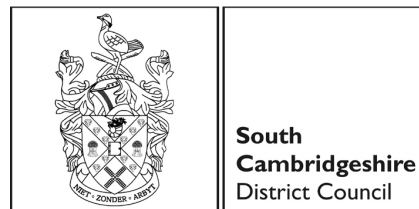


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7 December 2012

To: Chairman – Councillor Mick Martin  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Alison Elcox  
Members of the Civic Affairs Committee – Councillors Simon Edwards,  
Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Ray Manning,  
Raymond Matthews, Tony Orgee, Jim Stewart, Edd Stonham, Robert Turner and  
Bunty Waters

Quorum: 4

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**, which will be held in **MONKFIELD ROOM, FIRST FLOOR** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **MONDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2012 at 5.00 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. 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.**

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	AGENDA	PAGES
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interests</b>	
3.	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2012.	1 - 6
	<b>RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL</b>	
4.	<b>Amendments to the Council's Constitution</b>	7 - 34
	<b>INFORMATION ITEMS</b>	
5.	<b>Discussion Paper: Setting up of Parish and Town Councils</b>	35 - 52

<b>6.</b>	<b>Training on Code of Conduct</b>	<b>53 - 54</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Update on Code of Conduct Complaints</b>	<b>55 - 56</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Register of Interests Update</b>	<b>57 - 60</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Letter from Brandon Lewis MP on Localism Act 2011</b> To note letter from Brandon Lewis MP, Under-Secretary of State for Local Government and Planning, in response to letter from the Chairman of Council expressing concerns with regard to the Localism Act 2011.	<b>61 - 62</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b> Members are asked to bring their diaries.	

#### **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 Cambs 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.