

Council Meeting

**Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ
Thursday, 07 December 2023 at 18:00**

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is usually published five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Dates of the meetings are available here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx>.

Most meetings take place in public. This only changes when certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual are considered. At this point you will be told whether there are any issues to be discussed in private, if so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Have Your Say!

The Council welcomes contributions and representations from members of the public at most public meetings. If you would like to speak at a meeting and need to find out more, please refer to the Have Your Say! arrangements here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/HaveYourSay.aspx>.

Audio Recording, Mobile phones and other devices

The Council streams public meetings for live broadcast over the internet and the recordings are available to listen to afterwards on the Council's YouTube channel. Audio recording, photography and filming of meetings by members of the public is also welcomed. Phones, tablets, laptops, cameras and other devices can be used at all meetings of the Council so long as this doesn't cause a disturbance. It is not permitted to use voice or camera flash functions and devices must be set to silent. Councillors can use devices to receive messages, to access meeting papers and information via the internet. Looking at or posting on social media by Committee members is at the discretion of the Chair/ Mayor who may choose to require all devices to be switched off at any time.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Old Library from West Stockwell Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms.

Facilities

Toilets are located in the entrance lobby just outside the Old Library.

Evacuation Procedures

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. Make your way to the assembly area in the car park in St Runwald Street behind the Town Hall. Do not re-enter the building until the Town Hall staff advise you that it is safe to do so.

Colchester City Council

telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number you wish to call

e-mail: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk

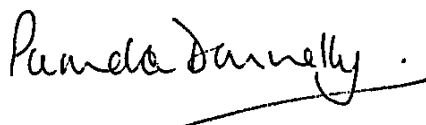
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COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
Council
Thursday, 07 December 2023 at 18:00

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Published 30/11/2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday, 07 December 2023 at 18:00 for the transaction of the business stated below.



Chief Executive

AGENDA
THE LIST OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING
(Part A - open to the public)

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

1 Welcome and Announcements (Council)

The Deputy Mayor will welcome members of the public and Councillors and will ask the Chaplain to say a prayer. The Deputy Mayor will explain the procedures to be followed at the meeting including a reminder everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking, but otherwise keep microphones muted.

2 Have Your Say! (Council)

Members of the public may make representations to the meeting on any item on the agenda or any other matter relating to the business of Council. Members of the public may register their wish to address the Council by e-mailing democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk by 12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting. However, advance registration is not mandatory and members of the public may register to speak in person immediately before the meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of

the item or participating in any vote upon the item, or any other registerable interest or non-registerable interest.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

A... Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

Council minutes 181023

11 - 24

5 Mayor's Announcements

The Deputy Mayor to make announcements.

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

The Council consider any items referred by the Scrutiny Panel under the Call-in Procedure because they are considered to be contrary to the policy framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with, the budget.

7 Electoral Review of the City of Colchester

25 - 52

B... Motion that the recommendations in the report of the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer be approved and adopted.

8 Appointment of Temporary Councillors to a Parish Council

53 - 54

C...Motion that the recommended decision in the report by the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer be approved.

9 Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

Council will consider the following recommendations:-

9(i) Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2024-25

55 - 56

D.... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 806 of the Cabinet meeting of 22 November be approved and adopted.

9(ii) Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

E.... Motion that the recommendation contained in the draft minute from the Governance and Audit Committee meeting of 28 November 2023 be approved and adopted (to follow).

10 Notices of Motion pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11

Council will consider the following Motions:-

(Note: The maximum length of time for the consideration of all such motions shall be 80 minutes. In the event that a motion is still being debated when the 80 minutes have elapsed the Mayor shall invite the proposer of the motion to respond to the debate and then move straight to the vote.)

10(i) **Impact of the Conflict in the Middle East**

Motion F

Proposer: Councillor Goacher

Colchester City Council recognises the significance of the tragic situation in the Middle East to our city and its impact on our local communities, including the rising incidence of antisemitism and Islamophobia, and the potential need for Colchester to provide sanctuary to refugees fleeing the conflict.

We therefore call on the UK Government to use its influence to press for the urgent release of all hostages; for international law to be upheld and for the protection of all civilians in Israel and Palestine; for an end to the collective punishment of the Palestinian people and an end to the siege of Gaza to allow vital supplies of food, fuel, medicine and water to reach the civilian population; and to join with the international community and the UN and its aid agencies in urgently pressing all parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire.

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

10(ii) **City of Sanctuary**

Motion G

Proposer: Cllr J. Young

Seconder: Cllr Dundas

This Council acknowledges the overwhelming tragedies of the ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza and other conflicts around the world.

Residents of all persuasions will be feeling powerless, scared and uncertain here in Colchester too.

Residents in our City have friends, relatives and family connections with Israel and Gaza and we acknowledge the shock, terror and grief that they must be feeling.

