



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

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:

- Working Together
- Integrity
- Dynamism
- Innovation

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, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

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

DATED 15 September 2015

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 any apologies for absence from Members.

- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members.

- 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 21 May 2015 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 4 June 2015 as correct records.

(Pages 1 - 22)

- 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 debate the attached petition that has been received.

(Pages 23 - 24)

8. TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

8 (a) Financial Management System (Cabinet, 10 September 2015) (Key)

Cabinet **RECOMMENDED** to Council for approval a supplementary budget of up to £190,000 (capital) for the Financial Management System project.

A copy of the report considered by Cabinet can be viewed via the following link:

<http://scambsm.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=6501&Ver=4>

9. APPOINTMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Re-appoints Kevin McIntyre as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a 3-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2018.
- (b) Confirms that the level of expenses paid to the individual members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be no more than £200 each per financial year, with the final amount payable to be agreed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

(Pages 25 - 26)

10. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY - CAMBRIDGE SPORTS HALL TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Council is invited to appoint a representative onto the Cambridge Sports Hall Trust Management Committee.

11. QUESTIONS ON JOINT MEETINGS

To receive any questions from Members on joint meetings.

12. QUESTIONS ON THE GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL

To receive any questions from Members on the Greater Cambridge City Deal.

13. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

13 (a) From Councillor Ben Shelton

“Will the Leader explain how the Government’s recent changes to Council house rent and the cap on benefits will affect our residents?”

13 (b) From Councillor John Williams

“How many applications have been received for the Right to Buy Mobility Fund, how many tenants have so far been successful and how much money has so far been spent from the Fund?”

13 (c) From Councillor Bridget Smith

“How much has the Council had to pay as rebates to Medical Practices that have appealed their business rates? How much is it anticipated will need to be paid out in the next 5 years to cover further claims?”

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

14 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor John Williams

“SCDC is heading into ‘a perfect storm’ over affordable rented housing as it is hit by a triple whammy from the new government’s recent budget announcements. Firstly by having to give a 1% reduction in council rents over the next four years which will hit our ambitious council house building programme; secondly, by being forced to sell our best housing stock as properties become void to reimburse housing associations for introducing "right to buy" to their properties; and thirdly by the fact that the council will still have the £205 million loan to repay which we took out to pay off our HRA debt to the government to enable us to embark on our council house building programme. In addition to the above we are expecting to see many small landlords selling up as a result of the changes to the tax rules on ‘buy to let’ properties. Officers have warned that homelessness will rise in the district as a direct result of this government action. Therefore this council instructs the Chief Executive to draw the Secretary of State's attention to these facts and copy to the Local Government Association.”

14 (b) Standing in the name of Councillor Bridget Smith

“The much valued Green Belt in South Cambridgeshire is currently facing a number of threats. Most significantly these are from speculative planning applications, the emerging Local Plan itself and the City Deal. Our Local Plan currently recognises the high level of protection that the Green Belt deserves. In order to reaffirm this Council’s commitment to protecting the Green Belt this motion proposes that as a Council we welcome the proposals being put forward by Cambridgeshire BOLD as an acknowledgement that they go some way to ensuring a light touch approach to the Green Belt which does everything reasonably possible to protect it for future generations and invite Members to give due consideration to these at the relevant stages.”

15. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

To note the following engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last Council meeting:

Date	Event	Attended by
5 June 2015	The role of the Civic Head & Team seminar, Broadland District Council, Norwich	Chairman
7 June 2015	Royal Anglian Regiment Annual Reunion & Commemoration, Ely Cathedral	Chairman
10 June 2015	Cambridgeshire County Forum Briefing for Civic Leaders, Cambridge	Vice-Chairman
11 June 2015	Completion Ceremony – Hurdleditch Road, Orwell	Chairman
14 June 2015	Mayor of St Ives Civic Parade & Service, All Saints’ Parish Church St Ives	Chairman
14 June 2015	Mayor of Huntingdon Civic Service, All Saints’ Church Huntingdon	Vice-Chairman

