

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council Meeting

2 December 2021

Supplementary Information

Please note that the business will be subject to short breaks at approximately 90-minute intervals.

Apologies: Cllrs Coleman, Goacher, Luxford Vaughan

2. Have Your Say!

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

A.... Motion that the minutes of the meetings on 15 September 2021 and 20 October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record (see page 11 of the Council Summons) .

6. Items (if any) referred under the Call-in Procedure

None

7. Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

To consider the following recommendation:-

7(i) Establishment of a Joint Committee for Colchester Tendring Borders Garden Community

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 605 of the Cabinet meeting of 17 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 23 of the Council Summons).

7(ii) Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2022-23

C... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 608 of the Cabinet meeting of 17 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 29 of the Council Summons).

7(iii) Officer Pay Policy Statement 2022-23

D... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 609 of the Cabinet meeting of 17 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 31 of the Council Summons).

7(iv) Nomination for Deputy Mayor 2022-23

E... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 614 of the Cabinet meeting of 17 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 33 of the Council Summons).

7(v) Gambling Act 2005 Policy

F... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 143 of the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting of 10 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 35 of the Council Summons).

7(vi) Review of the Ethical Governance Policies

G... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 290 of the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 23 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page of 39 of the Council Summons).

7(vii) Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance

H... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 291 of the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 23 November 2021 be approved and adopted (see page 41 of the Council Summons)).

8. Notices of Motion pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11

(i) Insulating Homes

Motion I

Proposer: Cllr J. Young, Cllr Cory

Climate change is the biggest single threat that Colchester residents face. The biggest carbon impact locally is poorly insulated homes. As energy prices skyrocket local families are spending hard earned incomes on heat that leaks from their homes. Colchester needs a plan to retrofit local homes, that provides new jobs, reduces heating bills and ensures people are warm in their homes over winter periods. This council calls on the Cabinet members for the Environment , Housing & Planning to develop a plan to work with Colchester Borough Homes, housing associations, private landlords and homeowners to retrofit homes and tackle the climate emergency. This plan must include calling on Government to provide additional funding to support

this vital work which will be good for residents and climate change.

As the motion relates to an executive function, it will stand referred to direct to Cabinet unless Procedure 11(2) is suspended.

Main amendment

Proposer: Councillor Barber

That the motion on Insulating Homes be approved and adopted subject to:

- In the second sentence the deletion of the words “The biggest carbon impact locally is” and the insertion of the words “A key contributor to climate change locally are”.
- The deletion of all wording from “As energy prices skyrocket..” onwards and the insertion of the following wording:

“This Council recognises that poorly insulated homes also contribute to increased energy costs, which disproportionately impacts lower income households.

This Council therefore welcomes the Green Homes Grant funded by the Government, which is an example of policy that tackles climate change, assists households financially and supports local jobs. The Green Homes Grant provides funding for up to £10,000 to install energy efficient measures for homeowners across Essex with a household income below £30,000 and/or in receipt of an eligible benefit and an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G. The Green Homes Grant is also available for private rented homes. The Council further welcomes the national target of EPC rating C for all private rented homes by 2030 and the recommendations on energy efficiency in Essex’s Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral report, which we resolve to support to deliver where we have a role.

The Council further resolves to continue to promote the Green Homes Grant to help achieve our climate goals and assist lower income households, as well as support other schemes such as Colchester Borough Home’s ambition on insulation and energy efficiency. Finally, this Council resolves to work with housing associations, private landlords and homeowners to achieve the Government’s welcome target of all private rented homes being EPC band C by 2030.”

If the amendment is agreed the revised wording of the motion would be as follows:-

Climate change is the biggest single threat that Colchester residents face. A key contributor to climate change locally are poorly insulated homes. This Council recognises that poorly insulated homes also contribute to increased energy costs, which disproportionately impacts lower income households.

This Council therefore welcomes the Green Homes Grant funded by the Government, which is an example of policy that tackles climate change, assists households financially and supports local jobs. The Green Homes Grant provides funding for up to £10,000 to install energy efficient measures for homeowners across Essex with a household income below £30,000 and/or in receipt of an eligible benefit and an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D, E, F or G. The Green Homes Grant is also available for private rented homes. The Council further welcomes the national target of EPC rating C for all private rented homes by 2030 and the recommendations on energy efficiency in Essex's Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral report, which we resolve to support to deliver where we have a role.

The Council further resolves to continue to promote the Green Homes Grant to help achieve our climate goals and assist lower income households, as well as support other schemes such as Colchester Borough Home's ambition on insulation and energy efficiency. Finally, this Council resolves to work with housing associations, private landlords and homeowners to achieve the Government's welcome target of all private rented homes being EPC band C by 2030.

(ii) Standards

Motion J

Proposer: Cllr King, Cllr Fox

Confidence in politics has been further damaged by recent parliamentary lobbying, misconduct and the second jobs controversy.

This Council welcomes the Government's withdrawal of their proposals, and the Prime Minister's apology. And their restated support for an independent Standards Commissioner and process, as this helps ensure our Members of Parliament act in the interest of their constituents and our nation, uninfluenced by what they can earn by lobbying.

This Council believes the great majority of elected members, including this Council, are motivated by public service alone. We commit ourselves to ensure our conduct is beyond reproach, to continue to declare any conflicts of interest, to not accept payments from any who seek to improperly influence what we as individuals or a local authority might do. And to work to the highest standards of public service. To put the interests of our residents and the wider public first in all we do.

