



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, 19 MAY 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 Annual General Meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR** at **2.00 P.M.** on

THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2016

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

DATED 11 May 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

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2016/17

To **ELECT** the Chairman of the Council for the 2016/17 Civic Year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2016/17

To **ELECT** the Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2016/17 Civic Year.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest for items on this agenda.

5. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Members are requested to inform Democratic Services of any changes in their Register of Members' Financial and Other Interests form.

6. MINUTES

To authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 and the Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 March 2016 as correct records.

(Pages 1 - 22)

7. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

To **RECEIVE** the attached report on the results of the local elections held on 5 May 2016.

(Pages 23 - 26)

8. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

To **ELECT** a Leader of the Council.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, the Executive or the Head of Paid Service.

10. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

To note that no questions from the public have been received.

11. PETITIONS

To note that no petitions for consideration by Full Council have been received.

12. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

12 (a) Name of Corporate Governance Committee (Corporate Governance Committee, 18 March 2016)

The Corporate Governance Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Annual Council that the name of the Committee be amended to the 'Audit and Corporate Governance Committee'.

13. ERMINE STREET HOUSING LTD: RE-APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

To **APPROVE** the re-appointment of Stephen Hills as Director of the Council's housing company, Ermine Street Housing Ltd, for a further 12 months alongside his role as Director of Housing for the Council.

14. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2016/17

To **APPROVE**:

- (a) The allocation of seats on committees.
- (b) The nominations of the political group leaders to seats on committees.
- (c) The appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees.
- (d) The re-appointment of Grant Osbourn as the Council's lead independent person and Gillian Holmes as the Council's deputy independent person for a further four-year term of office.

(Appendices B and C of the report will follow).

(Pages 27 - 34)

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE, JOINT AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES FOR 2016/17

To **APPROVE** appointments to outside, joint and other Member bodies for 2016/17.

(Nominations from Group Leaders will follow).

16. JOINT SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE AND PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

To **RECEIVE** the joint Scrutiny & Overview and Partnerships Review Committee Annual Report for 2015/16.

(Pages 35 - 48)

17. MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

To **RECEIVE** the Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Statement.

(Pages 49 - 50)

18. WRITE OFF OF OUTSTANDING DEBTS 2015/16

To **NOTE** the amounts written off under delegated powers.

(Pages 51 - 56)

19. APPROVAL OF UK MUNICIPAL BONDS AGENCY'S FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Council is recommended to:

- (a) **APPROVE** the Council's entry into the Framework Agreement and its accompanying schedules including the joint and several guarantee;
- (b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Executive Director as Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to sign those documents, as appropriate, on behalf of the Council.
- (c) **GRANT** the Section 151 Officer delegated authority to agree amendments to the Framework Agreement as appropriate.

Due to its size, the appendix to the report for this item has not been included in the agenda pack and can instead be viewed online at www.scambs.gov.uk under 'your council', followed by 'councillors, minutes and agendas'.

(Pages 57 - 70)

20. 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.

20 (a) From Councillor Sebastian Kindersley

"When Members attended a meeting with the Leader on 10 March we were told agreeing to the outline Devolution Deal was the first step in a negotiation process and was necessary in order to keep a 'seat at the table'. Further, we were told by the Leader that signing up at that point would not commit South Cambridgeshire District Council to the Devolution Deal as proposed.

Despite those assurances the Chancellor announced East Anglian Devolution as a 'done deal' in the subsequent Budget.

I understand further negotiations have been taking place but that the Chancellor is not prepared to concede either the principle of a directly elected Mayor nor the geographic spread proposed of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Suffolk and Norfolk.

The Council meeting proposed for 28 June is two days before the Government deadline for a decision on Devolution. Given that there will only be about four weeks between the 19 May meeting and the publication of the papers for the 28 June meeting there is clearly little scope for meaningful input from South Cambridgeshire residents.

That being the case, it would be useful to know what the Leader's recommendation might be; what the Leader is asking for in the current negotiations with government and why all councillors have not been kept updated of the progress in negotiations since the Budget on 16 March, over 2 months ago?

Is the Leader planning on involving Councillors in this process at all or is he planning on simply presenting the Council with a fait accompli when the papers for the 28 June meeting are published?

Negotiations are rapidly approaching a 'take it or leave it' point.

Will the Leader and his Conservative administration be taking the Devolution Deal as required by the Chancellor or will they be leaving it as not currently being in the best interests of the people of South Cambridgeshire?"

20 (b) From Councillor Bridget Smith

"The new Cabinet Member for The City Deal has not yet set any dates for his Portfolio Holder Meetings. When might we expect these to commence, how often will they take place and how will he use them to include members in scrutiny of the City Deal and in its processes and decision making?"

20 (c) From Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer

"It is with considerable regret that we find that our Council has once again featured in the pages of Private Eye (edition dated 1 April 2016 - www.private-eye.co.uk/issue-1415/news). If we are to believe the account given, our Leader was allegedly involved in providing misleading information to a planning inspector.

We found out about this in the same month that it was revealed that our new Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, makes jokes about 'pikeys', something for which he refuses to apologise, characterising his comments as banter.

