



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2016

AGENDA AND REPORTS

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, Cambridge
CB23 6EA

OUR LONG-TERM VISION

South Cambridgeshire will continue to be the best place to live, work and study 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.

OUR VALUES

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

- Working Together
- Integrity
- Dynamism
- Innovation

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 (as amended)."

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.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: The Chairman and Members of the
South Cambridgeshire District Council

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR** at **2.00 P.M.** on

THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2016

and I am, therefore to summon you to attend accordingly for the transaction of the business specified below.

DATED 17 February 2016

JEAN HUNTER
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

PRESENTATION

1. **APOLOGIES**
To receive any apologies for absence from Members.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. **REGISTER OF INTERESTS**
Members are requested to inform Democratic Services of any changes in their Register of Members' Financial and Other Interests form.
4. **MINUTES**
To authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016 as a correct record.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, the Executive or the Head of Paid Service.

(Pages 1 - 12)

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

To note that no public questions have been received.

7. PETITIONS

To note that no petitions for consideration by Council have been received since the last meeting.

8. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

8 (a) Members' Allowances 2016/17

The Independent Remuneration Panel **RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) Pending the next review of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Members' Allowance Scheme, that any changes to current Special Responsibility Allowance payments deemed necessary to reflect changes in Member roles and responsibilities should be made by a re-allocation of current Special Responsibility Allowance payments without increasing the Council's overall Special Responsibility Allowance cost envelope.
- (2) That the Members' Basic Allowance is increased by the equivalent percentage amount that the Council agrees to apply to the pay rates of Council staff, effective from 1 April 2016, and that thereafter the Basic Allowance is increased annually on the same indexed basis pending the next review of the Members' Allowance Scheme.
- (3) That where a Councillor in receipt of the allowance fails to attend 50% of the meetings for which that allowance is paid in any six-month period, that Councillor be invited to repay an appropriate sum of the allowance received during that period.
- (4) That there should be no increase to the Independent Person's or their Deputy's annual allowance payment, given that the additional commitment involved is intrinsically ad hoc and may never be performed during their period of office.

(Pages 13 - 24)

8 (b) Corporate Plan Priorities 2015-2020 (Cabinet, 11 February 2016)

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED** to Council that the Corporate Plan setting out the Council's vision, objectives and actions for 2016–2021 be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

(Pages 25 - 30)

8 (c) Medium Term Financial Strategy (General Fund budget 2016/17 including Council Tax setting), Housing Revenue Account (including housing rents), Capital Programme 2016/17-2020/21 and Treasury Management Strategy (Revised 2015/16 and 2016/17) (Cabinet, 11 February 2016)

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED** to Council that:

- (a) The General Fund Capital Programme and the associated funding up to the year ending 31 March 2021, as set out in **Appendix A1** of the report is approved as submitted.
- (b) The revenue estimates for 2016-17 are approved as submitted in the General Fund summary, as set out in **Appendix B1** of the supplementary report.
- (c) The precautionary items for the General Fund, as set out in **Appendix B2** of the report, are approved.
- (d) The Medium Term Financial Strategy for the General Fund, as set out in **Appendix B3** of the report in the supplementary agenda, is approved based on the assumptions set out in the report.
- (e) The fees and charges proposed for 2016-17, as set out in **Appendix B4** of the report, are approved.
- (f) The Executive Management Team be instructed to identify additional income/ savings of £300,000 in 2016-17, rising to £930,000 from 2017-18.
- (g) The Council Tax requirement for 2016-17 is £7,852,090.
- (h) The Council sets the amount of Council Tax for each of the relevant categories of dwelling in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 on the basis of a District Council Tax for general expenses on a Band D property of £130.31 plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority, details of those precepts and their effect to be circulated with the formal resolution required at the Council meeting.
- (i) The Housing Revenue Account revenue budget, summarised in the Housing Revenue Account Summary Forecast 2015-16 to 2020-21, as set out in **Appendix G** of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report, in the context of the updated 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, is approved.
- (j) Subject to paragraph (x) below, council dwellings rents for existing tenants be reduced by 1%, in line with legislative requirements, anticipated to be introduced as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015, with effect from 4th April 2016.
- (k) The inclusion of an ongoing savings target for Housing Revenue Account services for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21, at the initial rate of £250,000 per annum, recognising the financial constraints placed upon the Housing Revenue Account by changes in national housing policy, is approved.
- (l) Inflationary increases of 1.4% in garage rents for 2016-17, in line with the base rate of inflation for the year assumed in the Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report, is approved.
- (m) Proposed service charges for Housing Revenue Account services and facilities provided to both tenants and leaseholders, as set out in **Appendix B of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report**, is approved.
- (n) The charge for the cost of the provision of the alarm service in sheltered housing is set at £3 a week.
- (o) The latest budget, spend profile and funding mix for each of the schemes in the new build programme, as set out in Section 5 and **Appendix E of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report**, is approved.

