

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING16 July 2009
6.00pm – 23.50pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor McPherson), Councillors Al Bander, Baker, Benstead, Blackhurst, Blair, Blencowe, Boyce, Bradnack, Cantrill, Dixon, Hart, Herbert, Hipkin, Howell, Kerr, Kightley, Liddle, McGovern, Newbold, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Reid, Rosenstiel, Sanders, Shah, Smart, Smith, Stuart, Taylor, Todd-Jones, Walker, Ward, Wright, Zmura.

For the Information of the Council**09/53 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 21 May 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

09/54 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

Resolved: That the Chief Executive is appointed as returning officer for the election of City Councillors under section 35, Representation of the People Act, 1985.

(The Mayor ruled that under 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1792 this be considered despite not being publicly available five clear days prior to the meeting. The Council was asked to consider this as an urgent item so that the appointment was in place in the event of a by-election to the Council.)

09/55 TO NOTE THE RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

To note that the following has been elected to the office of Councillor:

East Chesterton Susannah Kerr

09/56 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted from Councillors Armstrong, Bick, Ellis-Miller, Levy, and Lynn

2. HARVEST FESTIVAL CIVIC SERVICE

The Mayor announced that the annual Harvest Festival civic service would take place at Great St. Mary's Church on Sunday, 11th October at 9.30 a.m.

3. CHARITY EVENT

An event in aid of one of the Mayoral charities – MAGPAS – would be held in October. Details would be sent out during the course of the summer.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
Taylor	8 (d)	A close friend was married to an employee of the planning department
Howell	3 and 8 (c)	Had had dealings with Mr Harvey through his employment

09/57 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Paul Harvey introduced himself as a resident and Council Tax payer of the City of Cambridge. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the publication 'Cambridge Matters', and felt that at a cost of £30,000 per annum it offered poor value for money. He suggested that few people read it, it presented biased editorial and that the skills needed to run a magazine could not be found in-house. He further complained that it was simplistic, childish, vacuous and patronising; people did not need to be told how to use their bins. He felt that it damaged commercial publications in the area by discounting advertising space. He suggested that it was running at a loss and it was a publication that there was no demand for. He continued by stating that the distribution costs were too high and could be cut by using other delivery methods.

He was concerned that the full cost of this was unknown and that this was unacceptable. Mr Harvey questioned the statistics on who read the magazine. He concluded that this publication was a waste of resources as, in most households, it was not read and goes directly into the bin.

Councillor Pitt responded by stating that surveys across local government carried out by organisations such as MORI consistently showed that residents who feel well informed about Council services also have higher satisfaction with those Councils. In October 2008 a representative survey carried out by MRUK showed that 65% of those surveyed read the magazine and 27 % of

these respondents said they do something differently as a result of the magazine.

The Council undertook a review of its corporate communications function in June 2008, where the potential to make better use of the magazine to communicate with residents, was identified as a key recommendation.

The intention was that during 2009/10 Cambridge Matters would be developed into a more corporate magazine with a broader range of content reflecting the council's wider objectives. The December issue would be the first edition with this broader content. As part of the 2009/10 budget, a reduction of £75,000 was made on publication spend across the Council. Better and more cost effective use of Cambridge Matters was a key part of delivering that saving.

In 2008-09 the magazine Cambridge Matters cost the council £24,857. This was primarily to cover the cost of distribution, which for last year was £21,125 for 4 issues. The magazine was delivered to about 45,000 households and at current delivery costs this was done at a cost of 12 pence per household per issue. The budget was regularly monitored to ensure that it was providing value for money, for instance delivery of the magazine had been changed in December 08 and provided approx £2000 savings per issue. Although there were other organisations such as Royal Mail who could provide additional savings, there were technical reasons for not choosing them.

The production of the magazine was done by a publishing company and the revenue for advertising in the magazine covered the production costs (with the exception of one page which the council pays for in order to increase the ratio of editorial to advertising). The Council also covered the difference in cost of printing the magazine on 100% recycled paper.