The Council's number one priority at this time is to keep all of our residents safe and we are working with our partners in the Police and charities such as Refugee, Asylum-seeker and Migrant Action (RAMA) and Community 360 to help keep everyone, and especially those most vulnerable in the City, as well supported as possible.

Colchester as a City of Sanctuary has a vision of being a welcoming place of safety for all. We are proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. We reaffirm our commitment to this important work and thank our officers for the

most difficult but vital work they do to support all communities in our City especially at this difficult time.

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

10(iii) **Accuracy in Financial Reporting**

Motion H

Proposer: Paul Dundas

This Council notes that:

1. *Colchester City Council recently published on its website a list of payments to suppliers over the last 12 months, this being a statutory duty pursuant to the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, revealing to Colchester Council Tax Payers where their money was being spent.*

2. *As originally published, these statutory disclosures stated that in the past 12 months Colchester City Council had spent, amongst other payments, £2,200,809 on stationary, £245,552 with the Anti-Loo Roll Brigade, £245,000 with the Grosvenor House Hotel, over £2.1m on election software, £880,000 on playground inspections, over £5m on newspaper advertising, over £1m on an individual no one can identify, £350,000 on printing, £847,000 on telephone bills, just under £5m with a Christian Empowerment Charity, £8,646 on Oysters, £130,000 on mobile phones and £1,097,146 on Ice Creams.*

3. *Upon Conservative Councillors querying some of these items it was ascertained that the data for at least 9 of the 12 months was erroneous, many of the payments listed did not in fact occur, and consequently the published figures were removed from the website and the Leader of the Council issued an apology to Councillors.*

Therefore, the Council:

1. *Thanks the Leader of the Council for prompt acknowledgement of the error and the email notification of the data failures issued on October 31.*

2. *Thanks and notes the work of Conservative opposition councillors who brought these errors to the attention of the Council.*

3. *Informs Cabinet that the operational finance team may be under considerable time pressure and a review of its workload would be appropriate.*

4. *Urges Cabinet to issue apologies to the Council Tax Payers of Colchester for publishing erroneous information, and also to*

each and every recipient of payments for which erroneous information was published.

5. *Requests Cabinet ensure that robust procedures are put in place to ensure all financial information put into the public domain is accurate.*

As the motion is not an executive matter it will be debated and determined at the meeting.

10(iv) **Knife Crime**

Motion I

Proposer: Cllr Goss

Council

1. *Notes and congratulates the Evening Gazette on their anti-knife campaign launch last month in association with the arrival of the Knife Angel statue to Colchester.*
2. *Notes the tragic consequences of knife attacks on families and friends and recognises the bravery and work of Ann Oakes-Odger MBE whose son was sadly murdered through stabbing.*
3. *Notes the alarming increase in knife carrying, nationwide, particularly by those associated with gang membership and/or illegal drug activity.*
4. *Welcomes the work of the police in tackling all forms of crime and the progress they are making, including reducing violent crime. And welcomes their work to raise awareness through the deployment of a knife arch in Colchester centre and work with knife amnesty and knife bins.*
5. *Notes the work of the Youth Voices Listening Project that found “knife crime and knife harm stood alongside fights and drug use as major concerns for young people in Colchester”.*
6. *Therefore calls on Colchester Council through the Safer Colchester Partnership to deepen multi-agency collaborative working on this issue. And with our schools and young people to continue work done through the Knife Angel visit. To help make Colchester and its surrounding area safer for us all, particularly our younger residents.*

As this motion relates to an executive matter, the suspension of Council Procedure Rule 11(2) will be moved to allow the motion to be debated and determined.

10(v) **CCTV in Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles**

Motion J

Proposer: Cllr Harris

That this Council agrees to lobby the relevant Government Department to introduce mandatory regulations which would install CCTV / taxi cameras in Hackney Carriage / Private Hire vehicles which would be to the benefit of both drivers and customers in the City of Colchester area.

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

11 **Questions to Cabinet Members and Committee Chairs pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10**

Cabinet members and Committee/Panel Chairs will receive and answer pre-notified questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(1) followed by any oral questions (not submitted in advance) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10(3).

(Note: a period of up to 60 minutes is available for pre-notified questions and oral questions by Members of the Council to Cabinet Members and Chairs (or in their absence Deputy Chairs)).

At the time of the publication of the Summons no pre-notified questions had been received.

12 **Parental Leave Policy for Councillors** 57 - 62

K... Motion that the recommended decision in the report by the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer be approved and adopted.

13 **Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions** 63 - 70

Council is invited to note the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 7 October 2023 - 27 November 2023.

14 **Urgent Items (Council)**

Council will consider any business not specified in the Summons which by reason of special circumstances the Deputy Mayor determines should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

15 **Reports Referred to in Recommendations**

The reports specified below are submitted for information and referred to in the recommendations specified in item 9 of the agenda:

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, report to Governance and Audit, 28 November 2023 complete

71 - 84

16 **Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) 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) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

Part B
(not open to the public including the press)