

## Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report June 2018

The most contentious item on the agenda for full **Council** in May was the proposal to relocate its headquarters to Alconbury but at the end of a very long debate the recommendation from Commercial & Investment Committee was approved. Arguments against the recommendation included prematurity [will the County Council even exist by the time the building is built?] the desire not to move and maintain the status quo [although this had been ruled out at the previous Council meeting in March and discomfort with the basis upon which the decision had been taken [the fact that a report by an outside consultant had confused Newmarket, Suffolk with Newmarket, Canada had raised questions about the competence of the authors].

Meeting agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2kP6cfi>

Having gained endorsement for its recommendation on the relocation, at its May meeting **Commercial & Investment Committee** moved on to approve the outline business cases for two smart energy grids at the park and ride sites at Trumpington and Babraham. This proposal builds on development work for a smart energy grid at the St Ives park and ride site, the objective being to generate income over the medium to long term. The St Ives smart energy grid is scheduled for construction during 2018 once grant from Government is secured. It will act as a demonstrator project identifying a new business model for local energy projects in areas where access to the local distribution network is heavily constrained. In agreeing the outline business cases members also approved a budget of £150,000 for each site to fund the development costs to the first stage of an investment grade proposal. Committee also received a report summarising progress of sales of County Council owned land to the Council's development company, This Land. Fourteen sales with a value of £22.835m completed in April and a further seven with a value of £6.1m were expected to complete by the end of May. There is nothing included in either sale list that is in our division. Meeting agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2suc164>

The scrutiny items on the **Health Committee's** May agenda included a briefing for members on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group's [CCG] 2017/18 financial position and its planning for 2018/19. The Acting Interim Accountable Officer and the Chief Clinical Officer attended the meeting and the recommendation to committee was to note the update on financial performance and the challenging yet achievable plan for this year. In agreeing to note the recommendation members also requested that the CCG supply written clarification of the apparent discrepancy of £21m in figures quoted in the 2018/19 Financial Plan and attend the committee's meeting in six months time to provide a further update particularly on the budget and improvement plan. Meeting agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2LVAtoS>

At a time when the number of children being taken into care is increasing a report was made to **Children & Young People Committee** reviewing progress on the Children's Change programme which in 2016/17 introduced a number of changes to the way in which children's services are organised in Cambridgeshire. Some of the changes have been positive but there are also learning points from three external reviews. One carried out by Oxford Brookes included feedback from staff. The second was a focused visit made in March by Ofsted and the third was a peer review. Whilst the report set out proposals to make some quite significant changes to the way in which services are delivered, many strengths were identified in the outcomes of all of the external reviews. These particularly related to the skills, competency and knowledge of staff and managers. The changes proposed seek to build on the strengths identified and members were asked to endorse the eight recommendations and agree that a progress report on implementation be made to committee at its September meeting. Meeting agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2swfG3h>

The work of the Council's **Road Safety** Team with school pupils and young drivers was rewarded twice in the past month or so. Barnabas Oley C of E Primary School was named National STARS School Travel Planning Primary School of the Year 2018 for its efforts to increase levels of walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable transport for journeys to and from school. The school has been taking part in the Council's modeshift STARS [Sustainable Travel Accreditation &

Recognition] school travel planning programme and qualified for entry to the national award by gaining the gold level of accreditation in July 2016. At the First Car Road Safety Awards held at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Road Safety Partnership won The Best Education & Training Initiative of the year 2018. It was also highly commended in the Best Partnership Scheme of the year 2018 at the same event. I am increasingly contacted by residents concerned about different aspects of road safety many of which reflect on poor driver behaviour. The Council is making a valuable investment in our young people through cycling and driving initiatives and I shall be talking to our primary schools about the STARS programme. I know that at least one is already participating in the scheme and I will be encouraging all three of our local schools to promote the benefits that the scheme affords.

Schools and pre-schools are just two of the beneficiaries of a social enterprise scheme in which the County Council partnered with Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network [CCORRN] on a scheme called **Cambridgeshire Community Repaint**. The scheme facilitates the reuse of waste paint. Cambridgeshire residents can take unused, unwanted paint to one of six household recycling centres in the county from which it is then collected by CCORRN. Following appropriate sorting and treatment the paint is distributed either on a nominal charge basis or through a monthly award programme. To date 159 charities, community groups, support workers, schools and pre-schools as well as low income households have benefitted from accessing this resource to provide improvements to the environments and facilities of around 21,000 people. Additionally the scheme has provided work experience, volunteering opportunities and community payback placements for over 70 individuals. This creative way of disposing of waste paint has also seen the cost of the service to the Council reduce by some 42% over the six years of its existence and the decision has now been taken to extend the arrangement for another two years. For anyone wanting to use the service to dispose of unwanted paint, Milton is the nearest Household Recycling Centre and details of the types of paint that are accepted can be found at:

<http://www.ccorr.org.uk/community-repaint>

The Council's **Community Protection** Team has been acknowledged by the National Trading Standards Scams Team for its work in delivering Friends Against Scams training. Sixteen sessions have been delivered across the county since January providing knowledge for over 150 'friends' to use in helping to protect their communities against this ever increasing and evolving crime. Friday 01 June marked the start of a national Scams Awareness Month. Following the success of last year's campaign, the aim this year will be to reduce the stigma around reporting scams. A further thirteen events are planned in June. For anyone interested in attending the nearest one for our villages is at Cambridge Central Library on Wednesday 27 June from 10.00-12.00. No need to book, you can just turn up.

A word of warning to anyone driving to Cambridge station to drop someone off: bus lane cameras went live at Cambridge railway station on 01 June. Similar enforcement equipment has already been installed to replace the out of date rising bollards at Emmanuel Road, Bridge Street and Regent Street/St Andrews Street. Described as 'bus gates' they restrict unauthorised traffic through the use of automatic number plate recognition cameras. After the initial two week period when transgressors will simply receive a warning notice, fixed penalties will come into force.

I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about these or any other matters either at your meetings or by email.

Lynda

[lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com);

01954 251775/07889 131022;

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