21 June 2015	Mayor of Peterborough Civic Service & Installation, Peterborough Cathedral	Chairman
21 June 2015	Wood Green President's Day, Godmanchester	Vice-Chairman
22 June 2015	South Cambridgeshire District Council – Armed Forces Day flag raising	Chairman
24 June 2015	Mayor of Cambridge Proclamation of Midsummer Fair, Midsummer Common Cambridge	Chairman
25 June 2015	Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council Armed Forces Ceremony, Huntingdon	Vice-Chairman
26 June 2015	High Sheriff's Reception, The Manor House Warboys	Chairman
29 June 2015	Arthur Rank Hospice Act of Dedication, Cambridge	Chairman
1 July 2015	Cambridge Police and Crime Commissioner Youth Fund event, Huntingdon	Vice-Chairman
2 July 2015	RAF Independence Day Celebration & Firework Display, RAF Alconbury	Chairman
2 July 2015	Mayor of Wisbech 'At Home' event, St Peter & St Paul Church, Wisbech	Vice-Chairman
13 July 2015	RAF Civic Leaders Tour, RAF Alconbury	Vice-Chairman
14 July 2015	RAF Change of Command Ceremony, RAF Molesworth	Vice-Chairman
17 July 2015	Northstowe digging of the first sod, Northstowe	Chairman
17 July 2015	Denny Abbey Farmland Museum Summer Reception, Waterbeach	Chairman
17 July 2015	Chairman of Fenland District Council Reception, The Refectory Wisbech Grammar School	Vice-Chairman
19 July 2015	South Cambridgeshire District Council Parklife, Milton Country Park	Chairman
25 July 2015	Dogs for the Disabled Fun Day 2015, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire	Chairman
30 July 2015	Chairman of Uttlesford District Council Charity Garden Tour, Gardens of Easton Lodge Dunmow, Essex	Chairman
11 August 2015	Spade in the Ground Photo Call, Fen Drayton Rd Swavesey	Chairman
1 September 2015	Mayor of Wisbech Heritage Walk, Octavia Hill Birthplace House Wisbech	Chairman
6 September 2015	Cambridge Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue service, Auckland Road Cambridge	Chairman
6 September 2015	Shelford VJ Service, Shelford	Chairman
9 September 2015	Mayor of St Edmundsbury Parade & Ceremony, Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds	Vice-Chairman
11 September 2015	Mayor of Cambridge Remembering Cambridgeshire's Prisoners of War, Cambridge Guildhall	Chairman
12 September 2015	SCDC – VJ Day Commemoration Service	Chairman
16 September 2015	Official Opening of TWI Headquarters, TWI Granta Park	Chairman
20 September 2015	Mayor of St Edmundsbury Battle of Britain Commemoration, St Mary's Church Bury St Edmunds	Vice-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.

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Agenda Item 4

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 21 May 2015 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors: David Bard, Val Barrett, Henry Batchelor, Anna Bradnam, Francis Burkitt, Tom Bygott, Nigel Cathcart, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Philippa Hart, Roger Hickford, Mark Howell, Caroline Hunt, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Cicely Murfitt, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Ben Shelton, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Cllr Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Aidan Van de Weyer, David Whiteman-Downes, John Williams, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright

Officers:	Alex Colyer	Executive Director, Corporate Services
	Jean Hunter	Chief Executive
	Virginia Lloyd	Lawyer
	Graham Watts	Democratic Services Team Leader

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2015/16

The outgoing Chairman, Councillor David Bard, informed the Council that he had raised £3,000 for his chosen charities during his term of office.

Councillor Bard invited nominations for the election of Chairman of the Council for the 2015/16 civic year.

On the nomination of Councillor Ray Manning, seconded by Councillor Bridget Smith and there being no further nominations, Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor Sue Ellington be elected as Chairman of the Council for the 2015/16 civic year.

