



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
4TH JULY 2022 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY.**

PRESENT: Mrs S Jay – Deputy Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan, Mayor

Cllr R Denness

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr S Bellow

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr P Harris

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr E Every (arrived 7.10pm)

Cllr R Pitt

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Warman and Austen and their reasons accepted. Cllr Every advised he would be slightly late to the meeting.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH MAY 2022 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th May 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 refer. Matters arising: Page 1967 -Item 12, Ely Trinity Dole, Cllr Phillips advised a meeting will be held with Needham's Foundation on Thursday to hear advice from their solicitors.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman announced that the Kings School Headmaster had put the use of the school at his disposal for events. The deadline for the next edition of the Elyi is 22nd August 2022 - Cllrs Denness, Lindsay and Every will write a piece to raise the profile of the Climate and Environment Committee. The Chairman intends to hold monthly surgeries by appointment. He advised members about their attendance at the recent Planning Committee and presentation by Bellway had been disappointing. He said that Councillors need to give apologies and respond to emails. Cllr A Whelan said that by sending an email this does not guarantee that it has been received by the recipient. Cllr A Whelan strongly objected to the Chairman's remarks and called for a point of order, advising these remarks were not Chairman's announcements and should not be discussed at this meeting. The Chairman advised that an attendance graph is in place and that he wanted to implement a graph that measures response times to emails. Cllr A Whelan advised that the Chairman cannot decide this, and the matter should go to the Governance Working Group.

Paragraph 5 to be re-written + approved at next meeting.

6. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions as there were no parishioners present at the meeting.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. A written report was also received from Cllr C Whelan, in her capacity as a District Councillor. A copy of which will also be attached to the minutes. Cllr Every thanked Cllr C Whelan for putting the District Councillor report together. Cllr Every reminded Councillors of the Community Safety Partnership and that it currently has 1 full time and 1 part time member of staff and had received funding to employ further staff for 3 years. The Chairman asked Cllr A Whelan in her capacity as a County Councillor if welfare officers reported on free school meals, Cllr A Whelan responded to say that the matter is well reported on.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended:- the Alconbury high School Graduation, the jubilee celebrations, including the lighting of the Beacon, a service in Ely Cathedral, a picnic in the Park at Prickwillow, parties at Stour Green, and the Jubilee-Eel Day on Jubilee Gardens. Art Unequaled at the Maltings, and prize giving with the Mayoress for the NSPCC writing competition. He was accompanied by the Mayoress to G's Open Farm Sunday at Barway, attended the 2022 Ely Hero's award ceremony at Poets House, Service for the life of the late Cllr M Rouse in Ely Cathedral, Festival of music by Mendelssohn in Ely Cathedral, Armed Forces Day, Change of Command at 48th Fighter Wing at USAF Lakenheath, evening of animal themed music at Ely Cathedral, and Ely Aquafest 2022.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the Earth AGM, a charity which works with disabled adults and had received support of the years from the Council for which it is grateful for. He said he hoped the Council would continue to support the charity. He had also attended the RIBE garden party.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Lindsay reported that the last planning meeting had not been quorate and so a response to the decisions made was sent by email to Councillors for approval. With regards to the Bellway presentation, an electronic copy had been circulated to members.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Notification of Road Closures:- A10 Cambridge Road & Angel Drove, Ely (pre-surface treatments, surface treatments and post surface treatments) - 1.8.22-31.1.24; Forehill, Ely – 25.8.22; Mile End Road, Prickwillow, Ely – 3.10.22 – 23.12.22

Notification of Street Naming and Numbering:- New development names – Bramble Drive, Cotton Grass Lane, Foxglove Way, Foxtail Chase, Honeysuckle Avenue, Meadow Grass View, Mistletoe Lane, Nightshade Garden; New dwelling – 5 Main Street, Prickwillow

Notification of Tree Preservation Order:- TPO/E/04/22 at land to the south of Level Crossing, Kiln Lane, Ely

