

Date of Publication of Decision List: 26 April 2021

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EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL – 21 APRIL 2022 – DECISION LIST**

<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Report Ref.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	There were no questions from members of the public.	-
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members	Apologies were received from Cllrs Sue Austen, Simon Harries, Julia Huffer, Amy Starkey, and Alison Whelan.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	Declarations of Interest were made as follows:  Cllr Gareth Wilson for Agenda Item 9: Loan to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) – interest as a member of East Cambs CLT.  Cllr Anna Bailey for Agenda Item 9: Loan to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) – interest as a trustee of East Cambs CLT.  Cllr Lisa Stubbs for Agenda Item 9: Loan to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) – interest as a trustee of East Cambs CLT.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 22 February 2022	To receive the Minutes of the last Council meeting.	It was resolved:  That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.	Democratic Services Manager

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5.	-	Chairman's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chairman announced that the meeting was being livestreamed, and reminded Members of the requirement to stand to speak where possible.	-
6.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	No public petitions had been received.	-
7.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	The following motions were received and considered:  a) <u>Congestion Charging</u>  (text of Motion at end of Decision List)  b) <u>Accessible Toilets</u>  (text of Motion at end of Decision List)	Motion carried.  Motion referred to Finance & Assets Committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4.	Corporate Unit Manager  Director Commercial / Democratic Services Manager
8.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	Four Questions from Members were received and responses given as detailed at the end of the Decision List.	-
9.	W175	Loan to East Cambs Trading Company	To respond to East Cambs Trading Company's (ECTC's) request for a new loan from the Council.	It was resolved:  i) That a new loan facility for East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) from 1 May 2022 be approved under the following terms, specifically:  • Loan facility of £7,500,000 (seven million five hundred thousand pounds);	Finance Manager and Legal Services Manager

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four year loan facility with the final repayment no later than 31 March 2026;</li> <li>• Interest rate of 4.50% per annum;</li> <li>• Loan facility to be secured by a debenture that will give the Council first ranking security for the debt over all unsecured assets of the Company. Prior to 31 March 2023 this will be ranked behind the CPCA security, but once that is repaid ECDC will have top security on all of the Company's assets.</li> </ul> <p>ii) That the sale of the former Paradise Pool site to ECTC for the sum of £539,650 be approved.</p> <p>iii) That the Finance Manager and Legal Services Manager be authorised to complete the necessary documentation to implement (i) and (ii) above.</p>	
10.	W176	Appointment of Board Director ECTC	To appoint a Board Director for ECTC.	It was resolved: That Sally Bonnett, Corporate Unit Manager, be appointed as Board Director for ECTC.	Chief Executive
11.	W177	East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (Single Issue Review) – Proposed	To consider an update report on the progress of the very limited update of the Local Plan.	It was resolved: i) That the final round of consultation (known officially as a Regulation 19 proposed submission publication draft plan) be authorised to take place on the very	Strategic Planning Manager

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		Submission Version		<p>limited partial update of the 2015 Local Plan, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, for six weeks (likely during May-June 2022); AND its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for the purpose of independent examination also be authorised.</p> <p>ii) That the updated Local Development Scheme, set out at Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.</p> <p>iii) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Planning Manager to agree and consult upon a set of proposed modifications during the examination process (most likely at the very end of the examination process), if asked by the Inspector to do so.</p>	
12.	-	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Update Reports (Jan – Mar 2022)	<p>To receive the reports from the Constituent Council representatives on the Combined Authority:</p> <p>Audit &amp; Governance Committee (28/1/22)</p> <p>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee (24/1/22)</p> <p>Combined Authority Board (26/1/22)</p>	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the reports from the Constituent Council representatives on the Combined Authority be noted.</p>	-

13.	W178	Action taken by the Chief Executive on the Grounds of Urgency: Additional Restrictions Grant – Round 9	To note the action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency.	It was resolved: That the actions taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency relating to Additional Restrictions Grant – Round 9, as detailed in the report, be noted.	-
		<b>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS &amp; PUBLIC</b>		It was resolved: That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1, 2 & 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).	
14.	W175 <i>(Appendix)</i>	<i>Loan to East Cambs Trading Company – Exempt Appendix</i>	<i>Appendix to Agenda Item 9.</i>	-	-
15.	W179	ARP – S113 Fraud Services Agreement	To consider the report from Anglia Revenues Partnership concerning the S113 Fraud Services Agreement.	It was resolved: That the recommendations in the report be actioned.	S151 Officer

## 7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

### a) Congestion Charging

That this Council opposes congestion charging in Greater Cambridge.

