

Council Meeting

**Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street,
Colchester, CO1 1PJ**

Thursday, 07 December 2017 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: <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/haveyoursay>.

Audio Recording, Mobile phones and other devices

The Council audio records public meetings for live broadcast over the internet and the recordings are available to listen to afterwards on the Council's website. 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 Chairman / Mayor who may choose to require all devices to be switched off at any time.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to the Library and Community Hub, Colchester Central Library, using the contact details below and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are on each floor of the Town Hall. A water dispenser is available on the first floor.

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.

Library and Community Hub, Colchester Central Library, 21 Trinity Square,
Colchester, CO1 1JB

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

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

www.colchester.gov.uk

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council
Thursday, 07 December 2017 at 18:00

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Published 06/12/2017

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the Town Hall, Colchester on Thursday, 07 December 2017 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.

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 6 are normally dealt with briefly.

1 Welcome and Announcements (Council)

The Mayor will welcome members of the public and Councillors and will ask the Chaplain to say a prayer. The Mayor will also remind everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking, explain action required in the event of an emergency, mobile phones switched to silent and audio-recording of the meeting.

2 Have Your Say! (Council)

The Mayor will invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition on any item included on the agenda or any other matter relating to the business of the Council. Please indicate if you wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Council)

A... Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

Minutes 01-11-17

11 - 26

4 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 pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest.

5 Mayor's Announcements

The 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 Recommendations of the Cabinet, Panels and Committees

Council will consider the following recommendations:-

7(i) Local Council Tax Support 2018/19 27 - 28

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 220 of the Cabinet meeting on 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

7(ii) Officer Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 29 - 30

C... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 221 of the Cabinet meeting on 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

7(iii) Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2018/19 31 - 32

D.... Motion that the recommendation contained in draft minute 224 of the Cabinet meeting of 22 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

8 Revised Committee Membership 33 - 34

E... Motion that Council agrees a change to the membership of the Licensing Committee which has been agreed between the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups.

9 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 the move straight to the vote.)

9(i) Vineyard Gate

Proposer: Councillor Willetts

F... Council informs Cabinet of its disappointment that it has abandoned support for the Vineyard Gate project, which would have

completed the redevelopment of the town centre, and accordingly requests Cabinet to fully embrace the economic redevelopment opportunity of the Vineyard Gate area, consulting with the residents of Colchester on the opportunities available.

As the motion invites Council to express its view to Cabinet, the motion will be debated and determined by Council.

Main Amendment

Proposer: Councillor Smith

I move that the motion on Vineyard Gate be approved and adopted subject to:-

- The deletion of the words “disappointment that it has abandoned”;
- The insertion of the words “the new approach to ” between the words “for” and “the” ;
- The deletion of the words “have completed” and their replacement with the word “continue”;
- The deletion of the words “accordingly requests Cabinet” and their replacement with the words “understands that, in the view of recent decisions, a fresh look is required which may include residential, leisure, street scene and entertainment, in addition to retail development. It accordingly endorses the Cabinet’s position”
- The deletion of the word “of “and its replacement with the words “and relevant stakeholders and partners in”

If approved the amended motion would read as follows:-

Council informs Cabinet of its support for the new approach to the Vineyard Gate project, which would continue the redevelopment of the town centre, and understands that, in the view of recent decisions, a fresh look is required which may include residential, leisure, street scene and entertainment, in addition to retail development. It accordingly endorses the Cabinet’s position to fully embrace the economic redevelopment opportunity of the Vineyard Gate area, consulting with the residents and relevant stakeholders and partners in Colchester on the opportunities available.

9(ii) **Universal Credit**

Proposer: Councillor Bourne

G... In July 2018, the staged roll out of Universal Credit reaches Colchester. Universal Credit replaces individual payments for: Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Working Families Tax Credit.

This Council is aware of the escalating concerns surrounding implementation of Universal Credit for new claims and existing 'legacy' claimants. In recognising these worries this Council will:

- 1) continue building on the work with local agencies, such as the

Department of Work and Pensions, voluntary sector organisations, Colchester Borough Homes, Housing Associations, to prepare residents fully for July 2018 implementation and beyond for legacy claims.