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr A Whelan presented a report of a meeting held on the 30th May, which was approved. Cllr Lindsay proposed the revised standing orders regrading substitutes be approved. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pitt and unanimously agreed by members. Cllr Lindsay reported that the Church would like to take over the community hall and therefore a meeting of the North of Ely Working Group needs to take place. Cllr A Whelan will arrange this meeting. Cllr Every advised that as there are no appointed chairs for Working Groups it is difficult to arrange meetings. Therefore, it was agreed to discuss the appointment of Chairs at the next Governance Working Group. From a governance perspective Cllr Phillips welcomed Cllr Pitt to the Council. He also advised that the Inclusivity working Party had met and discussed the Council's involvement in Ely Pride. There will be a stall at the event, and he hoped Councillors would attend. The Pride Flag will be flown on the Council's flagpole.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 6th June 2022, which was approved. Cllr Denness presented a report on the asbestos that had been found on the Bridge Fen allotments site and a recommendation for a survey to be undertaken. Cllr A Whelan proposed that the work is undertaken at a cost of approximately £1200 and be paid for from the general reserves budget. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Ganivet and unanimously agreed by members. Cllr Denness reported that she would be looking at the 20s plenty campaign for Ely as a whole. Cllr Every reported that there are funds available from the Community Safety Partnership and the office of the PCC, a bid could be put together. Cllr A Whelan advised that a wider area of 20s plenty is easier to implement and that the Council could suggest to the County Council that they implement 20s plenty for the centre of Ely. Cllr A Whelan advised that there was a consolidated response to the Active Travel programme, in that a route is required into the centre of town. Cllr A Whelan advised the County Council is to build a cycle link from Summerhayes to Merivale Way.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Phillips presented a report of a meeting held on the 7th June 2022, which was approved. Members discussed the request to release £12,800 from the Council's general reserves to pay for new windows in the foyer. Cllr Phillips proposed this request be accepted. This proposal was seconded by Cllr A Whelan. Cllr A Whelan asked if any consideration had been given to the style of windows that would be purchased. The Deputy Clerk reported the quote received had been for brown aluminium framed windows, however she had requested advice from the Conservation officer as to what he would see as appropriate. However, to date she had still not received a response from him. Cllr Every said it would be good to see how much is spent on all the buildings. Cllr Ganivet reported that as lead member for the Maltings she had met with the Venue Manager and would be meeting again this week with the Deputy Clerk and the Venue Manager to discuss budgets and forward planning for repairs to the building. Cllr Every requested clarification on which committee the Christmas Lights Sub Committee reports to. The Deputy Clerk advised that the erection and purchase of the lights etc reports to the Assets Committee and that the entertainment/shopping etc reports to the Tourism and Town Centre Committee. The Deputy Clerk advised that the minutes do need to be reported to each of these meetings.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – Cllr Bellow presented a report of the meeting held on 13th June 2022 which was approved. She reported that the Jubilee weekend and Eel Day had been hugely successful, and Oliver Cromwell House continues to do well. The focus for stock for the shop is from local producers. The utilisation of the Tithe Room as a wedding venue is being explored. The first murder mystery event had been successful and there are plans to have 2 more. There is a visit in October from the Ribe Guides. The new websites should be live by the next meeting to be held on the 25th July. The Council has in principle pledged to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Ely/Ribe Association – minutes of a meeting held on the 11th May 2022 were noted by members. There is an official visit planned from Ribe in 2023.

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 7th June 2022 were noted members.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC. Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr A Whelan and unanimously agreed by members. There were no members of the Press or Public present

13. TO DISCUSS ITEM REFERRED TO COUNCIL FROM THE PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO PAYMENT OF OVERTIME FOR VISIT ELY STAFF FOR EVENTS AND TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION TO OBTAIN FURTHER HR ADVICE WITH REGARD TO TOIL/OVERTIME POLICY

Due to the confidential nature of this item was recorded as a confidential minute.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously agreed by members
There were no Press or Public to re-admit

1. FINANCE


Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Lindsay and unanimously approved.

