

East Cambridgeshire District Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY, CB7 4EE**, commencing at **6:00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** **[oral]**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time (PQT) – questions/statements can be submitted in advance or placed in the PQT box in the Council Chamber prior to the commencement of the meeting – see Notes below for further information on the PQT scheme.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **[oral]**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** **[oral]**
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 4. MINUTES – 25 JULY 2024** **P5**
To confirm as a correct record.
- 5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[oral]**
- 6. TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)** **[oral]**
- 7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10**
 - a) Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance and Protecting Pensioners from Fuel Poverty**

This Council notes:

- The Labour Government's cruel decision to take away Winter Fuel Payments from all pensioners except those in receipt of means-tested benefits like Pension Credit.
- The estimated impact of this decision, which Age UK says will mean 2 million pensioners who badly need the money to stay warm this winter, including 16,658 pensioners in East Cambridgeshire, will not receive it.
- The significant role that Winter Fuel Payments play in helping older residents of East Cambridgeshire and across the UK afford heating during the coldest months, thereby preventing 'heat or eat' dilemmas and safeguarding health.

- The criticism from Age UK, the Countryside Alliance and other charities, highlighting the social injustice and potential health risks posed by this sudden policy change.
- The additional strain this decision will place on vulnerable pensioners, many of whom do not claim Pension Credit despite being eligible, further exacerbating their financial hardship.

This Council believes:

- That the Winter Fuel Payment has been a lifeline for many older people across the UK and that restricting its availability solely to those on Pension Credit risks leaving many pensioners in financial hardship.
- Many thousands across East Cambridgeshire sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance.
- The decision to means-test Winter Fuel Payments, especially with such short notice and without adequate compensatory measures, is deeply unfair and will disproportionately affect the health and well-being of our poorest older residents.
- The Government's approach fails to consider the administrative barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

This Council resolves to:

- Increase the Council's local awareness campaign which has been underway for several weeks now, to alert those eligible for Pension Credit to apply by the deadline of 21st December 2024, to try to ensure Winter Fuel Payments still get to those most in need.
- Continue to encourage local efforts to promote Pension Credit uptake through Council services, Anglia Revenues Partnership, and other partnerships with local charities and community organisations to ensure that all eligible pensioners in East Cambridgeshire are supported in claiming their entitlement.
- Request that the Council Leader write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment and asking the Government to take urgent steps to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who do not claim Pension Credit, are protected from fuel poverty.
- Write to all Members offering them the opportunity to sign the 'Save the Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition being run by Age UK.

Proposer: Cllr Anna Bailey

Seconder: Cllr Julia Huffer

b) Sea Toilets

This Council notes the importance to our area of the Great Ouse and its tributaries, for navigation, leisure, and the conveyance of water.

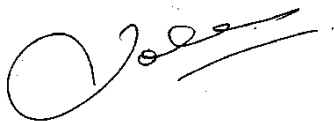
This Council further notes that control of the Great Ouse rests with the Environment Agency which currently permits the use of sea toilets which discharge human waste and other materials directly into the river.

The discharge of sea toilets is permitted by regulation on all inland waterways unless specifically banned.

This Council believes that this practice should be prohibited on the Great Ouse and its tributaries, and therefore resolves to request the Environment Agency to take the necessary steps to achieve a ban.

Proposer: Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann
Seconder: Cllr Lorna Dupré

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| 8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS | [oral] |
| 9. SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES: | P17 |
| 1. <u>Licensing Committee – 11 September 2024</u> | P21 |
| a. Gambling Policy Consultation | |
| 2. <u>Operational Services Committee – 23 September 2024</u> | |
| a. Waste & Street Cleansing Service Proposals | P55 |
| b. Waste & Street Cleansing Delivery Model | P85 |
| 10. LOCAL PLAN | P95 |
| 11. SOHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN | P113 |
| 12. CHEVELEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN | P117 |
| 13. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT | |
| July, August & September 2024 | P121 |



J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Admittance is on a "first come, first served" basis and public access will be from 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting. Due to room capacity restrictions, members of the public are asked, where possible, to notify Democratic Services (democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555) of their intention to attend a meeting.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream of the meeting will be available. Further details can be found at [Council 17.10.24 | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/council/17.10.24). Please be aware that all attendees, including those in the public gallery, will be visible on the livestream.

Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Council's functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (e.g. offensive, slanderous or might lead to disclosures of Exempt or Confidential information). Up to 15 minutes is allocated for this at the start of the meeting. Further details about the Public Question Time scheme are available at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme>

The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting, if required.

Fire instructions for meeting: The instructions in the event of a fire at the venue will be announced at the commencement of the meeting.

Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".

If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: translate@eastcambs.gov.uk

If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

"That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X 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(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."