

# COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

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## Council Meeting

31 October 2018, 6.00pm

## Supplementary Information

Apologies: Councillor Cory

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

### 3. Minutes

A... Motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 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 recommendations:-

#### (i) 2017/18 Year End Review of Risk Management

B... Motion that the recommendation contained in minute 295 of the Cabinet meeting of 10 October 2018 be approved and adopted (see page 21 of the Council Summons).

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

#### (i) IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism

Proposers: Leader of the Council, Councillor Cory, and Group Leaders, Councillors Goss, Laws, G. Oxford and T. Young

C... Motion that:-

1. This Council believes that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our country. Colchester Borough Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We are pleased to note the strong stance that Essex Police have taken against these issues. Colchester Borough Council will work to ensure local bodies and programmes have support and resources needed to fight and prevent all these anti-social acts, and reassures all people living in Colchester borough that they are valued and welcome members of our community.”

2. As reflected in our Equality and Diversity Policies, the Council will continue to:
- (a) ensure that unfair discrimination does not arise by promoting equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and promoting good relations between the diverse members of our community, as well as tolerance and understanding of the needs of others; and
  - (b) recognise that people need protection from unfair discrimination, as set out in the Equalities legislation;
- (3) The Council notes:
- (a) that, in December 2016, the UK Government became the first European Union country to formally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of Anti-Semitism; and
  - (b) the letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 30 January 2017, strongly encouraging councils to adopt the definition of Anti-Semitism.
- (4) The Council adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s working definition of Anti-Semitism, as set out below:
- “Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”
- (5) The definition of Anti-Semitism, together with the accompanying illustrative examples, be used to guide the Council in the delivery of its equalities duties in relevant circumstances.

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

The Mayor has agreed that Group Leaders and a maximum of one other member from each political group only will speak to this motion.

## **(ii) Breaking Point**

Proposer: Councillor T. Young

D... Motion that:-

This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres;

- Conservative cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;
- Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children;
- With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for
- Government cuts have seen over 500 children’s centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services
- Northamptonshire County Council has already gone bust due to Conservative incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding
- Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’

This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October 2018 that the government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year;

This Council agrees with the aims of the ‘Breaking Point’ petition signed by Labour councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:

- Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets;
- Immediately investing £2bn in children’s services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;
- Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.

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

## **Main Amendment**

Proposer: Councillor King

I move that the motion on Breaking Point be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

- In the first paragraph, after the words “devastating effects” the deletion of the word “on” and the insertion of the words “for many Councils, their residents and the”;
- In the third paragraph the deletion of the word “Labour”;
- In the fourth paragraph, first bullet point, the deletion of the word “devastating” and its replacement with following words “huge impact austerity cuts have had on Colchester Borough Council’s budgets and the wider”;

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

*“This Council notes that many council budgets are now at Breaking Point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects for many Councils, their residents and the key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres;*

- *Conservative cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;*
- *Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children;*
- *With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for*
- *Government cuts have seen over 500 children’s centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services*
- *Northamptonshire County Council has already gone bust due to Conservative incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding*
- *Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’*

*This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight on 1st October 2018 that the government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year;*

*This Council agrees with the aims of the ‘Breaking Point’ petition signed by councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:*

- *Using the Budget to reverse next years planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets;*

- *Immediately investing £2bn in children’s services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;*
- *Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years.*

*This Council resolves to:*

- *Support the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the huge impact austerity cuts have had on Colchester Borough Council’s budgets and the wider impact that austerity has had on our local community*
- *Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.”*

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

- (i) Councillor Barber to Councillor King, Portfolio Holder for Resources

*Can the Portfolio Holder for Resources inform Council of the latest update for the Axial Way Pumping Station and overall Northern Gateway Project? Please can you state what the anticipated budget for both originally agreed was, what is now the current expected budget for both, in particular the Axial Way Pumping Station, and where the money for any over-budget spends will come from?*

- (ii) Councillor Chapman to Councillor Goss, Portfolio Holder for Waste, Environment and Transportation

*Could the Portfolio Holder explain how the recent review of the way our Zone Teams operate will improve the collection of litter on the A12? I receive frequent complaints about the state of this major East Anglian thoroughfare, which, for part of its journey, crosses the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty a national designation that I spend so much of my time, as a representative of this Council, sustaining.*

- (iii) Councillor Cope to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Public Safety and Licensing

*Can there be an explanation please for the great delay in the opening of the child’s play area adjacent to Cavalry Road and Circular Road North in the Quadriga estate behind Garland Road? It has now been several years since the estate opened; many representation have been made by councillors for the necessary action to be taken but the result has been disappointing. Can the official side give an estimate of the time when the play area will be opened?*

- (iv) Councillor Barton to Councillor Lilley, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Public Safety and Licensing

*The recent Streetweek in St Michael's was a welcome initiative and a successful way to engage with residents. Can the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Public Safety and Licensing give us a flavour of the event and outline some of the outcomes?*

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

*Given the Government's sudden turning point in housing policy and the promised new borrowing freedoms recently announced by the new disciples from Westminster, can the Portfolio holder tell me if there now exists a real opportunity to provide truly affordable housing at scale here in Colchester for those currently locked out of the local housing market. Furthermore given that the Local Government Association is committed to campaigning to ensure that Councils such as Colchester can borrow to build free from restrictions and that recent history has shown us that past Government promises of a new Nirvana can be stymied by the dead hand of Whitehall, would she be willing to request officers take a serious look at working cooperatively with other Councils to secure loans through Municipal Bonds as a low-cost alternative source of funding so we are not solely dependent upon the public works loan board or commercial alternatives.*

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

To note schedules covering the period 30 June 2018 – 19 October 2018 (see page 23 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.

#### **13. 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).