Proposer: Cllr Bill Hunt

Secunder: Cllr Anna Bailey

### b) Accessible Toilets

This Council notes that:

- Not every Council owned or managed public toilet in East Cambridgeshire is accessible for people with disabilities.
- The Government has decided that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people—known as Changing Places toilets—will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues. The Changing Places interactive map at <https://www.changing-places.org/find> indicates that there is not a single Changing Places toilet in the whole of East Cambridgeshire, and that the nearest Changing Places toilets for residents of the district are at Eddington, Bar Hill, and Mildenhall. Furthermore, East Cambridgeshire is the only district in Cambridgeshire for which no Changing Places grant funding was awarded by Government in March this year.
- The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible toilets to install new signage—two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words *Accessible Toilet* and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis and other invisible conditions. There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them.

This Council believes that:

- Provision of good quality, accessible, well-signed public toilets is important not only as a human right, but also for its potential to attract tourists to East Cambridgeshire and enable East Cambridgeshire residents to enjoy the amenities of the district.
- Every public toilet should be accessible for people with disabilities.
- Severely disabled people and their families or carers should be able to spend time in public places confident that a Changing Places toilet is available within a reasonable enough distance not to curtail their visit.
- People with invisible disabilities should be able to use accessible toilets without fear of stigma or discrimination.

This Council resolves to:

- Review disability access to every public toilet provision in East Cambridgeshire, and where this is not in place draw up a plan for installation of disability access arrangements, or make arrangements to replace the toilet with one which can be adapted and which is within a reasonable distance from the inaccessible toilet.

- Engage with businesses and partner organisations across East Cambridgeshire to identify premises, regardless of ownership, where a Changing Places toilet could be installed; work with them to access Government grant or other funding; and ensure that any Changing Places toilets so installed are properly signposted for visitors.
- Ensure that existing public toilets are signed in line with Crohn's & Colitis UK guidance; ask town and district centre retailers and leisure outlets to do likewise with their accessible toilets; and seek advice from Crohn's & Colitis UK on the information and training this Council should provide to council staff members to enable them to understand these conditions and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them.

Proposer: Cllr Lorna Dupré

Secunder: Cllr Matthew Downey

## 8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

### i) Question to the Leader of Council from Cllr Lorna Dupré:

"At the last meeting of the Full Council, the Leader claimed that the reason for her decision to delete from a motion by Cllr Inskip his expression of disappointment at the breach of lockdown rules by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, was that her administration was 'focussed on delivering for local residents'. Given that in the weeks since that claim, her Council has not even been able to collect the bins competently, does she believe that her claim is credible?"

### Response from the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

"What a torturous, circuitous effort by Cllr Dupré to find a route to mention the Prime Minister! Cllr Dupré might like to pose her question to herself Chairman – whilst I'm certainly focussed on local issues it appears Cllr Dupré is not!

Cllr Dupré refers to "her Council". I thought, Chairman, that this was our Council, that all Members form part of this authority and that collectively we have a responsibility to support the smooth running of the Council and delivery of its services for the good of our residents. The fact that Cllr Dupré feels so far removed from that says rather more about her than it does about the rest of us.

The simple answer to Cllr Dupré's question is yes! Myself and my colleagues in the administration are totally focussed on delivering for local residents in East Cambs. I work alongside officers every single day in pursuit of that cause.

In April 2018 we brought the waste service back in-house into East Cambs Street Scene and since then we've all enjoyed one of the very best waste services in the country – and thanks for that go directly to the Street Scene staff and crew. And thanks to our residents we have one of the best recycling rates in the country.

Our waste crews collect the recycling, green waste and residual waste from nearly 40,000 households across our rural district. They collect all public and dog bin waste, they clean our streets, collect bulky waste items, remove fly-tipping, and scrub graffiti, they keep our district clean and tidy. They do a difficult job, they do a fantastic job, and I am proud of them and I thank them.

East Cambs has experienced huge growth over the last few years – more households, more waste and recycling. The collection rounds hadn't been reconfigured for years. Continuing with the existing rounds was not an option – on some days the rounds were too full with too many households. If you consider for a moment, just the infill development in your own village or town, it is easy to see how rounds get out of kilter.

I want to apologise to residents that have had interruptions to their service and who've had to report missed bins, the vast majority of whom have been incredibly understanding and patient.

