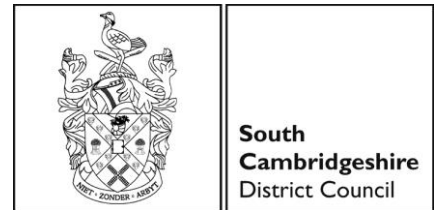


South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

t: 01954 713000  
f: 01954 713149

[www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)



6 September 2022

To: Chair – Councillor Stephen Drew  
Vice-Chair – Councillor Graham Cone  
Members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Councillors  
Anna Bradnam, Dr. Martin Cahn, Libby Earle, Sue Ellington, Peter Fane,  
Sunita Hansraj, Sally Ann Hart, James Hobro, Helene Leeming,  
John Loveluck, Richard Stobart and Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer

Quorum: 4

Dear Councillor

This is a supplement to the previously-published agenda for the meeting of **Scrutiny and Overview Committee** on **Tuesday, 6 September 2022**, containing a public question that was not received by the stated deadline but which has been accepted by the Chair.

Yours faithfully  
**Liz Watts**  
Chief Executive

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

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## Agenda

## Pages

### 5. Public Questions

If you would like to ask a question or make a statement, then please refer to the

[Document called Public Speaking Scheme \(Physical Meetings\)](#)

and contact the Scrutiny and Governance Adviser in Democratic Services by no later than 11.59pm three clear working days before the meeting.

#### **From Daniel Fulton (Fews Lane Consortium)**

“Parliament has enacted a number of laws requiring that local authorities publish their accounts on an annual basis and that documents related to those accounts, including public procurement contracts, are made available for public inspection in accordance with the timeframes established by the Secretary of State.

For the last two financial years, this council has failed to meet those deadlines and has, in fact, failed to publish any accounts at all.

Residents of multiple villages in South Cambridgeshire have requested access to the contract documents for one expenditure from the council's 2020-21 accounts. This was a limited and focused request that could have been easily fulfilled by the council.

Instead, the council refused the requests.

This refusal to allow public access to public information is part of a disturbing trend at this council that has become increasingly pervasive over the past 4 years.

When potential wrongdoing becomes apparent, this council's response is all too often to hide the evidence at all costs and despite any legal obligations the council may be under to make the information available to councillors and members of the public.

The local members for Longstanton have declined to respond to residents' requests to view the contract documents in question. Members of the opposition political group have remained silent as well.

What good reason could this council's chief executive, monitoring officer, and section 151 officer possibly have for keeping details of a public procurement contract secret after the contract has been fulfilled, and why won't a single member of this council support the documents being available for inspection, as is required by law?

Do you all honestly believe that this council should not be accountable to the public for how it spends public funds?

I would like to ask each member of this committee to please contact the leader of the council and ask her why she won't support transparency and openness in regard to public spending by this council.

I will end on a positive note.

Change at this council is possible. Previously, I would not have been permitted to make these remarks at today's meeting. I am glad those days are over. Democracy cannot operate without freedom of political expression.

The majority group at this council has shown that it is capable of renewal and self-improvement, and I would like to thank this committee and its chair for allowing me to speak today."