

## Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report December 2018 [For January 2019 Meetings]

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and offer you my best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019. I am sure that the coming year will present many challenges but look forward to working with you to address them.

The meeting of the **County Council** in December followed the usual format of a couple of business decisions and mostly uncompromising positioning on the motions that are put. Approval was given to the Treasury Management Report for Quarter 2 and to a proposal from **Constitution & Ethics Committee** that joint working should be established between Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Boards. Approval was also given for the appointment of a replacement Cambridgeshire Chairman for the Board. The Chairman's announcements included news about awards made to the Council: the first was the achievement of a silver award in the Ministry of Defence's employer recognition scheme which the Council received for its support of the armed forces and their spouses/partners/families as well as reservists, service leavers, veterans, the wounded, injured and sick. This support is demonstrated through its employment of at least one service leaver and offering reservists the flexibility needed to plan and fulfil their annual training and mobilisation commitments and its role as a lead signatory to the Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Community Covenant. The Council's 'See the Difference' campaign, with its successful focus on the recruitment of staff to support people to live independently, saw it shortlisted from 420 national entries and awarded one of the 18 categories, that for best research and evaluation. The Council's summer programme for those with special educational needs won the National Citizen Service Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards. Now in its sixth year in Cambridgeshire, the programme is offered to all young people. The Council was recognised for its work in supporting 24 young people with special educational needs and disabilities who would not otherwise have been able to participate.

Agenda pack: <https://bit.ly/2s8ifYA>

**General Purposes Committee** [GPC] approved the recommendation from **Children & Young People Committee** [C&YP] to continue funding the Positive Behaviour Support Project. This project was set up in April 2017 to run for 2 years using £240,000 from the Council's Transformation Fund. Its aim was to work intensively with 8 children identified as having severe learning disabilities, to reduce challenging behaviour, improve quality of life and prevent exclusion from local support resources. The financial case for the project was based on the high cost of out of county residential schools and the success of similar projects nationally in reducing the need for such placements. At any one time there are 15-20 young people with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour in 52 week out of county residential schools, using a significant proportion of local care, education and health budgets. The team is currently at full capacity working with 8 families. All 8 children continue to be supported locally, none has required a 52 week residential placement to date and the projected saving is £746,000. This further investment will contribute to the funding of a multi-disciplinary team to work across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough for 2 years and will build on the successful outcomes of the original project.

Agenda Pack: <https://bit.ly/2s9TpaL> [GPC] <https://bit.ly/2AybG67> [C&YP].

**Adults Committee** considered the allocation of the additional funding for Health & Social Care recently announced by Government. Local authorities were given a total of £240m for social care services. The aim is to alleviate winter pressure on the NHS by reducing the delayed transfers of care that happen when people have to wait for the necessary package of support services. Getting patients home from hospital more quickly and reducing extended lengths of stay allows the release of beds for other patients. Members approved the use of the £2.395m allocated to Cambridgeshire to address the shortage of domiciliary care through the commissioning of an additional 2,956 hours per week of discharge car provision and an additional 230 hours per week of reablement provision.

Agenda Pack: <https://bit.ly/2C096pE>

**Commercial & Investment Committee** was given feedback on the marketing and disposal of Shire Hall and provided with a copy of the sales brochure. <https://bit.ly/2F9eqKy>

As a member of the **Fire Authority** I was pleased to see recognition of Station Commander Farsh Raoufi in the Queen's new year's honours list for his service to equality and inclusion both in his role with Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service [CFRS] and as a volunteer. Inspired by the community support he received when he arrived in the UK at the age of 14, he spent time as a youth worker before joining CFRS in 1991. During 17 years of volunteering he has supported young people and vulnerable adults in a variety of situations.

The **Police** are offering an opportunity to shape the future of policing in Cambridgeshire at a series of events taking place over the coming weeks. Their focus continues to be on providing the public with the best possible service whilst striving to balance national, regional and local issues. They are looking to the public to play an active role in influencing local policing particularly in relation to crime prevention. Those wishing to attend a meeting at Swavesey Village College, Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey, CB24 4RS on Thursday 24 January 2019 [19.00-21.00] can book a place at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/your-chance-to-influence-policing-in-the-county-tickets-53902169841>

There will also be a Police Surgery on Wednesday 30 January 2019 between 10.30 and 12.30 at The Co-op, 273 High Street, Cottenham, CB24 8QP. Anyone wanting to meet the local policing team for a general chat about local issues or to seek general security advice can just pop along - no appointment required.

In the last few weeks I have met twice with the **A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement** team. As the councillor for one of the County Divisions most affected by this project I meet regularly with the team. At the first of these two recent meetings I was accompanied by Bar Hill's District Councillor, a senior Officer from the County's Traffic Management Team and our Local Highways Officer. We discussed the issues that are regularly brought to my attention by local residents. At the second meeting Heidi Allen and I discussed with the Project Director and the Project Managers for both the A14 and A428 improvement works, local issues and the need to learn, *really learn*, from the first 2 years of the A14 scheme. Afterwards I accepted the offer of a comprehensive tour of both the on-line and off-line works, at one point sitting watching traffic on the existing A14 from a vantage point on the new road.

As a member of the County Council's **Health Committee** I am one of a small group of councillors who meets quarterly with the CEOs of Cambridgeshire University Trust [Addenbrookes], North West Anglia Foundation Trust [Hinchingbrook], the Clinical Commissioning Group and Foundation Trust for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and Healthwatch. During December's meetings at Addenbrookes and Hinchingbrook we discussed among other things their plans for spending the additional Government funding that had been recently been announced for each. Addenbrookes will use its £19m to create additional decant capacity [about 60 beds] to allow for vital fire safety and estates improvements to take place in parts of the existing building and Hinchingbrooke will use its £25m to address some of the issues that were raised during a recent CQC inspection.

I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about the items in this report or any other matters either at your January meetings or by email.

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