

# Policy Panel Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,  
Colchester, CO1 1PJ  
Wednesday, 24 November 2021 at 18:00**

**The Policy Panel** considers strategies, policies and legislative changes identified by Cabinet that may require review and improvement, and seeks Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined, and reviews issues at the request of Portfolio Holders.

# 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 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.

Colchester Borough Council

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

e-mail: [democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk)

[www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

## **Policy and Public Initiatives Panel – Terms of Reference**

- (1) To consider strategies, policies and legislative changes identified by Cabinet that may require review and improvement and to seek Cabinet's agreement as to whether and how they should be examined.
- (2) To review issues at the request of a Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations back to the Portfolio Holder for decision.

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Policy Panel**  
**Wednesday, 24 November 2021 at 18:00**

**The Policy Panel Members are:**

Councillor Sam McCarthy	Chairman
Councillor Chris Pearson	Deputy Chairman
Councillor Peter Chillingworth	
Councillor Pam Cox	
Councillor Mark Goacher	
Councillor Chris Hayter	
Councillor John Jowers	
Councillor Martin Leatherdale	
Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell	

**The Policy Panel Substitute Members are:**

All members of the Council who are not members of the Panel.

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

Please note that Agenda items 1 to 5 are normally dealt with briefly.

**1 Appointment of Chairman of Policy Panel**

The Panel will be asked to appoint a Chairman for the remainder of the 2021-22 Municipal Year.

**2 Appointment of Deputy Chairman of Policy Panel**

The Panel will be asked to appoint a Deputy Chairman for the remainder of the 2021-22 Municipal Year.

**3 Welcome and Announcements**

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors to the meeting and remind those participating to mute their microphones when not talking. The Chairman will invite all Councillors and Officers participating in the meeting to introduce themselves.

4 **Substitutions**

Councillors will be asked to say if they are attending on behalf of a Committee member who is absent.

5 **Urgent Items**

The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.

6 **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.

7 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2021 are a correct record.

**Policy Panel Minutes 22 September 2021**

7 - 12

8 **Have Your Say!**

The Chairman 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 terms of reference of the meeting. Please indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

9 **Mitigations Council can make regarding loss of Universal Credit uplift, and financial inequalities** 13 - 20

This report details how the Council can support residents who no longer receive the Universal Credit uplift, and help reduce financial inequalities.

10 **Work Programme 2021-22** 21 - 22

This report sets out the current Work Programme 2021-2022 for the Policy Panel, providing details of the items of business that are currently scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

11 **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)**