The publishers carried out all the design work for the magazine. The council provided the editorial and some of the pictures although the publishers also provided pictures. The staff time taken to write articles was split between a minimum of 4 officers of the council, which enabled the work to be spread across a number of areas and provided articles written by those who know best about the subject area. These articles were then pulled together and sent to the publishers. The cost of officer time was not accounted for specifically.

Mr Harvey highlighted some inaccuracies in the publication regarding global warming figures and questioned the qualifications of some of the council officers writing the articles. He stated that the costs of the magazine were not monitored or managed correctly and questioned how many residents were contacted in order to get the 600 response figure.

Councillor Pitt offered his full support to officers of the council that contributed to the magazine and this was echoed by the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth.

09/58 CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Mayor used his discretion, under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, to alter the order of business so that Agenda Item 8c was taken next.

09/59 MOTION C: CAMBRIDGE MATTERS

Councillor Newbold proposed and Councillor Bradnack seconded the following motion:

The Council calls for a full review of the Council's 'Cambridge Matters' magazine, including value, objectives and outcomes, and with an end to its publication unless it can be radically improved.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Pitt proposed and Councillor Cantrill seconded the following amendment:

The Council notes the success of Cambridge Matters, illustrated by the 2008 MRUK survey, which included the result that out of the 65 % who read the magazine, 27% of these respondents had changed their behaviour – such as recycle more or purchase a kitchen caddy.

Further the council notes that the recent Place Survey showed that many residents did not feel well informed about some aspects of Council services.

The Council notes the opportunity for possible savings by building on the success of Cambridge Matters.

The Council calls for a report to be brought to Strategy and Resources considering the role of Cambridge Matters and its future editorial policy.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 24 votes to 11

Councillor Bradnack proposed and Councillor Blencowe seconded the following amendment:

To insert the following (words in italic) to the last paragraph

The Council calls for a report to be brought to Strategy and Resources considering the role of Cambridge Matters, *its effectiveness and value for money*, and its future editorial policy.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried unanimously.

Resolved (by 33 votes to 0) that:

The Council notes the success of Cambridge Matters, illustrated by the 2008 MRUK survey, which included the result that out of the 65 % who read the magazine, 27% of these respondents had changed their behaviour – such as recycle more or purchase a kitchen caddy.

Further the council notes that the recent Place Survey showed that many residents did not feel well informed about some aspects of Council services.

The Council notes the opportunity for possible savings by building on the success of Cambridge Matters.

The Council calls for a report to be brought to Strategy and Resources considering the role of Cambridge Matters, its effectiveness and value for money, and its future editorial policy.

09/60 BUSINESS REMAINING FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 26 FEBRUARY 2009

At the Council meeting on 26 February 2009, Councillor Walker had moved, and Councillor Lynn had seconded, the following motion:

Members of Cambridge City Council:

- Recognise the importance of community involvement in Local Government and support national Government's initiatives to empower local people.
- Wish to ensure that residents and community groups in Cambridge are not only kept informed but genuinely enabled to initiate ideas and solutions, and therefore to actively and effectively engage in council policy making and decisions.

This council therefore calls upon the Director of Customer & Democratic Services to submit a report to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee by July 2009, that examines examples of best practice, including in other local authorities, and brings forward proposals for Cambridge City Council to further develop and enhances its own consulting mechanisms. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule paragraph 13.8.2, the motion was re-submitted as deferred business.

The Council had resolved, under paragraph 13.8.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, not to deal with the motion at that meeting. As a result, the motion stood referred to the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Leader for decision.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule paragraph 13.8.2, the motion was re-submitted to this meeting as deferred business.

Members' attention was drawn to the Minute/ Record of Decision of the Leader and the officer's report.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Hart proposed and Councillor Walker seconded the following amendment:

To replace the last paragraph beginning

'This council therefore calls upon the Director....

With:

'Mindful of the recent recommendations of the Strategy and Resources Committee accepted by the Leader, on this matter, this Council therefore calls on the Director of Customer and Democratic Services to

- 1) Monitor and report on the impact and outcomes of the Council's current approach to informing, consulting and involving residents and people who work in and visit the city.
- 2) Encourage members and managers to use novel ways of involving local communities in decision-making, which have worked well elsewhere.

