



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Council Meeting
Thursday, 13 July 2023

Agenda and Reports

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

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 Chair 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 - South Cambs Hall** at **2.00 P.M.** on

Thursday, 13 July 2023

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

Dated Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Liz Watts
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. Apologies**
To receive Apologies for Absence from Members.
- 2. Declaration of Interest**
To receive from Members any declarations of interest in items on this agenda.
- 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 Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25 May 2023 as a correct record.
(Pages 13 - 30)
- 5. Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, the executive or the head of paid service.

6. Questions From the Public

To answer any questions asked by the public.

The deadline for receipt of public questions is noon on Friday 7 July.

The Council's scheme for public speaking at remote meetings may be inspected here:

[Public Questions at Remote Meetings](#)

7. Petitions

To note all petitions received since the last Council meeting.

8. To Consider the Following Recommendation:

8 (a) Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Annual Report 2022/23

To receive the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Annual Report for 2022-23.

(Pages 31 - 40)

9. Extension to Six Month Attendance Rule and Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Employment and Staffing Committee

To consider extending the attendance requirements for Councillor William Jackson-Wood for a further six months and to consider the appointment of a new Chair and Vice-Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee.

(Pages 41 - 42)

10. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Attached is a decision summary from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee on 9 June 2023, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 June 2023 and the Combined Authority Board on 31 May 2023.

(Pages 43 - 54)

11. Greater Cambridge Partnership

Attached are the minutes from the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly meeting on the 8 June and the decision sheet from the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board meeting on 29 June.

(Pages 55 - 88)

12. Update on Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership

A report updating Council on the proposed locally led Partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge region is attached.

(Pages 89 - 92)

13. Membership of Committees and Outside Bodies

Council is asked to:

- (i) Note any changes in roles, membership or substitutes
- (ii) Note, and, where required, endorse any changes to Outside Bodies appointments; and
- (iii) Note any executive appointments.

14. Questions From Councillors

A period of 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 Interim Democratic Services Team Manager 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 time period.

14 (a) From Councillor Daniel Lentell

Does the Leader agree with the immediate past chair of Cambridgeshire County Council that it is fundamentally undemocratic for Fenland, East Cambs, and Huntingdonshire District Councils to be unrepresented through the Greater Cambridge Partnership?

14 (b) From Dr Shrobona Bhattacharya

Could the leader of council please provide an update on the progress of the Cambourne High Street project in today's Full Council Meeting?

14 (c) From Councillor Michael Atkins

With the recent publication of the East West Rail Route update report, many residents in my ward and across the district are deeply concerned about the impact this scheme will have on their homes and communities. How can residents best voice their concerns and seek changes to the scheme, and how will the Council and Leader support them?

14 (d) From Councillor Susan van de Ven

Small village food banks that have arisen in response to the cost-of-living crisis have seen continuing demand as the struggle to make ends meet persists for many people. The 'road shows' designed to ensure that cost-of-living support information is known and can be taken up where needed will be very welcome, and those coordinating food banks are in a good position to share. The recent addition of the mobile food hub is very welcome - please can we have an update on progress so far?

14 (e) From Councillor Pippa Heylings

Could the Leader explain the impact on communities and local authorities of

Government plans contained in the Levelling Up Bill to replace Section 106 contributions with an Infrastructure Levy. This levy will only be payable by developers on the sale of the first house. Specifically what will be the impact on “infrastructure first” strategies, and on the provision of affordable and social housing.

14 (f) From Councillor Richard Stobart

The Council recently received a grant from the Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). Some of the grant will be allocated to High Street developments. Please will you give an update on the SPF and comment on how the funding will complement other High Street initiatives.

14 (g) From Councillor Dr Richard Williams

When did the administration become aware that the Environment Agency was seeking to block large scale development in the District on the basis that the development plans ‘pose a significant risk to our local water environment’?

14 (h) From Councillor Graham Cone

Will the leader agree that full council should debate the four-day week trial and commit to having a report at the next full council meeting that can be debated and voted on by all members of this council?

