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Wednesday 17 February 2010

To: Chairman – Councillor John Batchelor
Vice-Chairman – Councillor James Hockney
Members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Councillors Val Barrett,
Janice Guest, Roger Hall, Liz Heazell, Mervyn Loynes, Mike Mason,
Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Julia Squier and Bunty Waters

Quorum: 6

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**, which will be held in the **SWANSLEY ROOM, GROUND FLOOR** on **THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2010 at 10.00 a.m.**

Members are respectfully reminded that when substituting on committees, subcommittees, and outside or joint bodies, Democratic Services must be advised of the substitution *in advance of* the meeting. It is not possible to accept a substitute once the meeting has started. Council Standing Order 4.3 refers.

Yours faithfully
GJ HARLOCK
Chief Executive

The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.

AGENDA

Please note that substitute members need to notify Democratic Services before the start of the meeting of the intended substitution (see paragraph 4.3 of Council Standing Orders).

PAGES

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence from committee members.
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
Please note that the Constitution requires that when considering any decision in respect of which a member of the Committee is subject to a party whip, the member must declare the existence of the whip. Under the Code of Conduct, any Councillor who has a personal or prejudicial interest should declare this at the meeting.
- 3. Public Questions**

4. Call-in: Shared Service for Delivery of the Revenues and Benefits Service (Key)

1 - 10

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee called-in the decision, taken by the Cabinet on 11 February 2010, to ask Uttlesford District Council to guarantee the payment of the first £350,000 of any savings generated by the proposed shared services arrangement to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The call-in was taken on the basis of Article 13 paragraph 13.02 Principles of Decision-Making of the Constitution with the possible contravention of the following principles:

- (b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice.
- (d) presumption in favour of openness, helpfulness and consistency.
- (e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes.
- (f) consideration of available options and giving reasons for decisions.

Witnesses invited:

Councillor Jim Ketteridge, Leader of Uttlesford District Council
Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council
Councillor Simon Edwards, Finance & Staffing Portfolio Holder South Cambridgeshire District Council

5. To Note the Dates of Future Meetings

2010: March 4 & April 1

All meetings will begin at 5.30pm. Next meeting at Linton Village College.

Exclusion of Press and Public

The law allows Councils to consider a limited range of issues in private session without members of the Press and public being present. Typically, such issues relate to personal details, financial and business affairs, legal privilege and so on. In every case, the public interest in excluding the Press and Public from the meeting room must outweigh the public interest in having the information disclosed to them. The following statement will be proposed, seconded and voted upon.

"I propose that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item number(s) in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

If exempt (confidential) information has been provided as part of the agenda, the Press and public will not be able to view it. There will be an explanation on the website however as to why the information is exempt.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

While the District Council endeavours to ensure that visitors come to no harm when visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall, those visitors also have a responsibility to make sure that they do not risk their own or others' safety.

Increased hygiene at South Cambridgeshire Hall

In light of the swine flu pandemic, we have intensified our usual cleaning routines in council buildings. We have also introduced hand gel dispensers throughout the offices, including public areas. When visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall you are encouraged to use these facilities if and when required to help limit the spread of flu.

Security

Members of the public attending meetings in non-public areas of the Council offices must report to Reception, sign in, and at all times wear the Visitor badges issued. Before leaving the building, such visitors must sign out and return their Visitor badges to Reception.

Emergency and Evacuation

In the event of a fire, a continuous alarm will sound. Evacuate the building using the nearest escape route; from the Council Chamber or Mezzanine viewing gallery this would be via the staircase just outside the door. Go to the assembly point at the far side of the staff car park.

- **Do not** use the lifts to exit the building. If you are unable to negotiate stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings are provided with fire refuge areas, which afford protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for assistance from the Council fire wardens or the fire brigade.
- **Do not** re-enter the building until the officer in charge or the fire brigade confirms that it is safe to do so.

First Aid

If someone feels unwell or needs first aid, please alert a member of staff.

Access for People with Disabilities

The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you. All meeting rooms are accessible to wheelchair users. There are disabled toilet facilities on each floor of the building. Hearing loops and earphones are available from reception and can be used in all meeting rooms.

Toilets

Public toilets are available on each floor of the building next to the lifts.

Recording of Business

Unless specifically authorised by resolution, no audio and / or visual or photographic recording in any format is allowed at any meeting of the Council, the executive (Cabinet), or any committee, sub-committee or other sub-group of the Council or the executive.

Banners, Placards and similar items

No member of the public shall be allowed to bring into or display at any Council meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. The Chairman may require any such item to be removed.

Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chairman will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chairman will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chairman may call for that part to be cleared.

Smoking

Since 1 July 2008, the Council has operated a new Smoke Free Policy. Visitors are not allowed to smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

Food and Drink

Vending machines and a water dispenser are available on the ground floor near the lifts at the front of the building. Visitors are not allowed to bring food or drink into the meeting room.

Mobile Phones

Visitors are asked to make sure that their phones and other mobile devices are set on silent / vibrate mode during meetings or are switched off altogether.