2) encourage local private sector landlords to play their part in working cooperatively with tenants who are also Universal Credit claimants, to alleviate hardship and possible later eviction due to late rent payment caused by changes to Universal Credit payments.

3) use channels available to us to feedback on pre and post implementation of Universal Credit in order to mitigate any negative effects on Colchester claimants - especially through the District Councils' Network, Local Government Association and the MPs for the Borough of Colchester: Will Quince; Bernard Jenkin; and Priti Patel.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined by Council.

9(iii) **Plastic Packaging**

Proposer: Councillor J. Scott-Boutell

H... This Council notes:

- That since introducing clear sacks for plastic recycling a decade ago, Colchester Borough Council has been able to collect and recycle a wide variety of plastic products.
- That there are still a number of types of plastic that cannot be easily collected and recycled such as polystyrene packaging, bubble wrap and plastic film. Some of these are particularly prevalent in food packaging, making it harder for residents to reduce and/or reuse them too.
- That much non-recyclable plastic is also non-biodegradable and is known to be a pollutant of our oceans with significant harmful effects on marine life.
- That the Government has proposed taking action both to reduce the amount of plastic entering the seas and the amount of waste generated by unnecessary and unrecyclable food packaging.

This Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and local MPs to support reductions in the amount of non-recyclable and non-biodegradable materials used in packaging.
- To encourage other Councils to take similar actions to show support for these causes.

As the motion relates to a non-executive matter it will be debated and determined by Council.

10 **Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10**

Cabinet members and Chairmen 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 Chairmen (or in their absence Deputy Chairmen)).

(i) Councillor Barber to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

Public Health England have called for councils to tighten up planning regulations to help fight obesity. In particular, they have called for tougher regulation on A5 businesses (fast food takeaways), which have seen an 8% increase in openings in three years. The heaviest concentrations of fast food outlets were to be found in the most economically deprived areas and are also often clustered nearby to schools. Would the council review its planning policies to ensure they are well placed, as called for by Public Health England, to help fight obesity among the population and in particular young and/or lower income people?

(ii) Councillor Barber to Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Government guidelines on Local Plans recommend that councils lay out for their first 5 years specific details on planned infrastructure improvements, where this infrastructure will go and the sources of finance for it. Our emerging Local Plan does no such thing. Do you accept that you have once again failed to address resident concerns on not having infrastructure led development?

(iii) Councillor Laws to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

In the light of the celebrity Janet Street Porter's public criticism of poor signage when looking for Firstsite, can the Borough Council review this area and with a broader approach to include other key destinations and historic sites of interest?

(iv) Councillor Laws to Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

Colchester's High Street lit with Christmas lights is dwarfed by the unlit Jumbo. Can we meet soon to discuss how we can get Jumbo lit up at night?

(v) Councillor Warnes to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing

Has the Portfolio Holder for Public Safety and Licensing any plans to introduce electric buses in Colchester Town Centre.

(vi) Councillor Warnes to Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities

A recent report by Savills states that in England nearly 100,000 new households a year are unable to afford to rent or buy in their local housing market. A proportion of those will be in the Colchester Borough. Given that it is becoming increasingly obvious that 'affordable housing' is no longer affordable, can the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities tell me if she has been in touch with Ministers asking them to release funds to allow us to once more start building Council Homes in Colchester.

11 Schedule of Portfolio Holder Decisions 35 - 40

Council is invited to note the Schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions taken in the period 13 October - 28 November 2017.

12 Urgent Items (Council)

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

13 Reports Referred to in Recommendations

The reports specified below are submitted for information and referred to in the recommendations specified in item 7 of the agenda:

Local Council Tax Support 2018-19 - report to Cabinet 22 November 2017 41 - 62

Officer Pay Policy 2018-19 - report to Cabinet 22 November 2017 63 - 78

14 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)