South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridge CB23 6EA

t: 01954 713000 f: 01954 713149 www.scambs.gov.uk



South Cambridgeshire District Council

3 December 2021

To: The Leader – Councillor Cllr. Bridget Smith

Deputy Leader - Councillor Cllr. Neil Gough

Members of the Cabinet – Councillors John Batchelor, Bill Handley, Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Peter McDonald, Brian Milnes and John Williams

Quorum: Majority of the Cabinet including the Leader or Deputy Leader

Dear Councillor

This is a supplement to the previously-published agenda for the meeting of **Cabinet** on **Monday, 6 December 2021**, containing those reports which had not been received by the original publication deadline.

Yours faithfully Liz Watts Chief Executive

Requests for a large print agenda must be received at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Agenda

Pages

5. Public Questions

The deadline for receipt of public questions is 23:59 on Tuesday, 30 November.

The Council's scheme for public speaking at committee meetings may be inspected here:

Public Questions at Committee Meetings

a) From Mr. Daniel Fulton

In the Cambridge Independent on 15 September, Cllr Tumi Hawkins, lead cabinet member for planning, stated that, "We are committed to work with Longstanton Parish Council and Northstowe Parish Council to investigate water levels across the local area."

As part of its investigations, has the district council actually obtained any data on groundwater levels in Northstowe or Longstanton after May of this year, for example from borehole BH144 or any of the other boreholes being regularly monitored by the developers?

If the district council has obtained any such data, why hasn't it been made available to planning officers and members of the public? If the district council hasn't obtained any such data, why hasn't it done so?

b) From Mrs. Jane Williams

In May 2020, the council voted to give all delegation powers for planning decisions to a single unaccountable, un-elected officer. You may recall that this change was quite controversial and attracted vociferous opposition from councillors and from a number of parish councils and local activists.

You may also recall that during the debate, the leader of the council, the lead cabinet member for planning, and other from the majority group repeatedly promised that this change was only temporary and that the delegation scheme would be comprehensively reconsidered in light of the findings of a report by the Planning Advisory Service.

The report has long since been published and forgotten, and yet the majority's undemocratic delegation scheme, which was promised to be "temporary", remains in place a year and a half later.

The council's leadership has promised time and time again that this will be a "modern and caring council" that operates in an open, honest, and democratic fashion, and yet the council keeps falling short of these goals.

What steps will the council's cabinet take to get the council back on track towards open, honest, democratic governance, and when will a truly democratic planning delegation scheme be put into place for the Parishoners of Waterbeach and residents of South Cambridge?