Councillor Ellington signed the acceptance of office. She reported that her theme during her term of office would be 'promoting independence' and that her chosen charity was Dogs for the Disabled.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2015/16

The Chairman invited nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2015/16 civic year.

On the nomination of Councillor David Bard, seconded by Councillor Charles Nightingale and there being no further nominations, Council **RESOLVED** that Councillor David McCraith be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2015/16 civic year.

Councillor McCraith signed the acceptance of office.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Burling, Pippa Corney, Tumi Hawkins, James Hockney, Peter Johnson, Mervyn Loynes, David Morgan, Robin Page, Alex Riley and Peter Topping.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of Members' interests were made.

5. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Members that they needed to update their register of interests whenever their circumstances changed.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

The Returning Officer's report was **NOTED** and Councillors Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Des O'Brien and Richard Turner were welcomed to the Council. The Chairman also congratulated all returning Councillors who were re-elected.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Political group leaders and other Members of the Council paid tribute to Richard Barrett, Jonathan Chatfield, Alison Elcox, Neil Scarr and Jim Stewart as outgoing Councillors and thanked them for their service to the Council.

Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, made the following announcements:

- Councillor Manning and the Chief Executive had met with representatives of the Boundary Commission for the first time since receiving notice of the South Cambridgeshire boundary review. He reported that the meeting was very positive and that an informal workshop would be held for Members, details of which would be confirmed in due course;
- the Inspector appointed to examine the Council's Local Development Plan had requested a suspension of the examination. Notification had only very recently been received of this decision and a briefing for Members was scheduled to be held on 28 May 2015 at 6pm. Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Opposition, took this opportunity to present the Chairman with a requisition signed by five Members for an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held to consider the suspension of the examination of the submitted Local Plan.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from members of the public had been received.

10. PETITIONS

No petitions due for consideration by Full Council had been received since the last meeting.

11. ERMINE STREET HOUSING LTD: RE-APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

Councillor Mark Howell, Portfolio Holder for Housing, proposed the re-appointment of Stephen Hills as Director of Ermine Street Housing Ltd for a further 12 months. Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, seconded the proposal and Council unanimously **APPROVED** the re-appointment of Stephen Hills as Director of Ermine Street Housing Ltd, the Council's Housing company, for a further 12 months alongside his role as Director of Housing for the Council.

12. ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES FOR 2015/16

Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, presented a report on the allocation of seats to committees for 2015/16 and proposed that Council approved the allocation of committee seats set out in Appendix A to the report, which reflected a reduction in the size of the Civic Affairs Committee and Planning Committee and an increase in the size of the Corporate Governance Committee and Employment Committee. Councillor Manning referred to the great deal of work the Civic Affairs Committee would be undertaking over the coming year in respect of the South Cambridgeshire boundary review and was of the view that committee sizes should support efficient and effective meetings. Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council, seconded this proposal.

The Chairman invited a second proposition, and Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Opposition, proposed that Council approved the allocation of committee seats set out in Appendix B of the report. This reflected the same increase in the Corporate Governance Committee and Employment Committee, but also proposed a decrease in the membership of the Civic Affairs Committee and an increase in the Planning Committee. Councillor Smith felt that the Planning Committee was going to be concerned with a very large number of complex, large scale applications in the coming years and that this would require the committee's membership to be made up of the most experienced and best qualified Councillors, drawn from all three political groups. Councillor Anna Bradnam seconded the proposal.

Discussion ensued on the size of the two Joint Development Control Committees, which were larger than the Leader's proposed Planning Committee size of 12 members. It was pointed out, however, that Joint Development Control Committees had to include representatives from each of the respective partner Councils. This made it necessary for Joint Development Control Committees to have a slightly larger membership in order that a fair representation, taking into account political proportionality, could be achieved on each committee.