14 (i) From Councillor Bunty Waters

Does the Leader think its unsustainable plan to ‘double Cambridge’ by building 57,000 extra houses might have had anything to do with the Environment Agency deciding to block all large scale development in the District?!

15. Notices of Motion

A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30 minute period, debate shall cease immediately, the mover of the original Motion, or if the original Motion has been amended, the mover of that amendment now forming part of the substantive motion, will have the right of reply before it is put to the vote.

15 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor Annika Osborne

First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when land-owning aristocrats dominated parliament and voting was restricted to property-owning men.

In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections. Internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect the parliaments of more than 80 countries. These countries

tend to be more equal, freer and greener.

PR ensures all votes count, have equal value, and that seats won match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of both local communities and of the nation.

MPs better reflecting the communities they represent in turn leads to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. Fair, proportional votes also prevent 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.

PR is the national policy of the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Reform UK and Women's Equality Party along with a host of Trade Unions and pro-democracy organisations.

PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its use should now be extended to include Westminster.

This Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections.

15 (b) Standing in the Name of Councillor Natalie Warren-Green

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) notes that on 16 May 2023, Cambridgeshire County Council at its Full Council meeting, passed a motion to request that District Councils throughout Cambridgeshire consider on strategic new developments, a planning condition that developers covenants explicitly exempt childcare provision on domestic premises, where there is an identified need which can be demonstrated. And highlight the importance of such changes with developers and house builders to ensure that they are aware of the barrier that these covenants can cause.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) recognises that some house builders place restrictive covenants on properties which prohibit residents living within them from running a business from home, including providing childcare. Whilst it is possible to have a covenant revoked, it is not guaranteed. Although covenants are not exclusive to strategic developments, it appears to be for these that the issue is most prevalent.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has been discussing this blanket covenant with Homes England who are now aware that the restriction on childminders works at cross purposes with their intention that residents of new builds have a positive experience living in their homes. It is also clear that sustainable community requires residents to be able to access work,

education and all services by either active travel or public transport. Requiring whole new communities to drive to access child care facilities is in conflict with South Cambs zero carbon policy.

SCDC now has an opportunity to capture, working with Cambridge City Council, the need for more childminders in the emerging joint local plan through policy which excludes childminders from the restriction of operating businesses from home.

This motion is requesting support for SCDC to address this need as follows:

1. Commence meetings with Homes England and other house builders active across South Cambridgeshire to (a) address this childcare crisis for new communities being delivered as part of the current adopted Local Plan 2018 and (b) in view of the predicted growth, engage them in policy development to achieve buy-in for policy that will meet the needs of childcare providers and families in the emerging joint local plan
2. Develop a planning policy regarding Childminders that will include feedback from the engagement with house builders and stakeholders across South Cambridgeshire, and organisations like PACEY, to ensure that the needs are balanced across all the interests in the community so that Childminders are exempt from a blanket covenant to restrict businesses being run from homes.

16. Chair's Engagements

To note the Chair's engagements since the last Council meeting.

Guidance 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.

Declarations of Interest - Information for Councillors

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a Councillor, you are reminded of the requirements under the Council's Code of Conduct to register interests and to disclose interests in a meeting. You should refer to the requirements set out in the Code of Conduct which are summarised in the notes at the end of this agenda frontsheet.

Disclosable pecuniary interests

A "disclosable pecuniary interest" is an interest of you or your partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners) which falls within the categories in [Table 1 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#).

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your disclosable pecuniary interests you must:

- disclose the interest;
- not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter; and
- must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to notify the monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election
- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of a disclosable pecuniary interest that is not on the register that you have disclosed to a meeting
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a disclosable pecuniary interest or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

Other registerable interests

These are categories of interest which apply to the Councillor only (not to their partner) and which should be registered. Categories are listed in [Table 2 of the code of conduct, which is set out in Part 5 of the Constitution](#). Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter; and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of non-registerable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects – a. your own financial interest or well-being; b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in Table 2 you must disclose the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied. Where a matter (referred to in the paragraph above) affects the financial interest or well-being: a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and; b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest, you may speak on the matter only if

members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

[Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]