To approve the following for payment:

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	266.98	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	151.55	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	174.73	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	451.24	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	73.80	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1063.75	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	65.68	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	203.01	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	139.46	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	108.40	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	144.25	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	3589.12	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	13.66	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	42.23	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	879.67	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	105.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	230.58	Paid by direct debit

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MAYOR
15th August 2022

14. FINANCE CONTINUED

ESPO	137.25	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	118.81	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	321.84	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	1081.01	Paid by direct debit
Good Vibes Local CIC Ltd	150.00	Paid by BACS
Prestige Fire Safety Ltd	40.00	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	936.00	Paid by BACS
B Bignell	250.00	Paid by BACS
Just 4U Cakes	126.80	Paid by BACS
David Ogilvie Engineering Ltd	807.00	Paid by BACS
PJP Cambridge Ltd	383.00	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	75.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	211.20	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Amnesty Group	72.00	Paid by BACS
Mr S Northcote-Hillman	100.00	Paid by BACS
S Blake	693.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	138.20	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS
Cranbrook Plants	4688.21	Paid by BACS
Meredith	225.00	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	100.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	180.00	Paid by BACS
Speedy Asset Services Ltd	187.20	Paid by BACS
Wicken Coronation Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
RJH Technical Consultancy Ltd	1494.00	Paid by BACS
March Stationery & Print	240.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Folk Festival	50.00	Paid by BACS
Timeline Gifts Ltd	847.67	Paid by BACS
Twist of Lemon	57.00	Paid by BACS
ESPO	286.68	Paid by BACS
Shefs	467.40	Paid by BACS
CSD Brass	250.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments (UK) Ltd	22.09	Paid by BACS
Funk It Up Dance Groups	50.00	Paid by BACS

The following invoices have already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman

Wens Skip Hire	440.00	114072
Burrows Newsagents	112.50	114073
A Bennett	16.90	114074
CoolerAid Ltd	35.94	114075
R Morgan	18.45	114076
G & J Peck Ltd	100.73	114077
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	40.00	114078
Middle Fen & Mere IDB	90.72	114079
Anglia Sprayers Ltd	35.84	114080
P Hutchinson	34.46	114082
ECDC	68.06	114083
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	570.00	114084
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	324.00	114085
Ely City Military Band	150.00	114086
Pulse Cashflow Finance (MK) Ltd	900.00	114087

RALI Morgan

MAYOR

15th August 2022

14. FINANCE CONTINUED

Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	1020.00	114088
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	197.21	114089
King's Lynn Town Band	250.00	114090
ESPO	60.30	114091
L Price	26.60	114092
Ely Museum	9474.25	114093
Eden Farm Hulley's	51.81	114094
Verve Digital Ltd	240.00	114095
G & J Peck Ltd	59.98	114096
Newmarket Town Band	250.00	114097
Amazon Payments (UK) Ltd	181.79	114098
Morelock Signs LTD	6022.32	Paid by BACS
RGP Security	384.00	Paid by BACS
Stoakley Bookbinders	110.00	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

L Price	16.00	114099
HC Electrical	2516.71	114100
RGP Security	388.80	114101
We are Blue Shed	444.00	114102
White Tree Brewery	206.07	114103
ESPO	39.74	114104
NR Plumbing & Heating	2730.00	114105
Grocer's Brokers	297.24	114106
Isle of Ely Honey	148.80	114107
Nikki's Homemade Preserves	294.95	114108
This Little Piggie	238.25	114109
Sue Aldridge	56.00	114110
Soham Pest Control	99.00	114111
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	13.26	114112
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	8.99	114112
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	30.00	114112
Thomas Ridley	367.77	114113
St John Ambulance	573.60	114114
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	85.28	114115
Westair Reproductions Ltd	574.44	114116
ECDC	90.00	114117
Caterfix Ltd	1194.00	114118

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 24th May 2022

Salaries and wages	£29,696.68
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£9,619.87
Pension fund payments	£8,976.01

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the periods ending 30th April 2022 and 31st May 2022

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2022

FULL COUNCIL

The next Full Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 July. It will be the first one to take place in the Multi-Function Room at the Council's new HQ at Alconbury Weald—an acid test of its capacity.

