

Cllr Lorna Dupré

MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2022

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the County Council took place on Tuesday 10 May. Cllrs Stephen Ferguson and Sebastian Kindersley were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

A number of motions for debate were agreed, covering:

- tracking of progress of previous council motions
 - school transport policies for special educational needs and disabilities
 - street planters and green bus stops
 - increasing recycling.
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STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Senior leadership review

The Chief Executive has launched a period of internal consultation on his proposals for reorganisation of the council's senior staffing structure. He states that the proposals 'will provide the Council with a clear and sustainable leadership structure, teams that are aligned and sit well together and are positioned to tackle the challenges we face, as well as providing the compassionate and inclusive leadership that this the organisation both needs and deserves'.

Anti-racism charter

Cambridgeshire County Council is the first upper-tier local authority in the country to sign up to Unison's Anti-Racism Charter.

<https://eastern.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/sites/7/2022/02/Anti-racism-charter.pdf>

ADULTS & HEALTH

Health & Wellbeing Board

The Council has been grappling with the national changes in health decision-making structures brought about by the introduction of Integrated Care Systems. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have chosen to address this by creating a joint Health & Wellbeing Board to replace the previous separate Cambridgeshire Board and Peterborough Board, and a joint Integrated Care Partnership, with mostly overlapping membership and with shared agendas.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Downham Feoffees

Warmest congratulations to Downham Feoffees Academy on its recent successful Ofsted, in which the school secured a Good rating across all elements of the inspection.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Green Investment Advisory Group

The Council's Green Investment Advisory Group—a group of councillors maintaining an overview of the Council's energy projects—has had its remit expanded to include considering the environmental impact of the Council's utilities procurements such as electricity, gas, and water.

Broadband developments in Sutton

Internet service provider Connect Fibre has been cabling up Sutton and has now launched its high-speed broadband offer to local residents. Meanwhile another internet service provider Gigaclear, has also announced its intentions to install high-speed broadband infrastructure in the village.

Hundred Foot de-silting near Welney

In its role as Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council is a signatory to a letter to DEFRA minister Rebecca Pow MP from the County and District Councils, Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board, Stop the Floods, and Little Downham Parish Council. The letter raises the concerns of those organisations at the works undertaken on the Hundred Foot last autumn. The same signatories have also written to the Area Director of the Environment Agency asking that more work be undertaken on the material from the river to provide greater certainty and confidence.

Food delivery robots

Food delivery robots are taking to the streets of Cambourne as part of a pilot between Cambridgeshire County Council and Starship Technologies. Twelve thousand residents will benefit from quick deliveries from their local Co-op by a fleet of Starship's robots. The project began on 17 May and is part of the Council's environmental agenda to reduce the number of short car journeys and improve air quality.

Carbon literacy training

I recently undertook the Council's carbon literacy training course, which lasted two full afternoons and covered a wide range of information about the climate emergency and carbon emissions. This training is being made available to all councillors, and then to senior council officers.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Mepal Bridge works

The on-again off-again work on the bridge joints has been rearranged yet again. Patching work was undertaken in the last weekend of May, preparatory to replacement of the joints. However, a faulty part has held up the project.

The new dates for the works are

- 15-18 July (north joint)
- 22-25 July (south joint)
- 29 July-1 August (central joint)

The closures will take place from 8:00PM on Friday to 6:00AM on Monday.

Dunham Grange footpath

I have followed up an enquiry from a resident about the delay in opening up the pedestrian access from the new Dunham Grange development in Little Downham onto Cannon Street. The agreement between the Council and the developer was signed two years ago, but problems were identified which meant the scheme could not go ahead as agreed and new plans are being drawn up. Once these have been signed off by engineers the footpath can be constructed.

Wentworth road surfacing

I am also following up a complaint about the standard of the recent resurfacing of Main Street Wentworth.

20MPH policy

The working group I mentioned in last month's report has now begun meeting to draw up criteria for applications for 20MPH limits and zones. These are expected to be completed in the next few months.

HGV policy

I am now expecting a draft revision of the Council's policy on heavy goods vehicles to be considered by the Highways & Transport Committee in the autumn.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Frith Head Drove

Dangerous materials dumped on Frith Head Drove in Pymoor have begun to surface again as they have been exposed by the rain. I have been liaising with the County Council's Planning Enforcement officers and the Rights of Way officer about appropriate action to make the drove safe for all users, human and animal.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Combined Authority Board took place on Friday 20 May, having been requisitioned by Conservative council leaders and the then Chair of the Business Board. The aim of the requisition was to force the resignation or suspension of the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, following various allegations which are still under investigation.

However, between the requisition and the meeting, council elections had resulted in a change of leader in Huntingdonshire, and the Chair of the Business Board had also resigned. The attempt to depose the Mayor before the ongoing investigation had been concluded was therefore unsuccessful. An amendment to the proposal was agreed, supporting the ongoing investigation, and consideration of any resulting recommendations by the Combined Authority and its Audit & Governance Committee.

Meanwhile, Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald of Peterborough has been replaced as Deputy Mayor of the Combined Authority by Cllr Lewis Herbert of Cambridge; and the Chief Executive is moving on after just ten months in post.

Further to the disappointment of not receiving any money for its bus improvement bid, the Combined Authority has recently learned that it will receive only £635,000 from the Government's latest round of active travel funding—millions less than other Mayoral authorities.

The Combined Authority's Annual Meeting on Wednesday 8 June will consider the future role of the Combined Authority in relation to housing, now that the Government has decided there will be no more housing funds for Combined Authorities. It will also consider its business plan, deferred from the previous regular meeting of the Board; and a number of business cases for spending on climate change projects.

Meet Your Councillor

Sutton ward district councillor Mark Inskip and I will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on

- Tuesday 14 June 2022
- Tuesday 12 July 2022

Please contact Mark at mark@markinskip.org.uk to book your timeslot.

Cllr Lorna Dupré

County Councillor for the Sutton division