3) Investigate sources of funding, undertake local consultation, and bring forward specific proposals ahead of next year's budget, to enable local communities to have a capital and revenue budget to spend in their local area.

On a show of hands the amendment was lost by 11 votes to 21.

Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor Nimmo-Smith seconded the following amendment:

DELETE final paragraph (This Council ... consulting mechanisms) and ADD at end:

The Council notes the Leader's decision (09/SR/44) following consideration by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee of the report prepared in response to Councillor Walker's motion. The decision endorsed the Council's approach to informing, consulting and involving residents and people who work and visit the city, and agreed to encourage Members and managers, in appropriate circumstances, to consider the examples of good practice in section 7 of the report that were novel to the Council.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 22 votes to 10.

Resolved (by 22 votes to 3) that:

Members of Cambridge City Council:

- Recognise the importance of community involvement in Local Government and support national Government's initiatives to empower local people.
- Wish to ensure that residents and community groups in Cambridge are not only kept informed but genuinely enabled to initiate ideas and solutions, and therefore to actively and effectively engage in council policy making and decisions.

The Council notes the Leader's decision (09/SR/44) following consideration by Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee of the report prepared in response to Councillor Walker's motion. The decision endorsed the Council's approach to informing, consulting and involving residents and people who work and visit the city, and agreed to encourage Members and managers, in appropriate circumstances, to consider the examples of good practice in section 7 of the report that were novel to the Council.

09/61 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- **Treasury Management and Investment Strategy Update**
(The Executive Councillor for Customer Services & Resources)

RESOLVED (by 24 votes to 0)

- To approve the amendments to and resulting revised Counterparty List as detailed in Appendix A of the officers Report.
 - To remove the limit on the maximum sum that may be invested with the Government Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF).
 - To increase the maximum sum that may be invested with HSBC Bank Plc, from £10 million to £12 million.
- **2008/09 Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances – General Fund – Overview** (The Leader)

RESOLVED (by 23 votes to 0)**Revenue:**

a) To approve the final carry forward requests, totaling £955,018 (including £600,708 for Customer Access Strategy), as detailed in Appendix C of the officer's report (subject to the final outturn position).

Capital:

b) To carry forward (net) capital resources to fund re-phased capital spending of £9,237,000 as shown in Appendix D1 of the officer's report.

c) To reinstate two Section 106 funded projects SC376 (Thorpe Way Recreation Ground refurbishment) [£155,000] and SC377 (Ramsden Square Recreation Ground refurbishment) [£60,000], which were incorrectly reported as complete in the January 2009 committee reports and 2009/10 budgets withdrawn. These projects were now complete and their reinstatement would not impact on use of General Fund Reserves, as they would be funded from Section 106 resources.

d) To approve the capital scheme (which was not included in the Council's 2009/10 Capital Plan) for the Modified Ventilation System in the Grand Arcade Annex (Underground) Car park. The total capital cost of the project was approximately £21,700, and this was to be funded from the Climate Change Fund.

- **Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report: Year 2 and 3 Housing Growth Fund Biodiversity Projects** (The Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth)

RESOLVED

- To approve the capital scheme (which was not included in the Council's Capital Plan), subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the Scheme. The total capital cost of the Yr 2 & Yr 3 project was **£251,500**, and it was proposed that this was funded from the Housing Growth Fund, to be reimbursed quarterly by the County Council, provided that the work was completed by 31 March 2011. The revenue costs of the project were expected to be no greater than £5,000 annually,
- To approve the carrying out and completion of the procurement of materials and services for biodiversity enhancement works. If the quotation or tender sum exceeded the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance would be sought prior to proceeding.

09/62 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION

Recommendations of Civic Affairs (24 June) for Adoption

- **09/Civ/22 Code of Corporate Governance 2009**

RESOLVED to adopt the Code of Corporate Governance 2009.

- **09/Civ/23 Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Functions**

RESOLVED that the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee be designated the Council's crime and disorder committee for the purpose of this new statutory duty.

Recommendations of Licensing Committee (6 July) for Adoption

- **09/Lic/19 Gambling Act 2005 – Review of the Statement of Principles**

RESOLVED that the Council approve the Gambling Act 2005 draft Statement of Principles for public consultation.

