South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridge

CB23 6EA

t: 03450 450 500 f: 01954 713149

dx: DX 729500 Cambridge 15 minicom: 01480 376743 www.scambs.gov.uk

13 March 2013



South **Cambridgeshire** District Council

To: Chairman - Councillor Ben Shelton

Vice-Chairman - Councillor David Whiteman-Downes

Members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee - Councillors Alison Elcox,

Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Hersom, Roger Hickford, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Ted Ridgway Watt, Bridget Smith and

**Bunty Waters** 

Quorum:

There is a pre-meeting session at 5pm in the Monkfield Room for members of the Committee only, to plan their lines of enquiry.

# 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, 21 MARCH 2013 at 6.00 p.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 **JEAN HUNTER** Chief Executive

> The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. If you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.

# **AGENDA**

**PAGES** 

# PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. **Apologies** 

To receive apologies for absence from committee members.

**Declarations of Interest** 2.

#### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

1 - 4

To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2012 as a correct record.

Democratic Services Contact Officer: Maggie Jennings 03450 450 500

#### 4. **Public Questions**

# **UPDATE REPORTS**

5.	Youth Council	5 - 8
	Report attached. Representatives from the Youth Council will be in	
	attendance at the meeting.	

#### 9 - 12 6. **Health Service Changes and their Implications** A briefing note is attached. Jane Belman, the Scrutiny & Improvement Officer from Cambs County Council will be in attendance.

#### 7. 13 - 22 **Affordable Homes Service: Update** A briefing note is attached. The Housing Portfolio Holder will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to any questions raised. The items included in the note are:

- Sheltered Housing. For information, the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review published in February 2012 are attached as Appendix A
- Mears Responsive Repairs Contract
- New Build Strategy
- Value for Money. For information, the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review published in March 2011 are attached as Appendix B

# STANDING ITEMS

#### 8. Council's Forward Plan 23 - 38 To consider the items contained in the attached Plan for possible predecision scrutiny.

# **Work Programme 2013**

**Monitoring the Executive** 

9.

10.

39 - 46

Scrutiny monitors are invited to report to the Committee regarding Portfolio Holder meetings attended since the last meeting and specifically raise any issues challenged and the result and/or issues where the Committee could add further value. The meetings were as follows:

- Environmental Services, 19 March 2013 (Cllrs Elcox and Lockwood)
- Housing, 20 March 2013 (Cllrs Hales and Harford)

#### 11. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Future meetings of the Committee are scheduled at 6pm on the following dates:

Thursday, 23 April 2013 Thursday, 04 July 2013 Thursday, 05 September 2013 Thursday, 07 November 2013 Thursday, 16 January 2014 Tuesday, 11 February 2014 Thursday, 03 April 2014

# **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.

# **OUR VISION**

South Cambridgeshire will continue to be the best place to live and work in the country. Our district will demonstrate impressive and sustainable economic growth. Our residents will have a superb quality of life in an exceptionally beautiful, rural and green environment. The Council will be recognised as consistently innovative and a high performer with a track record of delivering value for money by focussing on the priorities, needs and aspirations of our residents, parishes and businesses.

# **OUR VALUES**

We will demonstrate our corporate values in all our actions. These are:

- Trust
- Mutual respect
- A commitment to improving services
- Customer service

# **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.

# 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. Infra-red hearing assistance systems are available in the Council Chamber and viewing gallery. To use these, you must sit in sight of the infra-red transmitter and wear a 'neck loop', which can be used with a hearing aid switched to the 'T' position. If your hearing aid does not have the 'T' position facility then earphones are also available and can be used independently. You can obtain both neck loops and earphones from Reception.

# **Toilets**

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

# Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones

The Council is committed to openness and transparency. The Council and all its committees, sub-committees or any other sub-group of the Council or the Executive have the ability to formally suspend Standing Order 21.4 (prohibition of recording of business) upon request to enable the recording of business, including any audio / visual or photographic recording in any format.

Use of social media during meetings is permitted to bring Council issues to a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, all attendees and visitors are asked to make sure that their phones and other mobile devices are set on silent / vibrate mode during meetings.

# 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 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.