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Decentralisation

The Council's Strategy & Resources Committee has agreed the policy framework and design principles for its programme of decentralisation, and has approved the next steps and pilot approach to put it into place. The principles are that

- a. A greater proportion of the Council's resource (workforce and budget) will be invested through decentralised approaches and structures.
- b. We will involve communities in our decision making, design, and activity.
- c. We will deepen relationships with voluntary and community sector organisations, District, Parish and Town Councils, other public sector partners, and community groups—working together through our democratic roles and most suitable governance structures to deliver the best outcomes for communities.
- d. Social, economic and environmental impacts will be given equal consideration in our decision-making processes.
- e. Our local presence should seek to be navigators and reference points for all local public services. Opportunities to apply this approach should be pursued by the Council's land and property functions.

Climate change and flood money

The first spending from the Council's new Just Transition fund has been agreed. £2.175M over four years has been awarded for a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. And £1.7M has also been awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

Highways IT system

A new Highways IT system is on the cards for the County Council—but officers have been asked to do more work on their proposals after a report to the Strategy & Resources Committee was sent back. The delay was proposed not only so that more information could be obtained on the costs, but also for more discussion with Highways & Transport Committee councillors on what we would want to see from such a system.

Household Support Fund

The Government has confirmed that it is extending the Household Support Fund for six months of 2022/23 and has allocated £3.58M of grant funding to Cambridgeshire for this. The Fund is intended to provide support to households through free school meals for eligible children during school holidays, and for payments to people in need. In order to meet the Joint Administration's commitment to provide free school meals in the holidays throughout the year, and to have a direct support scheme that is comprehensive, the Strategy & Resources Committee has allocated a further £1.87M to supplement this locally.

Inflation adds to council costs

The County Councils Network and the Society of County Treasurers have revealed that spiralling inflation has left forty of England's largest councils with £729M of additional unfunded costs since they set their budgets in March.

To balance their budgets—as they are legally required to—and control costs, councils warn they face a winter of 'difficult decisions'. The increased costs nationally include

- £428M for adult social care services
- £72M for children's social care
- £397M for capital projects
- £107M for energy prices
- £136M for external contract and labour costs
- £77M for school transport services
- £259M for staff pay

These inflationary costs far outstrip any increases in Government funding or council tax.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Care reform costs

The cost of the Government's adult social care reforms could be a minimum of £10Bn higher than currently estimated, according to the County Councils Network. The reforms include a more generous means-test, a cap on care costs of £86,000, a move towards a 'fair' cost of care, and the ability for people who arrange and fund their own care to ask their council to do it on their behalf.

The higher costs could create a further workforce crisis in social care, with over 5,000 extra staff projected to be required to carry out extra care and financial assessments for those seeking to benefit from the reforms. Councils in rural areas could face the greatest challenges.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Council's Children & Young People Committee will receive on 5 July a report on the strategy to deliver more SEND school places. It will also be asked to amend the specification of new build primary schools to include 55m² of additional SEND space per up to two forms of entry.

COSMIC

Library@home award

Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers are one of three voluntary groups in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. It aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. The award was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2 June, the anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

The Library@home service provides books and audiobooks to residents who find it difficult to get to a library through disability, illness or caring responsibilities. Volunteers visit once a month to bring and return library books and to have a chat.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/accessibility>

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Resourcing Net Zero

The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee is moving ahead to implement its ambitious climate change strategy. The Committee is being asked on 7 July to approve a business case for the first phase of a three-phase approach to getting Cambridgeshire to Net Zero Carbon by 2045. The first phase will use the £2.175M awarded by the Strategy & Resources Committee (see above) and will involve eight workstreams.

1. Gaining professional technical competence in carbon across the Council.
2. Gathering data and intelligence.
3. Refreshing Council policy, governance and decision making on carbon.
4. Maximising the finances to support decarbonisation activity.
5. Enabling more low carbon purchasing.
6. Upskilling the Council workforce and enabling understanding of carbon.
7. Developing a forward strategy.
8. Supporting services in moving their existing knowledge into action.

