

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](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)



20 May 2019

To: The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council  
All Members of the Council

Dear Councillor

This is a supplement to the previously-published agenda for the meeting of **COUNCIL** on **THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2019**, containing those papers which were tabled at the meeting.

Yours faithfully  
**Mike Hill**  
Interim Chief Executive

#### AGENDA

	<b>PAGES</b>
<b>8. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2019/20</b> Nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen 2019-20.	<b>1 - 2</b>
<b>9. NOTIFICATION BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET FOR 2019/20</b> Composition of the Cabinet 2019-20.	<b>3 - 4</b>
<b>10. APPOINTMENTS TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY</b> Nominations for appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2019/2020.	<b>5 - 6</b>
<b>19. MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT</b> Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Statement.	<b>7 - 8</b>

This page is left blank intentionally.

# Agenda Item 8

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 16 MAY 2019

### Item 8. Political Proportionality and Allocation of Seats to Committees for 2019/20

#### Appendix C

#### Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees 2019/20 - Nominations

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Audit and Corporate Governance	Cllr Tony Mason	Cllr Nick Sample
Civic Affairs	Cllr Dr. Douglas de Lacey	Cllr Dr. Claire Daunton
Employment and Staffing	Cllr Henry Batchelor	Cllr Dawn Percival
Licensing	Cllr Anna Bradnam	Cllr Eileen Wilson
Planning	Cllr John Batchelor	Cllr Pippa Heylings
Scrutiny and Overview	Cllr Grenville Chamberlain	Cllr Brian Milnes
Grants Advisory	Cllr Jose Hales	Cllr Clare Delderfield
Climate Change and Environment Advisory	Cllr Pippa Heylings	Vice-Chairman (Environment): Cllr Dr. Martin Cahn  Vice-Chairman (Climate Change): Cllr Geoff Harvey

This page is left blank intentionally.

# Agenda Item 9

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 16 MAY 2019

### Item 9. Notification by the Leader of the Council of the Membership of the Cabinet for 2019/20

Composition of the Cabinet 2019/20

<b>Cabinet Responsibility</b>	<b>Lead Cabinet Member</b>
Leader of the Council	Councillor Bridget Smith
Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport	Councillor Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer
Deputy Leader	Councillor Neil Gough
Customer Services and Business Improvement	Councillor Philippa Hart
Environmental Services and Licensing	Councillor Bill Handley
Finance	Councillor John Williams
Housing	Councillor Hazel Smith
Planning	Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins

This page is left blank intentionally.

# Agenda Item 10

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
– 16 MAY 2019**

## **Item 10. Appointments to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Representative(s)</b>
Combined Authority	1. Bridget Smith Sub: Aidan Van de Weyer
Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee  (Must be a Liberal Democrat)	1. Tony Mason Sub: Peter Fane
Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee  (Must be 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative)	1. Pippa Heylings 2. Grenville Chamberlain  Subs: 1. Peter Fane 2. Peter Topping

This page is left blank intentionally.



# Agenda Item 19

**May 2019**

## **Opposition leader's report to South Cambridgeshire District Council**

### **Cllr Peter Topping**

Chair, I said last year when the administration of Cllr Smith took power that we would not oppose for the sake of opposition.

So when Cllr Heylings brought forward her motion on zero carbon we supported it – and even seconded it.

And in that spirit I will be attending the Zero Carbon Future symposium that is being organised next week by this council and others. I will be going because Councillor Graham Cone the Conservative lead on environment and sustainability can't attend due to his day job as a radiotherapist at Addenbrookes. I understand that Cllr Heylings will be speaking on behalf of the Liberal Democrats at that event, because Cllr Smith is attending a Palace Garden Party.

But to be fair, I hope the sun shines on Cllr Smith's big day, - I would just offer three reminders if she is presented to the Queen.

- Selfies with the sovereign are generally discouraged
- A bow rather than a formal curtesy is sufficient as a sign of respect
- Don't bring up in conversation the time in this council in 2016 when you voted against a proposal to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday and described it as a ridiculous vanity project.

Now the new order has an aspiration to be green – green to the core

And it certainly is green – green to the gills in the administration of a district council. Why else would they brought in their management consultants to tell them what to do.

Although if I look at the minutes of the cabinet meeting when that decision was made, I see it was on the recommendation of the previous chief executive, probably last summer. Before there was any thought of council tax money being spent by this Liberal Democrat administration to the tune of over two hundred thousand pounds to give her early access to the Local government Pension Scheme and thereby early retirement.

The new administration commissioned two pieces of work from these management consultants. I'm told the second report was needed to explain the first.

Either way, their near £100 thousand pounds of work made interesting reading, especially the line describing "increased levels of frustration between members and officers".

If the administration is struggling so much with so many officers they perhaps ought to reflect on their own behaviour and requests. It's an old saying that people, when rightly and fully trusted, will return that trust.

And the consultants proposed a body of work – some of which is coming up later in this meeting, to spend a further million on implementing their grand design.

It is the residents that will have to pay for this – for the near £100k on consultant's fees, over £200k for the CEO's early retirement, the proposed million pounds of implementation. I thought – and I believe our residents do – that this council is in the business of emptying bins and recycling, good

design in planning, keeping people out of the trap of homelessness. These are the things that the officers do, and keep on doing, whatever the political weather. The officers just keep going – or, as is the case in recent months, they just keep going – out the door. Perhaps Cllr John Williams has been prescribing the stick again but forgetting the carrot.

There was one piece of data that the report included which caught my eye. The consultants noted, breathlessly, that the numbers of meetings had gone up – by 37 per cent.

And I wondered, is that a good thing? Really? And then I wondered, which meetings were they? Secret meetings – because by the way, of the 19 council and cabinet meetings held this last year, nearly half excluded the press and public.

But what were these meetings that had increased in number? Certainly not the portfolio meetings, because they have all gone.

Certainly not the two meetings of the Audit Committee in late 2019, both cancelled, depriving the audit committee and the fearless Cllr Heather Williams to ask the other Cllr Williams what he was doing about getting the accounts closed.

Certainly not the mental health working group that councillor Ellington did so much to get going under her portfolio, and I understand is now on hold. But what can we expect from an administration whose first decision was to axe the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio.

But I don't want to be unduly pessimistic. After all, the council voted for the Conservative Local Plan, and indeed this week the planning committee, voted through the New Town of Waterbeach.

The affordable houses for this part of Waterbeach will be 30 per cent. This is a failure to stare down the developers and extract the full 40 per cent of affordable homes that the Liberal Democrats set much store by when in opposition. This is a failure of political leadership that I lay at the door of the new Cabinet.

I said at the beginning that our approach was not to oppose for the sake of opposition – but we find much to question, and much to oppose, and this administration has much to learn.

**Cllr Peter Topping**

**Conservative Opposition leader**

**South Cambridgeshire District council**