It is worth noting that South Cambs and Cambridge City's shared waste service has, like most waste collection authorities across the country, been suffering issues of its own, arising from the national HGV driver shortages – their response, Chairman, was to stop residents from being able to even report a missed bin and to simply make people wait until their next collection day. I am pleased to say that we have not had to resort to that.

Our waste crews have largely been working the same rounds for many years. The reconfiguration has changed those rounds – crews, who want to remain working in their close-knit teams, are working in unfamiliar territory. Unfortunately, it isn't possible to trial run new rounds – you simply have to stop the old rounds one day and start the new rounds the next. It is inevitable that there will be teething issues and we may still need to make further minor changes to some of the rounds to get them to the optimal point. But we will get there – the crews are the same people that were running the excellent service previously and we will get back to that excellent service again, I am absolutely confident of that.

Cllr Dupré may like to note that the round reconfiguration is expected to save nearly 5,000 litres of fuel and deliver a reduction of 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year – it's the equivalent to taking one truck off the road every day. Change isn't always perfect from day one, but that doesn't mean it isn't right to do it. Our crews will get used to the new rounds and we will get back to the really excellent service we have all been used to."

**ii) Question to the Chairman of the Finance & Assets Committee from Cllr John Trapp:**

"The ECTC board requested a new loan facility at its board meeting on 7 March 2022. When were you first aware of this loan request, and why was this request not on the agenda of the F&A committee on 24 March 2022 for detailed scrutiny?"

**Response from the Chairman of the Finance & Assets Committee, Cllr David Brown:**

"Thank you for your question, Cllr Trapp.

I was first aware of the request on 7<sup>th</sup> March when I attended the ECTC Board meeting as an observer. It was not on the agenda on 24<sup>th</sup> March because it is a matter for Full Council.”

**iii) Question to the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee from Cllr Charlotte Cane:**

“Schedule 4 Section 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding with ECSS states that operational changes to the refuse service can only be made with the endorsement of the Chair of the Regulatory Services Committee (or equivalent), i.e. the Chair of the Operational Services Committee.

The regular Green Waste collection is fortnightly, but collections were suspended by ECSS between Monday 13 December 2021 to Friday 28 January 2022 inclusive.

Can the Chair of the Operational Services Committee confirm whether she endorsed this suspension of Green Waste collections between Monday 13 December 2021 and Friday 28 January 2022?”

**Response from the Chairman of the Operational Services Committee, Cllr Julia Huffer:**

“Unfortunately, I am not able to attend Full Council on Thursday and I thank you for your question. However, I would refer you to my email of 6th January sent at 1.26pm which fully answers your question.”

**iv) Question to Cllr Lisa Stubbs from Cllr Matthew Downey:**

“a) You have liked a tweet stating that “white privilege is a myth”

Do you agree with this and, if not, will you apologise for liking this tweet?

b) You have liked a tweet referring to gay journalist Owen Jones as a “rant boy” do you believe that term is an appropriate way to describe someone or will you apologise for liking it?”

**Response from Cllr Lisa Stubbs:**

“I am aware that I have the option to decline to answer under the Council’s Constitution Part 4, Rules of Procedure, Rule 13.2. However, I would like to say a few words in response.

As Elected Members we all sign up to The Members Code of Conduct. It is intended to promote high standards of behaviour amongst the elected members of the council. Should anyone wish to complain about the conduct of a Member, all Members are aware of the correct process and that is the complaint must be submitted to the Monitoring Office for consideration. Not use the “Answer Questions from Members” item on the agenda as an opportunity to repeat previously unfounded accusations, attack and label a person.

Cllr Downey is familiar with the Complaint process as he himself was recently sanctioned for two breaches of the Member Code of Conduct, failing to treat others with respect and that when doing so, his conduct brought his office into disrepute. To my knowledge he has yet to comply with the sanctions.

As a woman, as a person of Irish descent, and as a daughter of Irish immigrants, I have been judged, excluded and marginalised on the basis of my gender and heritage.

I did not find my gender or heritage a disadvantage. The adversity shaped me, made me resilient, helped me to find the most powerful weapon against bigotry, misogyny, sexism, and racism...my voice. With my voice I have the power to agree or disagree, to challenge and to make a difference for the residents I represent. As a District Councillor that is what I have done and what I will continue to focus on.

These questions are aimed at attacking my character and ignoring my life experience in order to categorise and label me.”