



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE
Telephone: 01353 665555

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021** commencing at **6.00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the introduction of restrictions on gatherings of people by the Government due to the Covid-19 outbreak, this meeting will be conducted remotely facilitated using the Zoom video conferencing system. There will be no access to the meeting at the Council Offices, but there will be Public Question Time at the commencement of the meeting in accordance with the Council's Public Question Time Scheme, as modified for remote meetings. Details of the public viewing arrangements for this meeting are detailed in the Notes box at the end of the Agenda.

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** [oral]
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time

Please Note: due to this being a remote meeting, questions from the public should be e-mailed to tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 19 February 2021 (see Notes box at the end of the Agenda)
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** [oral]
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** [oral]
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct
4. **MINUTES – 22 OCTOBER 2020**
To confirm as a correct record
5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** [oral]
6. **TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)** [oral]

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10 [oral]

(a) A1123 (and A1421) Re-Classification

This Council unequivocally supports Cambridgeshire County Council in its commitment and ambition to reclassify the A1123 (and A1421) from an “A” to “B” road.

Furthermore, the Council commends the motion proposed by Councillor Bill Hunt and agreed by the County Council on 15 December 2020 but expresses its disappointment that this was not supported by all County Members representing East Cambridgeshire Divisions.

The reclassification of the A1123 (A1421) provides a number of key advantages and opportunities for the East Cambs villages of Haddenham, Stretham, Wicken and Wilburton, specifically:

- following the improvements to the A14, to improve the quality of life for many 1000's of our residents;
- improve air quality and congestion consistent with the Council's Climate Change Strategy;
- reduce the incidence of pedestrian and cycle injury, damage to vehicles and houses caused by the use of A1123 as a strategic route (or locally known as the “A14 bypass”) by vehicles especially HGVs.

The Council requests the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to forward this motion to the Executive Director for Place and Economy and pledges our support to this important initiative.

Proposer: Councillor Bill Hunt

Secunder: Councillor Dan Schumann

(b) Brexit

The Council notes, through recent Government statistics and ongoing reports from UK businesses, that new trading conditions following Brexit have made the business models of many existing small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) either much more difficult, impairing their ability to invest in the UK, or in some cases no longer viable.

The Council further notes that:

- East Cambridgeshire depends for employment, service provision, business rates and the buying power of its population on such enterprises.
- Both the Council's future strategic growth plans (including market town masterplans) and medium to long-term financial plans require a vibrant SME sector.
- Any major downturn in projected growth for businesses in this sector risks undermining some of the assumptions on which financial planning and budgeting are based.

The Council therefore mandates the Section 151 Officer to examine those underlying assumptions that have been made concerning economic conditions, business recovery and Council income streams, that are relevant to medium and long-term financial planning.

All those assumptions related to current and proposed future Council financial plans are to be compared with the emerging realities of Brexit-related impacts to local businesses, investment prospects and wider public finances. Assumptions that no longer apply as expected, together with other financial gaps, are to be identified.

The Section 151 Officer will report to the F&A Committee at its projected May meeting with notification of:

- Changes to risk profiles for council activities, loans, investments and income projections.
- Changes to the risk profile of Trading Company activities.
- Assessments on possible changes needed to Council financial strategy as a result of these developments.

This information is required to ensure that disruption caused by changes to economic activity in the SME sector does not expose the Council's finances to further risk.

Proposed by Cllr Simon Harries
Seconded by Cllr Lorna Dupre

(c) In support of the Fens Biosphere

This Council is proud to be a partner in Natural Cambridgeshire, the Local Nature Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which launched its Doubling Nature vision last year. It recognises that it owns very little land directly and that the vision therefore depends on partnerships and the sharing of that vision with communities, landowners, farmers and developers.

East Cambridgeshire lies within the proposed Fens Biosphere zone, including the core zones of the Ouse Washes, Wicken Fen, and Chippenham Fen.

Biosphere status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes such as the Fens. Biospheres connect people, economies, and nature to secure a future where all can thrive, meeting the needs of current and future residents and working towards providing secure and happy futures for all. Biospheres will improve the natural environment, using new ideas, science, and technology to explore new ways of living every day in ways that solve global challenges.

Following extraordinary, sustained and coordinated efforts by local and national stakeholder bodies, campaigners, and enthusiastic members of the public, the proposed Fens Biosphere was awarded Candidate Status by UK Man and the Biosphere (UK MAB) on behalf of UNESCO in November 2019, opening the real possibility that the Fens Biosphere could become the UK's eighth UNESCO Biosphere designation—one of 714 in 129 countries, the only lowland Biosphere in the country, and the first Biosphere in the East of England.

In order to gain UNESCO Biosphere designation, the Biosphere initiative must demonstrate the widest level of local support, including that of local authorities. Although several local authorities within the candidate area have voiced support, it is critical that this support is demonstrated through formal endorsement.

This Council therefore:

- recognises the value of the Fens Biosphere and formally supports its request for UNESCO Biosphere designation;
- authorises the Leader to write formally to convey its support;
- authorises the Leader to champion the Fens Biosphere initiative by writing to all relevant local authorities to encourage them to do the same.

Proposed by Cllr Mark Inskip
Seconded by Cllr Simon Harries

8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS [oral]

9. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

- Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme & Discretionary Business Rate Reliefs Policy Reviews 2021/22
- Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review
- Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy (AIS)

10. 2021/22 COUNCIL TAX, REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, there is a statutory requirement for a recorded vote to be taken on the Budget each year.

11. CIL INFRASTRUCTURE LIST AMENDMENT

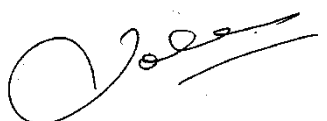
12. COMMITTEE RE-STRUCTURING – FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE

13. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

14. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORTS

- (a) October & November 2020
- (b) December 2020 & January 2021

15. ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY – ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANTS



J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

1. Since the introduction of restrictions on gatherings of people by the Government in March 2020, it has not been possible to hold standard face to face public meetings at the Council Offices. This led to a temporary suspension of meetings. The Coronavirus Act 2020 now has been implemented, however, and in Regulations made under Section 78 it gives local authorities the power to hold meetings without it being necessary for any of the participants or audience to be present together in the same room.

The Council has a scheme to allow Public Question Time at the start of the meeting using the Zoom video conferencing system. If you wish to ask a question or make a statement, please contact Tracy Couper, Democratic Services Officer for full Council tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 19 February 2021. If you are not able to access the meeting remotely, or do not wish to speak via a remote link, your question/statement can be read out on your behalf at the Council meeting.

2. A live stream of the meeting will be available on YouTube at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-23022021 for public viewing.
3. Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".
4. If required all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail:
translate@eastcambs.gov.uk
5. If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

"That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."