

## Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils December 2016

It's been decided! We are to have a mayor. All 7 constituent councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership have approved the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough **Devolution** Deal. Cambridgeshire County was last but one of the councils to hold its meeting on the afternoon of 22 November and voted to approve. The deal will bring £20m a year for 30 years for infrastructure and £170m for delivery of at least 2,500 affordable homes in the next 5 years. This is seen as just the first step to accessing greater local power and funding. Public Health is taking the lead on Devo 2 and is focusing on addressing health inequalities. The first meeting of the shadow board met on 14 December to discuss among other things the process for the election of the new mayor.

The **County Council** met on 13 December and members debated a motion that a saving of £650K agreed as part of the budget at February 2016 Council meeting should instead be funded from reserves. A public petition of 155 names also called upon the Council to reconsider its decision on gritting particularly for school routes. There was cross party support for the decision to be reversed and Council also agreed that a cross party committee would meet to review its gritting policy. There was also cross party support for a further motion which will see street lights switched on again. However, the motion did not include a start date for this and best advice to any parish councils who have budgeted for keeping lights on next year is that they should retain that budget allocation until further details are available. Agenda pack: [bit.ly/2gZMf1A](http://bit.ly/2gZMf1A)

**Health Committee's** agenda for December included among its scrutiny items, an update on the Clinical Commissioning Group's [CCG] Sustainability & Transformation Plan [STP]. Sadly I remain sceptical following the Health Committee meeting that the savings that are expected can be achieved. The plan includes all those elements that would support delivery of better service and I cannot but applaud its principles but whether or not it is realistically achievable remains to be seen. Agenda pack: [bit.ly/2gKHT0E](http://bit.ly/2gKHT0E)

On the subject of health, the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence [NICE] has just opened consultation on improving how patients and the public can help develop its guidance and standards. It is reviewing the way it involves those who are not health or social care professionals in that process and is encouraging people to submit their views at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/about/nice-communities/public-involvement/consultation>

The **Greater Cambridge City Deal** [GCCD] Board reviewed the outcomes from public consultation on Western Orbital and considered next steps. The initial public consultation in early 2016 formed part of the early strategic assessment of this scheme. The work has been undertaken at this early stage because it may impact on other schemes being considered in the first tranche of the GCCD, in particular the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Bus Journeys project. Additional assessment included consideration of potential interventions to support sustainable bus access to Cambridge Biomedical Campus and possibly to enhance Park & Ride and Park & Cycle capacity in and around J11 of the M11. The Western Orbital scheme itself may form part of the second or third tranche of the GCCD. The GCCD Executive Board will make a decision about the timing of the overall project when funding priorities are confirmed before the end of the first tranche [2020]. Any decision that is made will need to include this early strategic work and engagement with Highways England on future plans for the M11 [a Highways England asset].  
Agenda, reports and decisions: [bit.ly/2hltV6f](http://bit.ly/2hltV6f)

**General Purposes Committee** received a report containing expert technical and legal advice on the rectification of construction defects in the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway and the recovery of costs from the contractor Bam Nuttall. This long running saga still has a long way to go. Agenda pack: [bit.ly/2hF2hCd](http://bit.ly/2hF2hCd)

**Economy & Environment Committee** [E&E] met on Friday 16 December. There were a couple of items of particular interest to our part of the county. The first was the funding allocation proposals for the Integrated Transport Block. This includes forward funding for improvement of the outward bound cycleway on Huntingdon Road. The second item required the County Council's approval of the Heads of Terms for Cambourne West which was given by E&E. The level of infrastructure funding required by the County Council renders the development unviable without some renegotiation of the affordable housing provision which is now proposed at 30%. This is still compliant with South Cambs' policy. Agenda pack: [bit.ly/2htURB4](http://bit.ly/2htURB4)

**Assets & Investment Committee** [A&I] also met on Friday 16 December. I am on both this committee and Economy & Environment [E&E]. As the meetings of both were held at the same time, I elected to go to E&E but I spoke with the chairman of A&I prior to that committee's meeting to express my concern relating to the proposal for acquisition of a new Highways office and grant of occupation agreement to the new Highways contractor, when appointed. Since the meeting I have spoken again to the chairman and understand that there will be greater member oversight of this as responsibility will be delegated not just to the Chief Finance Officer [as the original report suggested] but also to the Chairman of A&I and the Chairman of Highways & Infrastructure committees. Agenda pack E&E: [bit.ly/2htURB4](http://bit.ly/2htURB4) Agenda pack A&I: [bit.ly/2gLCM0d](http://bit.ly/2gLCM0d)

I was absolutely delighted to hear that Girton Glebe Primary School had been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted following its recent inspection. I have sent my congratulations to the new headteacher, Drew Simpson and the school's Board of Governors for the hard work that they have put in. They have faced many challenges since the opening of the university primary school and, whilst challenges continue, I hope that their Ofsted rating will be just the first of their successes.

A reminder about the County Council's recent launch of the Cambridgeshire Communities Innovation Fund. Worth an initial £1m it is intended to support the council's transformation programme and bids are invited from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors. The council's aim is to further develop community resilience and widen the scope of the very valuable work that local organisations do for their communities. Further details are available from: [lisa.faulkner@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.faulkner@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) . Please let me know if I can support anyone thinking of bidding.

Finally, my very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year. Thank you to everyone for your support during 2016. Doubtless 2017 will bring its share of challenges and I look forward to working with you to meet them.

*Lynda*

[lyndaharford@icloud.com](mailto:lyndaharford@icloud.com);  
01954 251775/07889 131022;  
Follow me on Twitter: @2whit2whoo