09/63 ORAL QUESTIONS

1. From Councillor Hipkin to The Leader of the Council

Will the Leader join me and other Castle Councillors in welcoming the decision by the Council of Murray Edwards College to delay demolition of Grove Lodge on the Huntingdon Road until the end of September? Since the college's decision is designed to allow discussions to take place about a possible joint funding of a facility, possible associated with the arts, which would benefit both the local community and the college itself, will the Leader do what he can to unlock sources of funding such as the Public Art fund in order to reassure the Council of Murray Edwards College that the City Council is prepared to play its part in helping to save this historically significant and much admired local building?

2. From Councillor Wright to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Some delays were experienced by residents registered to vote in Cambridge in receiving postal ballot papers in advance of the European and County Council elections held on June 4th.

What caused these delays and how can a repeat of this most unfortunate situation be avoided in future?

3. From Councillor Herbert to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

Can he list the visits to Coleridge Ward that he has undertaken in his role as Executive Councillor and the invitations he has received to public meetings in Coleridge Ward, and say how he responded?

4. From Councillor Newbold to the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth

If Waterbeach and Wyton prove to be unworkable relocation options, what measures will you take to prevent Marshall Aerospace from moving out of the Cambridge sub-region all together?

5. From Councillor Dryden to the Executive Councillor for Environmental Health and Waste Services

What improvements has there been since in the appointment of the new part-time Dog Warden and was the person appointed sufficiently local so as to provide a call out service now that the council has taken over the responsibility of stray dogs from the police?

6. From Councillor Howell to the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Resources

What steps does the Council take to ensure that those studying in Cambridge who are eligible to vote here are accurately recorded on the electoral register?

7. From Councillor Herbert to the Leader of the Council

What additional measures has he personally initiated to increase the chances that all or part of the £645,000 in 2008 folk festival ticket income can be recovered from Secure Ticket (UK) Ltd, and also say when has there been real opportunities to get the council its money back?

09/64 MOTION A: FREE SWIMMING

Councillor Blencowe proposed and Councillor Walker seconded the following motion:

In light of the current spate of acts of arson and vandalism, and with the school break approaching, the council asks the Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation to meet with SLM to seek a way to offer free swimming to under 16s for a set period over the summer holidays.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Smith proposed and Councillor Blair seconded the following amendment:

This Council notes with concern recent incidents of anti-social behaviour and recognises the need to engage with children and young people through preventative and participatory activities.

It therefore welcomes the wide range of sporting and play opportunities which will be on offer in the summer holidays through the Children and Young People's Participation Service and arts, sport and leisure facilities in the City.

It also welcomes initiatives aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour such as Motiv8 and multi-agency projects such as The Streets Schools Project and the forthcoming off road mini moto days and those keeping young people safe such as the Cambridge Street Pastors.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 21 votes to 9

Following further discussions the Mayor called for a ten-minute adjournment to allow members to discuss the wording of a further amendment .

Councillor Nimmo-Smith proposed and Councillor Hart seconded the following amendment:

Add:

Council welcomes the Executive Councillor's commitment to explore with officers and SLM the possibility of introducing free swimming for targeted under 16 year olds.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

This Council notes with concern recent incidents of anti-social behaviour and recognises the need to engage with children and young people through preventative and participatory activities.

It therefore welcomes the wide range of sporting and play opportunities which will be on offer in the summer holidays through the Children and Young People's Participation Service and arts, sport and leisure facilities in the City.

It also welcomes initiatives aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour such as Motiv8 and multi-agency projects such as The Streets Schools Project and the forthcoming off road mini moto days and those keeping young people safe such as the Cambridge Street Pastors.

Council welcomes the Executive Councillor's commitment to explore with officers and SLM the possibility of introducing free swimming for targeted under 16 year olds.

09/635 MOTION B: JOINT SERVICE DELIVERY

Councillor Herbert proposed and Councillor Walker seconded the following motion:

The Council supports the creation of a unitary Cambridge area council.