Carbon pricing

Progress is being made in implementing internal carbon pricing at the County Council. This is a way of assessing the financial value of carbon emissions or carbon reductions, to help inform decisions about projects on environmental as well as financial grounds.

Nature & Climate Declaration and Climate & Ecology Bill

The Environment & Green Investment Committee is being asked on 7 July to recommend to the Full Council that it sign the Nature & Climate Declaration and endorse the Climate & Ecology Bill.

The Nature & Climate Declaration asks the UK Government to deal with key climate risks by

- Fulfilling the UK's fair share of emissions reductions to ensure that the average global temperature increase will not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius
- Halting and reversing biodiversity decline by 2030, and
- Delivering a more ambitious and integrated environmental protection and decarbonisation plan.

The cross-party Climate & Ecology Bill is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate change and nature crisis in line with the most up to date science.

Energy retrofits

Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership is a collaboration between the County Council and Cambridgeshire's district councils. It is currently delivering energy efficiency projects in over 500 homes across the county with the poorest energy efficiency and lowest incomes, using over £9M of Government grant.

The Government has indicated that it will continue to make funding available to councils for this work until 2025, and the partners are looking to use a contract 'framework' to maximise success in attracting this funding, both for council schemes and also to enable private households to secure a 'trusted contractor' if they can afford to privately fund their own home retrofit works.

Flooding and nature restoration

The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee is being asked on 7 July to agree to spend the £1.7M awarded by the Strategy & Resources Committee (see above) on

- A natural flood risk management project in the town of March
- Designing a number of 'shovel ready' flood mitigation projects
- Community-led nature restoration and environment schemes

Waterbeach waste facility

Preparations are happening at the Amey waste park at Waterbeach in advance of major works to reduce odour emissions. The works will allow district councils to continue to deliver collected waste to Waterbeach for transfer to alternative processing sites and to landfill from August while the odour emission works are done. These are necessary to comply with new legal requirements.

Updated operating procedures for the transfer station use have been submitted to the Environment Agency for their approval. A planning application has been submitted to the Council's Minerals and Waste Planning team seeking approval for the works proposed for the black bag waste facility.

Hundred Foot de-silting near Welney

The response from DEFRA minister Rebecca Pow MP to the letter from the County and District Councils, Internal Drainage Board, and Stop The Floods about works undertaken on the Hundred Foot last autumn was disappointing. Stephen Barclay MP has been asked to involve himself in the matter.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvement updates

The results of the LHI programme has been announced although the City Council did not submit bids for Local Highways Improvements this year.

PENSION FUND

The Pension Fund Committee approved a significant shift of funding away from carbon fuel investments. This is the first stage of a just transition & divestment programme that aims to ensure we achieve net carbon-zero no later than required by the Paris accord.

Alison met with Cambridge Building Society, where the Pension Fund has invested and heard about an innovative programme that enables a very small number of people to rent and subsequently are repaid a proportion of their rent to help form their deposit when they buy their own property.

The fund is currently undergoing the tri-annual valuation. This is looking a positive valuation that may enable some employers to marginally reduce their contributions.

CENSUS

Cambridgeshire has seen one of the UK's biggest population increases over the past ten years, data just published from the 2021 Census shows.

Overall the number of people living in the county rose by more than 57,000 in

the last decade to 678,600. This 9.2 per cent rise is higher than the East of England average, in a national picture which saw the East grow faster than any part of the UK.

The figures confirm the County Council's contention that previous Office of National Statistics figures—on which the government bases its grant allocations—under-estimated the size of the county's population. Included within the Cambridgeshire Census figures is an overall 26 per cent rise in the number of Cambridgeshire people aged 65+, against an 18.6 per cent national average rise—with a high percentage increase of people in the 70 to 74 age band in all districts.