This seems to confirm the impression that the Conservative leadership in Cambridgeshire suffers from an ingrained racism, in particular towards gypsies and travellers.

Could the Leader reassure the Council that he believes that planning decisions should be made on the basis of truth and evidence not prejudice and distortion?

What will the Leader be doing to ensure that public concerns about racism in our councils' leadership are allayed?"

20 (d) From Councillor Tumi Hawins

"Firstly I would like to congratulate the Leader, Councillor Manning on his emphatic re-election. However, I note with interest the comments he is quoted in the Cambridge News, to have made. The quote I refer to is this:

'Overall, the Lib Dems have won some seats back today which were always safe Lib Dem seats. We didn't lose any councillors, but we lost some seats where some Conservative members had stood down. For us [the Conservatives] it's steady as we go; there is no change for us.'

I found the statement rather disappointing, as it seemed to denigrate such a good result and the hard work done by so many people.

Now, I know that sometimes the press inadvertently get it wrong. So, can the Leader please clarify for the records which seats he was referring to as being safe Lib Dem seats and explain how the Conservatives could say there is no change when the party lost 2 seats it previously held, and failed to gain the seat vacated by an Independent which they had so wanted?"

20 (e) From Councillor Anna Bradnam

"Under the arrangements for Shared Services between South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdon District Council and Cambridge City Council we understood that the Terms and Conditions for employees would be protected under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, known as TUPE. This involved staff in IT and Building Control being transferred to Huntingdon DC, staff in Legal Services being transferred to Cambridge City and staff from City Waste Services being transferred to South Cambs.

We note with concern that a number of experienced employees left after the recent TUPE transfers.

Please would the Council let us know the number and grades of SCDC staff who were involved in the TUPE process, who subsequently lost or left their jobs?"

20 (f) From Councillor Hazel Smith

"The Conservative leaflet for the local elections stated that 'SCDC's plan to build new council homes for local people has taken off'. We all know that the policies introduced by the Conservative government since May 2015 mean that this just isn't true! The Council's business plan for its council house building programme is now in tatters.

At previous meetings, we have been reassured that the Council leadership is doing all it can to reduce the impact of government policies but that the Council itself could not clearly state its opposition to them.

Could the Leader and the Housing Portfolio holder update the Council on their success in this regard and tell us about their plans to continue their efforts?"

21. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

To **NOTE** engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last Council meeting:

| Date | Event | Attended by |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|
| 8 April 2016 | St Neots Charity Ball | Vice- Chairman |
| 9 April 2016 | Beat the Indoor Bowls Mayor – Wisbech Town Council | Chairman |
| 18 April 2016 | Steeple Morden Village Hall – Invitation to post Refurbishment Open Evening | Chairman |
| 21 April 2016 | Waterbeach Queen's Birthday Celebration – Tea Party | Chairman |
| 21 April 2016 | SCDC Queen's Birthday Celebration – Street Party, Quiz and Beacon lighting | Chairman and Vice-Chairman |
| 22 April 2016 | Uttlesford District Council – St George's Day | Vice-Chairman |
| 22 April 2016 | Opening of our new homes for affordable rent and shared ownership at Whittlesford | Chairman |
| 23 April 2016 | City of Peterborough – last night of the Proms Concert | Vice-Chairman |
| 24 April 2016 | Ely Evensong | Chairman |
| 25 April 2016 | Annual WI Council, Cambridge | Chairman |
| 27 April 2016 | Town Mayor of Haverhill and Consort: Mayor's Service of Thanksgiving | Chairman |
| 28 April 2016 | The Mayor of Chatteris fund raising Indian meal | Chairman |
| 28 April 2016 | The Mayor of Chatteris fund raising Indian meal | Vice-Chairman |
| 10 May 2016 | Queens Reception at Buckingham Palace | Chairman |
| 12 May 2016 | Home Close, Swavesey completion event | Chairman |

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

Notes to help those people visiting the South Cambridgeshire District Council offices

While we try to make sure that you stay safe when visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall, you also have a responsibility for your own safety, and that of others.

Security

When attending meetings in non-public areas of the Council offices you must report to Reception, sign in, and at all times wear the Visitor badge issued. Before leaving the building, please sign out and return the Visitor badge to Reception.

Public seating in meeting rooms is limited. For further details contact Democratic Services on 03450 450 500 or e-mail democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk

Emergency and Evacuation

In the event of a fire, a continuous alarm will sound. Leave 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 opposite the staff entrance

- **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.
- **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 you feel unwell or need first aid, please alert a member of staff.

Access for People with Disabilities

We are committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to our 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 get 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

We are open and transparent about how we make decisions. We allow recording, filming and photography at Council, Cabinet and other meetings, which members of the public can attend, so long as proceedings at the meeting are not disrupted. We also allow the use of social media during meetings to bring Council issues to the attention of a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch your phone or other mobile device to silent / vibrate mode.

Banners, Placards and similar items

You are not allowed to bring into, or display at, any public meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. Failure to do so, will result in the Chairman suspending the meeting until such items are removed.

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.

Smoking

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.

Food and Drink

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