

# **COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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## **Council Meeting**

**17 July 2019, 6.00pm**

### **Supplementary Information**

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

**Apologies: Councillors Lissimore, Moore, J. Young**

#### **3. Minutes**

A.. Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2019 be confirmed as a correct record (see page 9 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:-

##### **(i) Annual Scrutiny Report**

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in minute 220 of the Scrutiny Panel meeting of 16 July 2019 be approved and adopted (page 7).

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

##### **8(i) School Funding Cuts**

Proposer: Councillor Goss

C... Motion that:-

This Council notes as a result of ongoing Government cuts to education, 71 schools across the Colchester Borough:

- (i) Will have lost £17.7 million in overall funding between 2015-2020;
- (ii) Will have lost an average of £271 per pupil;
- (iii) Have seen 25 of 71 schools have classroom sizes increase;

- (iv) Are having to bear the full costs of the unfunded National Insurance increases;
- (v) Are receiving inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need.

Colchester Borough Council resolves to:

- (i) Lobby against the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education, while making our communities aware of local impacts;
- (ii) Support the coalition of trade unions campaigning against school cuts;
- (iii) Call on the Government to fully fund and fully implement the recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body on teachers' pay;
- (iv) Present the dire facts listed above to the Department for Education and our three MPs representing our 62 schools across the Borough of Colchester.

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

### **Main Amendment**

That the motion on School Funding Cuts be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

- After paragraph (ii) of the resolution, the insertion of a new paragraph as follows: -

"Support the three MPs for the borough of Colchester who have already met representatives of schools across the borough to discuss these issues and are lobbying Government on their behalf".

- In paragraph (iv) of the resolution the deletion of the word "dire" and all the wording after the word "education".
- The renumbering of the paragraphs so that they are consecutively numbered.

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

*This Council notes as a result of ongoing Government cuts to education, 71 schools across the Colchester Borough:*

- (i) *Will have lost £17.7 million in overall funding between 2015-2020;*
- (ii) *Will have lost an average of £271 per pupil;*
- (iii) *Have seen 25 of 71 schools have classroom sizes increase;*
- (iv) *Are having to bear the full costs of the unfunded National Insurance increases;*

(v) *Are receiving inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need.*

*Colchester Borough Council resolves to:*

(vi) *Lobby against the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education, while making our communities aware of local impacts;*

(vii) *Support the coalition of trade unions campaigning against school cuts;*

(viii) *Support the three MPs for the borough of Colchester who have already met representatives of schools across the borough to discuss these issues and are lobbying Government on their behalf;*

(ix) *Call on the Government to fully fund and fully implement the recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body on teachers' pay;*

(x) *Present the facts listed above to the Department for Education.*

## **8(ii) Climate Emergency**

Proposer: Councillor Cory and Councillor Whitehead

This Council notes:

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning that we have 12 years to make the necessary changes to limit a rise in global temperatures to 1.5C. Failure to act will see a marked increase in sea levels and flooding, extreme and abrupt changes to weather patterns, crop failures, extinctions of plant, insect and animal species, and global economic disruption and crisis. Total populations of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles have declined globally by 60% since 1970, and all of the 20 warmest years on record, have occurred in the past 22 years. Failure to take immediate and decisive action on this will detrimentally impact on the well-being of the people of Colchester Borough and billions of people around the world.

At the Global Climate Talks in Poland last December the UK along with over 200 nations agreed action on climate change with a much greater role strongly implied for local and regional authorities, like Colchester, in assisting governments to achieve their carbon emission savings.

So far, 85 local and regional authorities have passed Climate Emergency motions in a bid to spur urgent action to reduce their carbon footprint and promote sustainable urban environments and economies. In passing and following through on this motion, we can take a radical step forward in tackling climate change and conservation as a local authority. Tackling climate change cannot just be left to national government. It is everyone's duty to do what they can to stop this existential threat to our planet.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Declare a climate emergency and publicise this to the people of Colchester Borough to raise awareness and support the public to take effective action.

