high-level guidance to support existing biodiversity policies as part of the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD and more detailed guidance for developers through the forthcoming Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD.
- Enable the development of a mandatory biodiversity net gain policy for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge through the new Joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan, ensuring that this is a core principle for all future development across the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.
- Identify areas for tree planting for carbon sequestration, flood management, air quality improvement and other environmental services.
- Adopt the Developing Nature Toolkit and direct developers to use the toolkit to assist them in demonstrating a net gain in biodiversity, to be used from the very outset of planning new developments, and ideally at the time of selecting sites to acquire for development.
- Collaborate with our communities, Parish Councils and schools to encourage the planting of trees and the management of wildflower verges alongside roads.
- Continue to support Natural Cambridgeshire, the Local Nature Partnership (LNP), to deliver the Doubling Nature Vision for ‘Cambridgeshire to be an exemplar for the landscape scale restoration of the natural environment’.