As the motion relates to a non-executive function, it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Councillor Dundas

That the motion on Standards be approved and adopted subject to:

- In the third paragraph after the words “or local authority might do” the insertion of a new paragraph as follows:-

We further commit to treat each other with the respect and the behavioural standards our residents expect. To not use derogatory language or act in a disrespectful manner in person, in print, in social media and any other forums about each other or organisations – political or otherwise - we are affiliated with. We also call on anyone who is associated with us including MPs, candidates, party political activists and supporters to do likewise and we commit to taking whatever action we can against any of those who do.

- In the penultimate sentence the deletion of the words “And to” and the insertion of word “We”.

If the amendment were to be accepted the revised wording of the motion would be as follows:-

Confidence in politics has been further damaged by recent parliamentary lobbying, misconduct and the second jobs controversy.

This Council welcomes the Government’s withdrawal of their proposals, and the Prime Minister’s apology. And their restated support for an independent Standards Commissioner and process, as this helps ensure our Members of Parliament act in the interest of their constituents and our nation, uninfluenced by what they can earn by lobbying.

This Council believes the great majority of elected members, including this Council, are motivated by public service alone. We commit ourselves to ensure our conduct is beyond reproach, to continue to declare any conflicts of interest, to not accept payments from any who seek to improperly influence what we as individuals or a local authority might do.

We further commit to treat each other with the respect and the behavioural standards our residents expect. To not use derogatory language or act in a disrespectful manner in person, in print, in social media and any other forums about each other or organisations – political or otherwise - we are affiliated with. We also call on anyone who is associated with us including MPs, candidates, party political activists and supporters to do likewise and we commit to taking whatever action we can against any of those who do.

We to work to the highest standards of public service. To put the interests of our residents and the wider public first in all we do

(iii) Support to local businesses

Motion K

Proposer: Cllr Crow

This Council wishes all Colchester Borough residents a great Festive Season and would like this Council to take this opportunity to promote our local businesses of all sizes who are creators of jobs and prosperity. We implore local residents to shop local and support all our businesses that have been through so much in the last 18 months including supporting "Small Business Saturday" this weekend. This Council would like to thank the BID, Lion Walk and Culver Square shopping centres, COLBEA and all other organisations that have helped our businesses during the pandemic and hope our local businesses have a prosperous Christmas.

As the motion relates to a non-executive function, it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

(iv) Climate Change

Motion L

Proposer: Cllr Nissen

This Council notes:

- *The Glasgow Pact is a significant deal signalling the end of coal, oil and gas - and its wide agreement by leaders to "keep 1.5C alive".*
- *The moral authority shown by climate activists, based on climate science, has been clear in setting this higher ambition.*
- *The Glasgow Pact did not secure National Determined Contributions (NDCs) to stay within 1.5C so will be only a game changer if we get our act together over the coming year, which depends on what the UK does with its continued presidency of COP, and the wider actions and leadership across the UK.*

This Council further notes:

- *The most climate vulnerable countries are calling for natural justice, for the rich countries to pay for current losses and damages based on historic greenhouse gas emissions; and*
- *That the world's government's must now accept we are now in climate emergency mode and have to come back next year with plans and pledges that at least halve carbon emissions this decade and set carbon budgets that stay well within the 1.5C limit.*

Therefore this Council calls on the UK government to:

1. *Reverse Official Development Assistance (ODA, "aid") budget cuts*
2. *Conduct an independent review into UK fossil fuel subsidies and set out a plan and timetable to phase these out.*
3. *Put climate change at the heart of all future trade deals, and call for an end to the investor-state dispute settlement (so called "corporate courts") that allow companies to sue governments for taking climate action (see www.globaljustice.org.uk).*
4. *Commit to no more coal, oil (je or gas) extraction in the UK, or through UK investments overseas.*
5. *Commit to no airport expansion across the UK, and for international aviation and shipping decarbonisation to be included in NDCs, and in future trade deals.*
6. *Cancel the UK's current road building programme and divert spending to local council zero carbon transport plans.*
7. *Commit that UK international climate finance is provided in addition to existing official development assistance (ODA) as agreed at the Copenhagen and Paris climate summits and for this to include funds for climate mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage payments.*

As the motion relates to a non-executive function, it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

9. Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

- (i) Councillor Fox to Councillor Dundas, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

It has come to my attention that negotiations between CBC Planners and Taylor Wimpey over a proposed development on land south of Wivenhoe Sports Facility and east of Paddock Way and Henrietta Close have stalled due to an issue arising over land ownership. It appears that a piece of land owned by CBC since 1980 and some 20 metres by 100 metres was acquired by a third party in October 2020 by way of adverse possession or squatter's rights and registered at the Land Registry under title number AA19436.

This plot of land is currently part of a cultivated field that should form part of the proposed housing estate and will be of value to both CBC and Taylor Wimpey. Is the leader of the council able to explain why an apparently valuable piece of land in Wivenhoe owned by CBC was transferred to a third party at no cost? How did this happen and was the issue of value for money considered?

10. Authorisation of Absence from Council and Committee Meetings

M. Motion that the recommended decision in the report from the Assistant Director, Corporate and Improvement services, be approved and adopted (see page 43 of the Council Summons).

11. Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions

Council is invited to note the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions covering the period 9 October 2021- 19 November 2021 (see page 45 of the Council Summons).

14. Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential, personal, financial or legal advice) in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) may be decided. Exempt information is defined in Section 100(1) and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).