- (p) The required level of additional funding for new build investment between 2016-17 and 2020-21 to ensure that commitments can be met in respect of the investment of all right to buy receipts retained by the authority, up to the end of December 2015, is approved to earmark.
- (q) The revised Housing Capital Investment Plan, as set out in **Appendix H of the Housing Revenue Account budget setting report**, in the context of the updated 30 Year Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, is approved.
- (r) Delegation is given to the Executive Director (Corporate Services) in consultation with the Leader, to allow the Self-Build Vanguard scheme to proceed during 2016-17, should the business case presented be financially viable for both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
- (s) The borrowing and investment strategy for the year to 31 March 2017, as set out in **Appendix D1** of the report, is approved.
- (t) The prudential indicators required by the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities for the year to 31 March 2017, as set out in **Appendix D2** of the report, are approved.
- (u) The Capital Strategy 2016-17 to 2020-21 and Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016-17 to 2020-21, as set out in **Appendices D4 and D5**, is approved;
- (v) Any unspent New Homes Bonus money allocated to the City Deal be approved to roll forward to 2017-18.
- (w) The Executive Director, Corporate Services, be given delegated authority to issue the final version of the Estimates Book, incorporating the amendments required from Council's decisions.
- (x) The Government's exemption of supported housing from the 1% rent cut is noted.

Further to recommendation (g) above, Council is **RECOMMENDED** to agree the statutory resolution in respect of the Council Tax for 2016/17. This will be published separately as a supplementary document.

Further to recommendation (x) above, Cabinet requested that the Executive Director and the Director of Housing prepare an updated Housing Revenue Account budget setting report, Housing Revenue Account revenue budget and Housing Revenue Account capital programme for consideration at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016. The options regarding supported (sheltered) housing are set out in the following sections of the updated Housing Revenue Account Budget Setting Report, attached at **Appendix C**:

- (a) Section 2, Review of National Policy Context;
- (b) Section 3, Rent Setting;
- (c) Section 4, Overall Budget Position; and
- (d) Appendices G (1) and G (2), HRA Summary 2015/16 to 2020/21.

Council is therefore **RECOMMENDED** to approve applying the Government's exemption of supporting housing from the 1% rent cut.

(Pages 31 - 190)

8 (d) Swavesey Byways Rate

The Swavesey Byways Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council:

- (a) That it maintains the current level of byway maintenance for the period 2016/17.
- (b) That it levies a rate at £1.10 to fund the required maintenance for the period 2016/17.

(Pages 191 - 200)

8 (e) Membership changes

To appoint a Member of the Conservative Group onto the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to fill a vacancy.

9. ADVICE NOTE ON ELECTED MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN THE GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL

To receive the attached advice note.

(Pages 201 - 204)

10. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A period of up to 30 minutes will be allocated for this item, to include those questions where notice has been provided (as set out on the agenda below) and questions which may be asked without notice.

Members wishing to ask a question without notice should indicate this intention to the Democratic Services Team Leader prior to the commencement of the item. Members' names will be drawn at random by the Chairman until there are no further questions or until the expiration of the 30 minute time period.

10 (a) From Councillor Bridget Smith

"The Gold Investors in People Award was to be celebrated. However, of late, training opportunities for Members have been in short supply. What plan does the Portfolio Holder have to reverse this trend and become more proactive in addressing Member training and development needs, including those that Members may not actually be aware of themselves?"

10 (b) From Councillor Hazel Smith

"With this Council's initiatives to provide for more truly affordable housing now in tatters as the result of Government policy changes, can the Portfolio Holder tell me what plans we are making to deal with a rising tide of homelessness and overcrowding that we seem powerless to prevent?"

10 (c) From Councillor Ben Shelton

"This Council holds personal and sensitive information on our residents, and that information in the wrong hands could leave our residents vulnerable. Can the Leader confirm that this authority is doing all it can to prevent any cyber attacks, and that we have the best and up to date systems for dealing with any threats."

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

To note that no Notices of Motion were received.

12. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

To note the following engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last Council meeting:

Date	Event	Attended by
30 January 2016	St Ives Mayor Charity 007 race night	Vice-Chairman
1 February 2016	LGBT history month launch – rainbow flag raising, Cambourne	Vice-Chairman
12 February 2016	Mayor of Peterborough Charity Event, 1940's themed evening	Vice-Chairman

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

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- **Do not** use the lifts to leave the building. If you are unable to use stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings have fire refuge areas, which give protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for help from Council fire wardens or the fire brigade.
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Toilets

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Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones

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Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, 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. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

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Since 1 July 2008, South Cambridgeshire District Council has operated a Smoke Free Policy. No one is allowed to smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

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