Speaking in favour of the Leader of the Opposition's proposal, Councillor Sebastian Kindersley was concerned at the message that would be portrayed to members of the public, developers and agents should the Planning Committee reduce its membership to 12 Members. Councillor Nick Wright reflected on the size of a jury in a court of law being 12 and felt that this was an appropriate size for the Council's Planning Committee.

Voting on the two proposals, with 30 votes in favour of the Leader of the Council's proposal, 16 votes in favour of the Leader of the Opposition's proposal and 1 abstention, Council **APPROVED** the allocation of seats on committees and joint bodies, as follows:

	No. of seats	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Independents
Civic Affairs	12	9	2	1
Corporate Governance	9	6	2	1
Employment	9	6	2	1
Licensing	15	10	3	2
Planning	12	9	2	1
Partnerships Review	9	6	2	1
Scrutiny and Overview	9	6	2	1
Total	75	52	15	8

	No. of seats	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Independents
Joint Development Control – Cambridge Fringes	6	4	1	1
Northstowe Joint Development Control	6	4	1	1

Enough Members as prescribed by the Council's Standing Orders requested a recorded vote. Votes were therefore cast as follows:

In favour

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Francis Burkitt, Tom Bygott, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Roger Hickford, Mark Howell, Caroline Hunt, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Tony Orgee, Tim Scott, Ben Shelton, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, David Whiteman-Downes, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

Against

Councillors Henry Batchelor, Anna Bradnam, Nigel Cathcart, Neil Davies, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

Abstention

Councillor Des O'Brien.

Political group leaders put forward their nominations for seats on committees and Council unanimously **APPROVED** nominations as set out below:

Civic Affairs Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group	Non-Group
David Bard	Sebastian Kindersley	Deborah Roberts	Nigel Cathcart
Simon Edwards	Bridget Smith		<i>(Seat offered by the Conservatives)</i>
Sue Ellington			
James Hockney			
Ray Manning			
Raymond Matthews			
Charles Nightingale			
Bunty Waters			
<i>See Non-Group</i>			

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Kevin Cuffley	Jose Hales	Douglas de Lacey
Roger Hall	Janet Lockwood	Neil Davies
Grenville Chamberlain		Edd Stonham
Christopher Cross		Peter Johnson
		Robin Page

Corporate Governance Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Francis Burkitt	Bridget Smith	Douglas de Lacey
Tom Bygott	John Williams	
Andrew Fraser		
Roger Hall		
David McCraith		
Tony Orgee		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group	Non-Group
Charles Nightingale	Philippa Hart	<i>See Non-Group</i>	Nigel Cathcart
Des O'Brien		Edd Stonham	<i>(Substitute seat offered by the Independent Group)</i>
Ben Shelton		Neil Davies	
		Peter Johnson	
		Robin Page	

Employment Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Val Barrett	Sebastian Kindersley	Edd Stonham
Simon Edwards	Bridget Smith	
Lynda Harford		
James Hockney		
Caroline Hunt		
Alex Riley		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Graham Cone		Douglas de Lacey
Charles Nightingale		Neil Davies
		Peter Johnson
		Deborah Roberts
		Robin Page

Licensing Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group	Non-Group
Val Barrett	Anna Bradnam	Deborah Roberts	Cicely Murfitt
Graham Cone	Jose Hales	<i>See Non-Group</i>	<i>(Seat offered by the Independent Group)</i>
Kevin Cuffley	Janet Lockwood		
Andrew Fraser			
Roger Hall			
Mervyn Loynes			
Raymond Matthews			
Charles Nightingale			
Alex Riley			
Richard Turner			

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Mick Martin	Tumi Hawkins	Douglas de Lacey
		Peter Johnson
		Neil Davies
		Edd Stonham
		Robin Page

Planning Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
David Bard	Anna Bradnam	Deborah Roberts
Brian Burling	Sebastian Kindersley	
Pippa Corney		
Kevin Cuffley		
Lynda Harford		
Des O'Brien		
Tim Scott		
Ben Shelton		
Robert Turner		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Caroline Hunt	Tumi Hawkins	Robin Page
David McCraith	Aidan Van de Weyer	Douglas de Lacey
Val Barrett	Jose Hales	Peter Johnson
Christopher Cross	Henry Batchelor	Edd Stonham
Charles Nightingale	Hazel Smith	Neil Davies

