

Council

Thursday, 24 September 2020

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 24 September 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.

2019/2020 Provisional General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn (Cabinet 2 September 2020)

Council Agreed

- A)** A General Fund Revenue Carry Forward in the sum of £30,000.
- B)** In relation to the Capital Programme:
 - i. The carry forward of £2.081 million in relation to General Fund capital projects due mainly to slippage.
 - ii. Additional funding of £105,000 from earmarked reserves to meet the expected cost of the Lighting renewal programme.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue and Capital Budget Provisional Outturn 2019/2020 (Cabinet 2 September 2020)

Council Agreed:

- A)** The Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Carry Forwards in the sum of £0.020 million, in relation to tenant participation.
- B)** In relation to the Capital Programme:
 - i. The carry forwards to 2020/21 of £1.611 million in relation to HRA Housing improvements due mainly to slippage.
 - ii. The bringing forward of £1.530 million from 2020/21 in relation to HRA housebuilding during 2019/20, due to works being ahead of expectations.

Annual Pay Award 2020/21

Council Agreed to approve an additional 0.75% to all spinal column points of the pay grade.

Membership of Cabinet, Committees and Outside Bodies

Council Agreed to:

- Approve the appointments of Peter Campbell and Jeff Mambery as Directors of the Council's housing company, Ermine Street Housing Ltd, alongside their roles as Head of Housing and Head of Transformation respectively.
- Appoint Councillor Pippa Heylings to the outside body – Natural Cambridgeshire.

Standing in the name of Cllr Heather Williams

Council

Agreed To refer the following motion to the Civic Affairs Committee.

Council expresses deep concern that:

- Trades Union Congress (TUC) research revealed nearly half of workers had witnessed bullying at their workplace.
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/resource/bullying-work>
- Female employees are more likely to be victims of bullying than males.
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/Bullying%20at%20Work%202019.pdf>

Council notes that:

- 16th to 20th November 2020 is Anti-Bullying Week, organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance.
- The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week is 'United against bullying'.
- The Anti-Bullying Alliance's definition of bullying is: "the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online".
- Bullying behaviour can be done by an individual or by a group, and can be physical, verbal, emotional, sexual or online.

Council resolves:

- That bullying in any form, by any group or individual, in any walk of life, is unacceptable.
- To adopt the Anti-Bullying Alliance's definition of bullying.
- That as councillors we should lead by example in our actions and interactions, and will support efforts in our communities to highlight and end bullying. We will further demonstrate this by asking members to sign a pledge that we will refrain from bullying behaviour.
- That once signed these pledges will be displayed on councillors' official Council website profiles to show that we take bullying seriously and are determined to stand up for our communities.
- To launch a review to ensure that for Council colleagues and our residents, there is clear signposting to helplines and support groups- such as Childline, ACAS, Citizens Advice Bureau, Bullying UK, and others.

Standing in the Name of Cllr Richard Williams

Council

Agreed that South Cambridgeshire District Council recognises illegal parking is a serious problem for many communities in our district. This council commits to tackling this problem and to continuing to explore the options available to us, as an authority, to assume the responsibility of civil parking enforcement, in common with over 9 in 10 local authority areas in England.

Standing in the Name of Cllr Bunty Waters

Council

Agreed To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks by committing to sharing suitable RSPCA content on social media about the impact on welfare and vulnerable people. This will use material produced by OPSS [Office for Product Safety and Standards], in partnership with the RSPCA, and as published at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consumer-safety-awareness-campaigns-materials> under section “Fireworks campaign”.

Standing in the Name of Cllr Geoff Harvey

Council **Noted** that

Our recently adopted Zero Carbon Strategy highlights the need for a fundamental change in how we generate and consume energy in all aspects of our lives. Both electricity generation and distribution are undergoing rapid evolution, in both shape and scale. The distribution grid, must now cope with power flows in both directions and South Cambridgeshire is at the limit of renewable generation capacity for that reason. In scale, electrification of heat and transport will require a quadrupling of electricity capacity. Local, community-based energy schemes can make a significant contribution to addressing both issues and encourage a sense of local empowerment to tackle climate change. Community schemes encourage local generation and storage to match local demand thus relieving pressure on the grid. Local schemes would be given new impetus and be able to contribute more renewable energy if local people could buy their electricity directly from local suppliers. But the disproportionate cost of meeting regulatory approvals makes it impossible to be a local energy supplier at a local scale and so, under the current system, this local energy gets sold back to the central grid.

The Local Electricity Bill is a private members’ bill with cross-party support that was introduced unopposed in June 2020. If this Bill was passed in Parliament it would give the energy regulator, OFGEM, a duty to create a Right to Local Supply. This would enable local community energy groups to achieve their vision of supplying generated energy back to the local area, help us as a Council to meet our carbon reduction aspirations for the district, and also bring multiple benefits to the local community. It is supported by many stakeholders, local authorities, and town councils (including Cambourne) and currently has the backing of 198 MPs.

Council

Agreed to

A) Resolve to support the Bill.

- B)** Authorise the Leader to contact our MPs to discuss their support for the Bill and how they can enable its passage into law.
- C)** Authorise the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, supporting the aims of the Bill and asking for these aims to be taken into account in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.