While the more urban areas of the county like Cambridge have seen population growth across all age ranges, its more rural areas have seen small or no growth in the youngest age groups (0-19) but large increases in older populations.

Last year's census took place in March 2021 and data from the census will be published in stages over the next two years. Future releases will include figures on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Also, for the first time, there will be information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity. www.ons.gov.uk/census

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority Board's Annual Meeting on Wednesday 8 June considered only the first part of its long agenda before being held over to Monday 27 June, when it managed to conclude its business.

The day before the Platinum Jubilee holiday, the Chair of the Combined Authority's Audit & Governance Committee received a letter from auditors EY expressing concerns about value for money at the Combined Authority as a result of various ongoing issues.

There is a consensus among Combined Authority officers, chief executives of the member councils, and the Mayor and his statutory deputy, that there is a need for external support for the Combined Authority in addressing the risks which the EY letter has identified. The Combined Authority Board has mandated its officers to continue their ongoing conversations with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) about what this support may look like.

The Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Audit & Governance Committee will need to work closely together as they play their respective roles in responding to the letter from auditors EY about the various issues facing the Combined Authority.

The Audit & Governance Committee agreed that external support would be necessary for the Combined Authority to successfully address the concerns raised by the auditors; and agreed to invite DLUHC to its next meeting. However, it declined to support a specific proposal for an Improvement Board.

The Housing and Communities Committee is meeting on 11th July, but Alison will not be able to attend. This will consider the future of the Housing element of the Committee following the withdrawal of Government funding for affordable homes. The previous Mayoral Administration did not use the money available in the way the Government wished with only 733 homes being delivered instead of 2,000 and the Government stopped funding at £55m instead of £100m originally available. The current programme has commenced 716 affordable properties and the Government has agreed to provide a small amount of additional funds to enable this providing the loans made to property developers are recovered and also used as originally intended.

East Cambs District Council Report for City Council

04-07-22 By Cllr C Whelan

Operational Services Committee Report

Held on the 13-06-22

Full details can be found on

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/operational-services-committee-13062022>

There were several public questions submitted to the meeting all relating to the on-going problem of the waste collection.

These can be found on Appendix 1 of the minutes on the link above.

The Performance of the waste services were discussed in length and many concerns were raised regarding this.

A presentation was given by the CSP officers.

The update from the VCAEC was not given and deferred to the Sept meeting as the presenter was unable to be at the meeting.

Environment and Climate Change Strategy

That approval be given to:

1. the Council's third Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, dated June 2022 (as attached at Appendix A to the submitted report).
2. the establishment of a full time, permanent, Climate Change and Natural Environment Officer

The Private housing enforcement Policy was approved.

1. That the draft Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.
2. That the proposed new fee policies for Civil Penalties for Housing Act 2004 offences, Electrical Standards in the Private Rented Sector Regulations 2020, Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007, Minimum Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations 2015, and The Redress Scheme for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work Order 2014, on

Pages 34, 36 and 38 in the main body of the Policy and in Appendices 2, 3 and 4 to the submitted report be approved.

3. That a consultation period of 8 weeks from 20th June 2022 be agreed.

The reports from the Outside bodies' representatives were noted.

The full meeting can now be viewed on youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5An0EXmB-E>

These meetings are now live streamed. The next Operational service meeting will be held on the 12-09-22

Finance and Assets meeting 23rd June 2022

Although not present at this meeting I was able to follow this on livestream.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fB0ZM3A0XWQ>

There was a motion put forward by the opposition party for the use of accessible toilets in the city. This was originally put forward at the full council meeting but was referred to this committee. The District Council had not claimed the government funding for the changing toilets for people with disabilities. The motion was amended by the members of the administration. The full motion can be found on the minutes of the full council 19-05-22

There is a changing toilet facility at the Hive but this is not accessible to all and it was highlighted that people would have to go to the reception to ask to use this and if they needed to use the shower then there would be a £3 charge for this. The amended motion was passed.

Full details of the meeting and the minutes can be found on the East Cambs website via this link.

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/finance-assets-committee-23062022>