Partnerships Review Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
David Bard	Henry Batchelor	(See Liberal Democrat Group)
Kevin Cuffley	Jose Hales	
Andrew Fraser	(Seat offered by Independent Group)	
Roger Hall		
James Hockney	Janet Lockwood	
Ben Shelton		

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Bunty Waters	Aidan Van de Weyer	Deborah Roberts
Tony Orgee	Tumi Hawkins	Douglas de Lacey
Grenville Chamberlain		Peter Johnson
		Neil Davies
		Edd Stonham

Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
David Bard	Henry Batchelor	(See Liberal Democrat Group)
Grenville Chamberlain	(Seat offered by Independent Group)	
Kevin Cuffley		
Roger Hickford	Jose Hales	
Bunty Waters	Philippa Hart	
David Whiteman-Downes		

Substitutes list in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Christopher Cross	Anna Bradnam	Neil Davies
Graham Cone		Douglas de Lacey
Val Barrett		Peter Johnson
Lynda Harford		Edd Stonham
		Deborah Roberts

Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Brian Burling	Hazel Smith	Douglas de Lacey
Alex Riley		
Tim Wotherspoon		
Nick Wright		

Spokesperson: Tim Wotherspoon

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Simon Edwards	Aidan Van de Weyer	Edd Stonham
Ray Manning	Bridget Smith	Neil Davies

Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
David Bard	Aidan Van de Weyer	Douglas de Lacey
Kevin Cuffley		
Charles Nightingale		
Ben Shelton		

Spokesperson: David Bard

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats	Independent Group
Tom Bygott	Janet Lockwood	Neil Davies
Tim Wotherspoon	Jose Hales	Edd Stonham

Northstowe Transport Working Group

Conservative	Liberal Democrats
Ray Manning	Hazel Smith
Alex Riley	

Substitutes in hierarchical list:

Conservative	Liberal Democrats
Tim Wotherspoon	Aidan Van de Weyer
Lynda Harford	

Council unanimously **APPROVED** the below appointments to Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees:

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Civic Affairs	Sue Ellington	Charles Nightingale
Corporate Governance	Francis Burkitt	Tony Orgee
Employment	Alex Riley	Val Barrett
Licensing	Andrew Fraser	Raymond Matthews
Planning	Lynda Harford	David Bard
Partnerships Review	Ben Shelton	
Scrutiny and Overview	Roger Hickford	Kevin Cuffley

Councillor Ray Manning proposed Councillor James Hockney as Vice-Chairman of the Partnerships Review Committee, which was seconded by Councillor Simon Edwards.

Councillor Bridget Smith proposed Councillor Henry Batchelor as Vice-Chairman of the Partnerships Review Committee, which was seconded by Councillor John Williams.

With 29 votes compared to 18 votes, Council **APPOINTED** Councillor James Hockney as Vice-Chairman of the Partnerships Review Committee.

Council unanimously **APPROVED** the re-appointment of Grant Osbourn as the Council's lead independent person and Gillian Holmes as the Council's deputy independent person.

13. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE, JOINT AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES FOR 2015/16

Having been moved by Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, and seconded by Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council, Council unanimously **APPROVED** the below appointments to outside bodies:

