

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2020

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 20 February 2020. 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.

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (CABINET - 4 DECEMBER 2019)

Council

AGREED to

- (a) Acknowledge the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium term;
- (b) Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy at Appendix A and the updated financial forecast at Appendix B.

ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT (EMPLOYMENT & STAFFING COMMITTEE, 23 JANUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020.

APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER (EMPLOYMENT & STAFFING COMMITTEE, 23 JANUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED To appoint Rory McKenna as the Council's Monitoring Officer.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY AND CONDITIONS (LICENSING COMMITTEE - 10 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

NOTED and gave full consideration to the petition presented to full Council on 28 November 2019.

Council **AGREED**

1. To approve and adopt the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy with effect from 1 April 2020 as detailed in the agenda subject to:

- A. Inclusion of the following amendments to the Policy, as detailed in the supplement report:
- Paragraph 3.16 (d) of the policy being amended to:
“New Hackney Carriage vehicles will need to comply with this immediately, and those vehicles currently licensed as a Hackney Carriage will have to comply by 1st December 2021 Failure to do so will result in the vehicle licence being revoked, or not renewed.”
 - Paragraph 3.16 (h) of the policy being amended to:
“All vehicles fitted with a tail lift for wheelchairs must provide a valid Lifting Operations Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) certificate of compliance to prove that the tail lift has been tested and checked to the required standards. It must be retested every six months as per Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requirements.”
 - Replacement of the table at paragraph 3.27 (k) of the policy with the table set out in the supplement report.
2. The inclusion of an extra paragraph in the Policy under the heading “Requests for Data”:
“iv) There will be a report to Licensing Committee at least once a year showing how many times a request for data has been received, granted access to, and for what purposes.”

2020 - 2025 BUSINESS PLAN (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to

- (a) Adopt the proposed 2020-25 Business Plan action grid at **Appendix A**.
- (b) Authorise the Chief Executive to make any minor wording changes required to final drafts, in consultation with the Deputy Leader.

LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (LCTS): 2020/21 (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to

- (a) Approve the adoption of Option 1 in the report, comprising the LCTS Income Bands scheme currently in operation, with an uprating of calculation figures in line with the Consumer Price Index;
- (b) Approve the delegation of future annual inflation adjustments to the LCTS scheme limits to the Head of Finance in liaison with the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

REVIEW OF RESERVES AND PROVISIONS (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED

- (a) That the Reserves as summarised at paragraph 13 of the report be released and transferred to the General Reserve on 31 March 2020.
- (b) That the Reserves proposed for replenishment or combination, and the outstanding balances at 31 March 2020 proposed for release, as detailed in Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- (c) That the proposed new Reserves, as summarised at paragraph 16 of the report, be approved.
- (d) That the movement in Reserves in 2019/2020 as set out in Appendix A, and the estimated balance of Reserves of £41.763 million, be noted.

CAPITAL STRATEGY (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to approve (i) the updated Capital Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment, and (ii) Prudential Indicators.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/2021 TO 2024/2025 (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to approve the revised Capital Programme outlined at Appendix A.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy attached at Appendix A to the report which sets the policy framework for the Council's treasury management activity, including (i) the Treasury Management Policy Statement, (ii) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and (iii) Treasury Indicators.

SUMMARY GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to

- (e) Approve the 2020/2021 General Fund Revenue Budget based on

known commitments at this time and planned levels of Service/functions resulting in a Budget Requirement of £24.350 million; and

- (f) Approve the District Council Precept on the Collection Fund (Council Tax Requirement) of £9.562 million in 2020/2021 (based on the Government Settlement) and a Band D Council Tax of £150.31.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2020/2021 (CABINET - 5 FEBRUARY 2020)

Council

AGREED to

- (g) Approve the HRA revenue budget for 2020/2021 as shown in the HRA Budget Summary as presented at Appendix A;
- (h) Approve the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts as shown in Appendix B;
- (i) Approve the Housing Capital Programme as shown in Appendix C;
- (j) Approve the Service Charges as shown in Appendix D.

COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

Council

AGREED The Council Tax Resolution, as detailed at Appendix A.

SWAVESEY BYEWAYS RATE 2020/21

Council

AGREED To retain the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate at £1.20 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2020/21 in order to fund the required level of maintenance.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Council

AGREED to

- (a) The Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations on proposed revisions to the Scheme of Members' Allowances 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the report.
- (b) To approve the implementation of the amendments to Special Responsibility Allowances from the date of adoption of the revised scheme (ie: 20 February 2020).
- (c) Authorise the Interim Director of Corporate Services to implement and advertise any revisions to the scheme and to make any consequential

amendments required to the Scheme of Members' Allowances in Part 6 of the Constitution.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21

Council

AGREED The Calendar of meetings 2020/21 as set out at Appendix A, with the following amendments:

- Council to meet on 15 April 2021, upgrading it from a reserve date.
- The time of Planning Committee meetings was amended to 10am.
- Officers to consider moving the Council meeting scheduled for 18 February 2021, as this was in half-term.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR PETER FANE

Following the agreement of the mover of the motion to an alternative to remove the words "and protect" from the first bullet point of his motion:-

Council **AGREED** the following motion:-

This Council recognises the invaluable contribution of EU citizens working in jobs that provide Council services to residents and are crucial to key sectors of the economy in the City and South Cambs, including the health and care sectors, as well as their contribution to our society as a whole.