In the meantime, the Council urges officers and the Executive:

- to work with South Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council to increase the range of frontline services and backroom operations that are delivered jointly
- to start this process by bringing a report to the Council's Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee with an initial list of target improvements to improve service quality, increase efficiency with no loss of service and improve public accountability and responsiveness
- to involve South Cambridgeshire and County Council members and officers in developing the proposals and invite them to attend the scrutiny meeting.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

RESOLVED: On a show of hands the motion was lost by 10 votes to 22.

09/646 DURATION OF THE MEETING

Resolved at 10.30pm under Council Procedure Rule 10.1 that the meeting not be adjourned.

09/67 MOTION D: DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS

Councillor Blencowe proposed and Councillor Herbert seconded the following motion:

The council calls for a review of current planning officer workloads and whether redeployment of staff to work on Development Brief activity could be successfully achieved.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

RESOLVED: On a show of hands the motion was lost by 10 votes to 21.

09/68 MOTION E: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

Councillor Taylor proposed and Councillor McGovern seconded the following motion:

The Council:

- believes in the principles of open government
- welcomes the Publication Scheme adopted by this council in January 2009
- notes the good progress in publishing information online
- notes the 250% increase in Freedom of Information Act requests in 2008-9 over those in 2007-8

The Council therefore requests the Director of Customer and Democratic Services to:

- expedite the publishing of information in the Publication Scheme that is not currently on the website
- review requests received by the council to see which replies may be published
- work with the Freedom of Information Officer to ensure that consideration is given to publishing replies to future requests in the appropriate place on the website.

The Council further notes the heightened public concern about reimbursements and remuneration to politicians following the recent exposures of fraudulent and erroneous claims by some Members of Parliament. The Council therefore resolves to enhance the timeliness and

accessibility of the information which it currently publishes on the website in a summary annual format relating to:

- members' allowances
- expenses and dependent carers' payments reimbursed to members and further to include
- expenditure incurred by the Council in support of councillors' attendance at external events and to publish on the website details from the following registers which are currently only available for inspection on paper
- the register of members' interests
- the register of members' gifts and hospitality

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Newbold proposed and Councillor Hart seconded the following amendment (Changes to text underlined or struck through):

The Council:

- believes in the principles of open government
- welcomes the Publication Scheme adopted by this council in January 2009
- notes the good progress in publishing information online
- aspires to make all information of public interest held by the Council readily available online by default unless there is good reason not to
- notes the 250% increase in Freedom of Information Act requests in 2008-9 over those in 2007-8

The Council therefore requests the Director of Customer and Democratic Services to:

- expedite the publishing of information in the Publication Scheme that is not currently on the website
- review requests received by the council to see which replies may be published, and publish those requests
- work with the Freedom of Information Officer to ensure that ~~consideration is given~~ a Freedom of Information disclosure log is setup to publishing the substance of all replies to ~~future~~ requests in the appropriate place on the website.
- Further enhance the transparency by making changes to the website to assist the public in locating this information

The Council further notes the heightened public concern about reimbursements and remuneration to politicians following the recent exposures of fraudulent and erroneous claims by some Members of Parliament. The Council therefore resolves to enhance the timeliness and accessibility and detail of the information which it ~~currently~~ publishes on the website ~~in a summary annual format~~ relating to:

- members' allowances
- expenses and dependent carers' payments reimbursed to members
- benefits in kind received by Councillors

and further to include

- expenditure incurred by the Council in support of councillors' attendance at training events, and attendance at other specified external events and to publish on the website details from the following registers which are currently only available for inspection on paper
- the register of members' interests
- the register of members' gifts and hospitality

On a show of hands the amendment was carried unanimously.

Further discussion followed and the Mayor called for a ten-minute adjournment for discussion of a further amendment.

