



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

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:

- Trust
- Mutual respect
- A commitment to improving services
- Customer service

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 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

DATED 17 September 2014

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. APOLOGIES**
To receive Apologies for Absence from Members.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest for 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 Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 June 2014 as a correct record.

(Pages 1 - 12)
- 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, the Executive or the Head of Paid Service.
- 6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
To note that no questions from the public have been received.

7. PETITIONS

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

8. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

**8 (a) The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014
(Civic Affairs Committee, 25 September 2014)**

The Civic Affairs Committee will meet at 10am on 25 September 2014 and consider the attached report. A Member of the Civic Affairs Committee will report any recommendations from that meeting in respect of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

(Pages 13 - 18)

9. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2014-17

Council is recommended to approve the Member Development Strategy for 2014-17.

(Pages 19 - 34)

10. APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Council is recommended to:

- (a) re-appoint Simon Harris as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a 3-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2017, and
- (b) confirm that the level of expenses paid to the individual members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be no more than £200 each per financial year. The final amount payable to be agreed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

(Pages 35 - 36)

11. QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS

To receive any questions on joint meetings.

12. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

12 (a) From Councillor Peter Johnson

"Why is a charge of £5 per hour being introduced for use of the Denson Close Waterbeach Sheltered Housing Community Room by the residents of that Sheltered Housing Scheme?"

12 (b) From Councillor Kevin Cuffley

"Could the Leader explain how the new method of refuse collection will improve the service for residents given that there will be a break in service over the Christmas period?"

12 (c) From Councillor Sebastian Kindersley

"Many members of the Council were horrified by the recent appeal decisions at Waterbeach which effectively declared open season on our communities leaving them all vulnerable to unplanned, unsustainable and unwanted developments. Furthermore the decisions effectively destroyed the Council's ambition to have a plan-led development strategy with consequences not only for South Cambridgeshire but also the City of Cambridge.

Could the Leader please outline the steps he and the Cabinet have taken to take control and leadership of the situation relating to the Waterbeach appeal decisions, in particular (but not limited to) details of contact/discussions/meetings with Members of Parliament, Ministers, Government bodies/groups, Parliamentary Select Committees, senior civil servants, the media, other authorities facing the same or similar issues, the Local Government Association and South Cambridgeshire's Parish Councils?"

12 (d) From Councillor Janet Lockwood

"Please could the Housing Portfolio Holder tell Council how many developments of six houses or more have been allowed to give commuted sums to the Council in lieu of affordable housing, and how the commuted sums for affordable housing from small developments have been spent over the past ten years?"

12 (e) From Councillor Bridget Smith

"The recent performance of our Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has been poor in the extreme with proportionally less money awarded to us than to other LEPs. What is this Council planning to do to ensure that our LEP improves its performance and productivity and that South Cambridgeshire in particular derives maximum benefit from the LEP?"

12 (f) From Councillor Tumi Hawkins

"On 10th February 2012, a High Court Judge ruled that 'The saying of prayers as part of the formal meeting of a Council is not lawful under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, and there is no statutory power permitting the practice to continue'.

This Council subsequently and swiftly abolished the long standing practice of saying prayers before Full Council meetings.

On 18 February 2012, this shocking ruling was subsequently overtaken when the Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles announced a major new power contained in the Localism Act 2011 which he fast tracked, to allow local councils to continue to include prayers at meetings. Mr Pickles in announcing the new powers said:

'As a matter of urgency I have personally signed a Parliamentary order to bring into force an important part of the new Localism Act - the general power of competence - that gives councils the vital legal standing that should allow them to continue to hold formal prayers at meetings where they wish to do so.'

'We will stand for freedom to worship, for Parliamentary sovereignty, and for long-standing British liberties.'

This Council has yet to act on this revised directive.

Can the Leader please tell us when this Council will stand up for freedom to worship in this authority and take steps necessary to enable the return of our long standing practice of prayer to be said before Full Council meetings?"

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13 (a) **Standing in the name of Councillor Robin Page**

“That this Council no longer includes its two paragraphs ‘*Our Long-Term Vision*’ on any of its documents and agendas and removes the ‘*Our Values*’ item from the same documents.

The long term vision is quite clearly self-delusional and no longer appropriate in view of the development being imposed on South Cambridgeshire, whereas ‘*Our Values*’ clearly replaces individual responsibility and judgement with corporate hype. This should have no part in the work of South Cambridgeshire District Council.”