This Council therefore:

- Pledges to support all EU citizens who live or work in the District, throughout and after the Brexit process
- Confirms that it believes that all EU citizens in the District should retain their right to vote in and be candidates in local elections;
- Requests Cabinet to explore ways in which it can help EU citizens in the District apply for permanent residence and citizenship.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR GEOFF HARVEY

Council **AGREED** the following motion:-

With reference to the Future Homes Standard 2019 Consultation on changes to Part L (conservation of fuel and power) and Part F (ventilation) of the Building Regulations for new dwellings (consultation closed 7th Feb 2020):-

This Council deplores:-

1. That the Government wishes to take away from local government and planning authorities their already very limited powers to require energy efficiency standards higher than national minimum standards embodied in Part L of Building Regulations (now subject to revision).
2. That following revision, the proposed new Future Homes Standard will not be in force until 2025
3. That regarding transitional arrangements, of the two options consulted upon, this Government is promoting the option with the least focus on raising the insulation standards of building fabric.

4. That transitional arrangements will allow these already limited building fabric requirements to be side-stepped by the installation of green energy add-ons such as heat pumps and solar PV, masking a poor standard of insulation.

This Council urges Government to listen to and act upon the concerns raised nationally by professional planners, architects and engineers and by responsible developers alike; concerns being articulated, for example, by the London Energy Transition Initiative (LETI), representing the views of over 1000 built environment professionals.

When the Government scrapped the Zero Carbon Homes policy in 2015 it not only delivered a huge windfall to developers but also set back progress towards a low carbon future by many years. This Government is doubling down on that error by proposing a new standard that will not come into force until 2025. Transitional arrangements will allow developers to largely escape building to higher standard of fabric until that date so that 10 critical years will have been lost. Insulation standards proposed beyond 2025 are inadequate. At the same time, local planning authorities will be prevented from intervening. This policy direction will simply add to our stock of poorly insulated homes needing to be expensively upgraded in future with retrofit insulation.

The 'fabric first' approach to reducing emissions from dwellings is a central plank of the Greater Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD, adopted by SCDC 8th Jan 2020. Whilst green energy add-ons are to be encouraged, their operational lifetime is perhaps 25 years and they are more readily retrofitted. High quality building fabric would deliver its benefits for 100 years or more but is extremely costly when installed as a retrofit upgrade. The most effective way to reduce carbon emissions is to reduce heat loss at source as the first priority.

It is a national scandal that the Government, having announced a 2050 zero carbon target, is now consulting on plans effectively allowing poorly insulated homes to be built for another five years at least whilst further limiting the ability of local authorities to intervene. If building regulations are to have primacy in setting sustainability standards, these must encourage a 'fabric first' approach and the highest possible standards of insulation.

This Council authorises officers to write to the Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities to express these concerns.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DR. IAN SOLLUM

Council **AGREED** the following motion:-

South Cambridgeshire District Council is proud of its efforts to tackle discrimination in all its forms and we condemn racism and antisemitism of any form. Following the Council's very moving ceremony led by Cllr Cahn on Holocaust Memorial Day, and as part of the Council's ongoing equalities work we resolve to adopt the internationally recognised International Holocaust

Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism, which define antisemitism as:-

‘a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.’

The guidelines highlight various manifestations and are accessible at:-

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

This Council underlines its condemnation of all forms of racism and religious discrimination in all its manifestations and adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism as the working model for challenging and confronting incidents of this form of discrimination.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR DR. MARTIN CAHN

Council **AGREED** the following motion:-

South Cambridgeshire District Council has no close links to other local authorities in Europe, either through membership of European local authority networks or through twinning arrangements. The Government insists that we are leaving the European Union, but not Europe, and it would seem an appropriate moment to emphasise that in South Cambridgeshire, at least, the desire for close links to Europe remains. The adjoining districts of both Fenland and Cambridge are twinned with European local authorities, as are Bourn, Comberton, the Fen Edge villages, Foxton, the Shelfords/Stapleford and Sawston as well as Huntingdon, St Ives, Ely and Soham Town Councils and Burwell Parish Council in adjoining districts.

Withdrawal from the EU also does not mean that we are necessarily withdrawing from all European programmes. The EU's Interreg programmes promote interaction with local authorities across borders, including its external borders, and the North Sea, North West Europe and UK-Northern France programmes are currently open to Cambridgeshire. One can anticipate that the UK Government, if it is to keep to its promises, will continue to fund participation in these, but for South Cambridgeshire to do this it is necessary to build links with local authorities in Europe.

The development of such twinning links is generally done through the establishment of a twinning association. The twinning budget of Cambridge, which is twinned with both Heidelberg and Szeged, is £8140 including grants to the two twinning associations. Membership of international networks is generally more expensive than this, but may allow the development of more connections.

This Council notes the lack of international links in South Cambridgeshire and proposes that this Council:

- 1) emphasises our commitment to pan-European activity by European local authorities.
- 2) supports the development of links with European local authorities in order to maintain our links with our counterparts in Europe following withdrawal from the European Union.
- 3) calls upon the Cabinet to:
 - a. examine in more detail potential means of increasing our own links with European local authorities and localities, examining the costs and the benefits, and report back.
 - b. examine means of supporting and promoting the development of European links by the parish and town councils in the District.

STANDING IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR HEATHER WILLIAMS

The following motion was **LOST**:

That this Council opposes congestion charging in Cambridge.

THIRD PARTY LOAN

Council

AGREED to

- (a) Approve an investment of up to the sum stated in the exempt report by way of a 3rd party loan on the basis of the terms referred to in that exempt report.
- (b) Approve the requirement for a formal legal agreement between the Council and the third party as laid out in the exempt report.
- (c) Agree that the Council will not seek to make profit on the community scheme, thus any profit made via interest after costs, will be given back to the third party to better youth provision.