Councillor McGovern proposed and Councillor Hart seconded the following Amendment:

The Council:

- believes in the principles of open government
- welcomes the Publication Scheme adopted by this council in January 2009
- notes the good progress in publishing information online
- aspires to make information held by the Council readily available online by default unless there is good reason not to
- notes the 250% increase in Freedom of Information Act requests in 2008-9 over those in 2007-8

The Council therefore requests the Director of Customer and Democratic Services to:

- expedite the publishing of information in the Publication Scheme that is not currently on the website

- review requests received by the council to see which replies may be published, and publish those requests
- work with the Freedom of Information Officer to ensure that a Freedom of Information disclosure log is setup to publish the substance of all replies to requests in the appropriate place on the website.
- report on further enhancements of transparency by making changes to the website to assist the public in locating this information to the next possible Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

The Council further notes the heightened public concern about reimbursements and remuneration to politicians following the recent exposures of fraudulent and erroneous claims by some Members of Parliament. The Council therefore resolves to enhance the timeliness accessibility and detail of the information which it publishes on the website relating to:

- members' allowances
- expenses and dependent carers' payments reimbursed to members
- benefits in kind received by Councillors

and further to include

- expenditure incurred by the Council in support of councillors' attendance at training and other events and to publish on the website details from the following registers which are currently only available for inspection on paper
- the register of members' interests
- the register of members' gifts and hospitality

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 27 votes to 0.

Resolved (unanimously): that the motion be agreed as set out above.

09/69 MOTION F: DEVELOPMENT OF COUNCIL OWNED SITES

Councillor Todd-Jones proposed and Councillor Dryden seconded the following motion:

The Council notes that the recent government announcement of significant funding to enable councils to build new homes. Councils will be able to access the same capital subsidy through the Social Housing Grant that is provided to housing associations for new affordable homes, enabling the council to ensure that existing tenants at sites considered for development will be offered new council accommodation.

The Council therefore asks the Executive Councillor for Housing to ensure that

- in considering any council-owned sites for development through the affordable housing programme, any decisions made must be open and transparent and follow full consultation with neighbouring residents and interested parties before further consultation over development is pursued
- furthermore, any development involving existing council tenants must require detailed consultation with ward members, tenant representatives, and any tenants affected, with particular respect to the principle reinforced by the ballot in 2004 whereby tenants voted to remain with the council as their landlord.

Under Procedure Rule 13.8.1, it was agreed to deal with the business at the meeting.

Councillor Smart proposed and Councillor Blackhurst seconded the following Amendment:

Add at the end

However Council further notes that the recent government announcement has not been accompanied by any practical steps to make it more than words.

It particular, no housing bill has been listed in the draft Queen's speech.

Council also notes that the government expects Cambridge and other debt-free councils to take over a portion of the housing debt of other councils.

Council therefore calls on the Executive Councillor for Housing to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the government bring in the necessary legislation to make possible the positive suggestions contained in his statement and also to request that the debt proposals be dropped.

On a show of hands the amendment was carried by 20 votes to 8

Resolved (by 20 votes to 0) that:

The Council notes that the recent government announcement of significant funding to enable councils to build new homes. Councils will be able to access the same capital subsidy through the Social Housing Grant that is provided to housing associations for new affordable homes, enabling the

council to ensure that existing tenants at sites considered for development will be offered new council accommodation.

The Council therefore asks the Executive Councillor for Housing to ensure that

- in considering any council-owned sites for development through the affordable housing programme, any decisions made must be open and transparent and follow full consultation with neighbouring residents and interested parties before further consultation over development is pursued
- furthermore, any development involving existing council tenants must require detailed consultation with ward members, tenant representatives, and any tenants affected, with particular respect to the principle reinforced by the ballot in 2004 whereby tenants voted to remain with the council as their landlord.

However Council further notes that the recent government announcement has not been accompanied by any practical steps to make it more than words.

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Council also notes that the government expects Cambridge and other debt-free councils to take over a portion of the housing debt of other councils.

Council therefore calls on the Executive Councillor for Housing to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the government bring in the necessary legislation to make possible the positive suggestions contained in his statement and also to request that the debt proposals be dropped.

09/70 TO RECEIVE RECORDS OF URGENT DECISIONS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Council received the records of urgent decisions made by Executive Councillors as set out in the agenda.

09/71 WRITTEN QUESTIONS/INFORMATION MINUTES

Members noted the written questions and answers circulated around the Chamber and received the minutes of Committees which were for information.

The Council concluded its business at 23.50pm

MAYOR