13 (b) **Standing in the name of Councillor Sebastian Kindersley**

“This Council welcomes the increased funding and improved coordination that the City Deal will bring. However the emerging details of the undemocratic decision-making process and inadequate scrutiny structure raise profound concerns. The current proposals can only be acceptable if the City Deal is a stepping stone towards a unitary authority.

This Council therefore requests that the Cabinet and officers begin actively working towards the creation of a unitary council, in particular by engaging with neighbouring councils, political groups and central government. This should be done as publicly and transparently as possible, for example through a joint working party, so that the whole electorate can be informed and involved in the discussion.”

13 (c) **Standing in the name of Councillor James Hockney**

“The Council expresses disappointment with the recent decisions by Planning Inspector Pete Drew, allowing appeals against refusal of planning permission for developments on Cody Road and Bannold Road Waterbeach. These have given rise to considerable uncertainty and anxiety, especially among residents of my ward, concerning development of land not allocated for housing either in the current Local Development Framework or the submission Local Plan.

The Council welcomes the agreement between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council on a Memorandum of Understanding that the phasing of housing delivery across the two areas should be taken together, including for calculating the five-year land supply.

The Council also looks to the inspector heading the public examination into the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans to provide clarity on the five-year land supply question at the earliest opportunity so to protect communities like Waterbeach from speculative developments.”

13 (d) **Standing in the name of Councillor John Williams**

“With negotiations going on between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council on the merging of the kerb side waste collection service of the two authorities, this Council wants to see as a result of any such merger no further deterioration in quality and frequency of its household refuse collection service which has seen the South Cambridgeshire household recycling rate be far better than that of the city.”

13 (e) Standing in the name of Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer

“While recognising that the new town of Northstowe requires a huge amount of infrastructure investment from developers and that affordable housing obligations must allow developments to be economically viable, this Council is concerned that affordable housing provision in Northstowe is being squeezed down to a level that threatens the sustainability of the new town and the contribution that it can make to the district-wide supply of social housing.

This Council reiterates its support for the planning policies concerning affordable housing.

This Council expects the Homes and Communities Agency to agree that all information about viability is made public so that the decisions on this matter can be fully scrutinised.”

14. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

To note the Chairman’s engagements since the last Council meeting:

Date	Event	Attended by
7 June	Melbourn Community Hub Official Grand Opening Event	Vice-Chairman
7 June	Opening of St Andrew’s Centre, Histon	Vice-Chairman
10 June	Annual Civic Leaders Tour, RAF Alconbury	Vice-Chairman
11 June	Arthur Rank Hospice Charity launch event for Help our Hospice campaign, Gog Magog Golf Club	Vice-Chairman
23 June	SCDC Armed Forces Day flag raising	Chairman
25 June	Iceni Homes launch of Histon Road, Cottenham site	Chairman
27 June	Sense Tea Party for Deafblind Awareness Week, Cambridge Resource Centre, Knapwell	Chairman
28 June	SCDC Parklife, Milton Country Park	Chairman
29 June	Lt Shelford Sod Cutting Ceremony, Lt Shelford Recreation Ground	Chairman
3 July	Completion Celebration Event, May’s Avenue, Balsham	Chairman
7 July	Big Weekend Reception – Tour De France, Parker’s Piece	Chairman
12 July	Opening of Eltisley Fete and Donkey Derby, Eltisley Green	Chairman
17 July	Opening of The Triangle, Fowlmere - KSH	Chairman
24 July	SCDC Launch of the BikeBus Explorer Service, Wimpole Hall	Chairman
30 July	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon photo call with Minister, Swavesey Services	Vice-Chairman
3 August	WW1 Commemoration Service, Gt Shelford War Memorial	Chairman
4 August	Service to mark centenary of outbreak of the Great War, Great St Mary’s, Cambridge	Chairman
31 August	Royal Anglian Regiment Golden Jubilee Celebrations, IWM Duxford	Chairman
2 Sept	Opening of new cycle path, Bucking Way Road Swavesey	Vice-Chairman

5 Sept	Mayor of Huntingdon Charity Event – The Pampered Chef, Town Hall, Huntingdon	Vice-Chairman
7 Sept	Opening of Gt Shelford Sports Pavilion	Chairman
13 Sept	Opening of new hall at Fulbourn	Chairman
15 Sept	Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age 10yr Anniversary	Vice-Chairman
17 Sept	Opening Ceremony, Cambourne Village College	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.

