

CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY 2015

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Civic Affairs Committee held on Thursday, 15 January 2015. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Patrick Adams (Agenda) Graham Watts (Minutes).

1. RECORDED VOTES AT FULL COUNCIL

The Civic Affairs Committee, in debating the motion that was referred to it by Full Council regarding a proposal to introduce recorded votes for all votes taken at meetings at Full Council, except for decisions on appointments or decisions taken by affirmation, **RECOMMENDED** that the motion be lost.

The Civic Affairs Committee **REQUESTED** that a report be submitted to its next meeting on the feasibility and options for recording or webcasting future meetings of Full Council.

2. PETITIONS SCHEME

The Civic Affairs Committee **RECOMMENDED** the revised Petitions Scheme to Full Council for approval, subject to the following:

- (a) The inclusion of clear reference to the use of e-petitions, including a link to and instructions for the Council's e-petitions facility.
- (b) The inclusion of a Chairman's discretion enabling the debate of a petition at a meeting of Full Council to exceed a maximum of 30 minutes if necessary.
- (c) The replacement of the word 'unsatisfied' with 'dissatisfied' on the final heading of the Scheme.
- (d) The inclusion of a percentage-based trigger for smaller parishes in respect of petitions for debate at a meeting of Full Council.

The Civic Affairs Committee **REFERRED** the issue of e-petition verification to the Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Customer Services for consideration.

3. COUNTY ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Civic Affairs Committee **AGREED** to submit a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the boundary review of Cambridgeshire, highlighting the following issues:

- (a) The Committee strongly disagreed with the housing permissions and allocations included in the elections forecasts for South Cambridgeshire.
- (b) The Committee expressed its disappointment at the inaccurate record of parish electorates by individual parish, particularly regarding Parish Council size.
- (c) The Committee asked that the principle of protecting the identities of local communities was considered very carefully as part of the boundary review.