2. Support the newly formed Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Task and Finish Group to consider the following actions:
  - (a) Commission an environmental audit which identifies pollution hotspots, wildlife biodiversity and environmental health issues, and an urban impact assessment with an aim to identify areas of improvement across the borough.
  - (b) Consult expert opinions in the field, as appropriate.
  - (c) Collaborate with regional and neighbouring local authorities, as well as communities, to encourage practical measures to reduce emissions, reduce carbon footprints and develop community-based renewable energy projects.
  - (d) Encourage all sectors of the economy across the borough to take steps to reduce waste and become carbon neutral.
  - (e) Develop a roadmap for Colchester Borough Council to go carbon neutral by 2030.
  - (f) Report to Cabinet and Full Council within six months with an action plan setting out conservation and environmental sustainability goals to address targets by 2030; incorporating proposals on the investment implications of this proposed activity.
3. Pledge to ensure future housing and community development projects meet a carbon-neutral standard by 2029.
4. Call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth requesting that national policy is urgently developed to reflect the seriousness of the current emergency, and to release funds to local authorities, encouraging them to take the necessary measures at local level.

As the motion relates to an executive function, it will stand referred direct to Cabinet, unless a motion to suspend Council Procedure Rule 11(2) is passed.

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

Pre-notified questions:-

- (i) Councillor Barber to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety:-

*Will Colchester Borough Council apply to the High Court to acquire an injunction equal or similar to that obtained by Harlow District Council in relation to unauthorised encampments?*

- (ii) Councillor Barber to Councillor J. Young, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance:-

*Councillors may be aware that Neighbourhood Plans require ratification by the local community via a referendum prior to adoption by the Council. While not necessary under law, will the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the Local Plan commit to holding a referendum on Part 1 (the Garden Communities) and Part 2 (sites such as Middlewick) of the Emerging Local Plan across the Borough so people can have their say?*

- (iii) Councillor J. Maclean to Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation:-

*Could the Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation tell me why so many kerbside collections have been disrupted and missed in the borough since you have implemented the new freighters. Is it because they do not have the same capacity to hold the quantity of waste or is it due to staffing issues such as not being able to employ drivers or refuse and recycling operatives?*

(iv) Councillor Wood to Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources:-

*May I thank the Cabinet Member for the openness and transparency he has brought to his role as a Board Member of North Essex Garden Communities Ltd. It has been refreshing.*

*I understand that NEGC Ltd attended the MIPIM International Property Conference in recent months. Could he tell me please:*

- i) Who attended from NEGC Ltd and from Colchester Borough Council?*
- ii) Who authorised this attendance?*
- iii) What was the total cost of attending the event to the taxpayer?*
- iv) What has been the Return on Investment for that attendance?*
- v) What is the estimated Return of Investment on that attendance?*
- vi) How many business contacts were made at the event?*
- vii) How many jobs do we estimate will be created in the Garden Communities as a result of the attendance at the event?*

(v) Councillor Wood to Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources:-

*In the Gazette on 4<sup>th</sup> July it was headlined that 'Colchester Council missed out on more than £2.3 million of council tax last year' - and a further £423 000 of uncollected business rates was reported in the article. It was stated that various reminders are being sent to customers who are not meeting their tax liabilities before any formal enforcement action is taken.*

*Would the Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources please advise how much of the £2.7 million is potentially recoverable? Could the Portfolio Holder also advise how the £2.7 million this year compares with the figure from last year – and how much of that was recovered?*

## **10. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders**

To note schedules covering the period 22 November 2018 – 8 February 2019 (see page 15 of the Council Summons).

## **11. Urgent items**

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

## **12. Exclusion of the Public**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 motion 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).

**Extract from the draft minutes of the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 16 July 2019**

**220. Annual Scrutiny Report**

The Chair introduced the Annual Scrutiny Report, which detailed the activities carried out by the Scrutiny Panel during the 2018-19 Municipal Year, including reviews and pre-decision scrutiny.

*RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL* that the Annual Scrutiny Report 2018-19 be approved and adopted.