Name	Representative
Cambridge Airport Consultative Committee	Caroline Hunt
Cambridge and County Folk Museum Committee of Management	Charles Nightingale
Cambridge & District Citizens' Advice Bureaux Management Committee Trustee Board	Lynda Harford
Cambridge City, South Cambs & County Council Strategic Transport & Spatial Planning Group	Sebastian Kindersley Robert Turner Tim Wotherspoon Ray Manning (Substitute)
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Waste Partnership	Mick Martin (as Portfolio Holder) Alex Riley (Substitute)
Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee	Sue Ellington Andrew Fraser (Substitute)
Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust Advisory Council	Roger Hall
Cambridgeshire Water Forum	Tim Wotherspoon
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel	Ben Shelton
Comberton Village College Governing Body Sub-Committee	Tim Scott
County Advisory Group on Archives & Local Studies	Roger Hall
Emmaus Cambridge Community	Hazel Smith
Friends of Milton Country Park	Anna Bradnam
Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Ray Manning Simon Edwards (Substitute)
Health and Wellbeing District Members Forum	Sue Ellington
Natural Cambridgeshire	Tim Scott
Needingworth Quarry Liaison Committee	Brian Burling
Over & Willingham Internal Drainage Board	Christopher Cross
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Nick Wright
Responsive Repairs Partnership Management Board	Val Barrett Bunty Waters Hazel Smith
Sawston Patient Reference Group	David Bard
Swavesey Internal Drainage Board	Brian Burling Sue Ellington
Swavesey Village College Community Committee	Mark Howell Sue Ellington

Councillor Ray Manning proposed Councillor Tim Wotherspoon as the Council's representative on the Conservators of the River Cam, which was seconded by Councillor David Bard.

Councillor Douglas de Lacey proposed Councillor Peter Johnson as the Council's representative on the Conservators of the River Cam, which was seconded by Councillor Deborah Roberts.

With 32 votes compared to 15 votes, Council **APPOINTED** Councillor Tim Wotherspoon as the authority's representative on the Conservators of the River Cam.

14. JOINT SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE AND PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Councillor Roger Hickford proposed the Scrutiny and Overview Committee's section of the joint Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Partnerships Review Committee Annual Report for 2014/15. Councillor Kevin Cuffley seconded the proposal.

Councillor Ben Shelton proposed the Partnerships Review Committee section of the joint report. Councillor Andrew Fraser seconded the proposal and Council unanimously **APPROVED** the joint Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Partnerships Review Committee Annual Report 2014/15.

Councillor Shelton, on behalf of both Committees, thanked the Democratic Services team for its support over the past year.

15. MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Opposition, presented her annual statement.

Councillor Smith acknowledged that in certain areas the Council was performing well, despite the ongoing pressure to make cuts which inevitably resulted in reduced services. She cited the homelessness, benefits and housing teams in particular who continued to excel despite an ever increasing and complex workload.

However, Councillor Smith referred to some concerns she had in respect of the following:

- the fact that the Local Plan had plunged the Council into a Planning Policy void, the results of which threatened to do untold damage to many of the district's beautiful villages through unplanned, unwanted and undesirable development;
- the new town of Northstowe and the lack of affordable housing provision;
- the lack of democratic rigour within the Greater Cambridge City Deal, particularly with regard to the inclusion of rural cycling schemes as part of proposals for infrastructure improvements;
- the lack of transparency and accountability over certain issues, such as an informal group that had been set up to provide a political steer in respect of Northstowe Section 106 contributions for which it was unclear whether Terms of Reference had been agreed, whether minutes of meetings were available or how this Council's representatives had been appointed onto the group.

Councillor Smith informed the Council that she and her group would act as a critical friend and hoped that the administration would welcome this approach. She added that her group would continue to ask challenging questions and speak the truth, as well as continue to give a voice to those people who found the Council's bureaucracy impenetrable and question the need to make cuts over and above quality of service.

Councillor Smith closed by saying that she and Members of her group would continue to represent the welfare of all residents of South Cambridgeshire to the very best of their ability and uphold the shared aspiration of all Members that South Cambridgeshire was the best place to live in Great Britain.

Council **NOTED** the Major Opposition Group Leader's Annual Statement.

16. CHANGES TO THE OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES REGARDING THE DISMISSAL OF CHIEF OFFICERS

NOTE – The Chief Executive and Executive Director (Corporate Services) left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, presented a report which set out changes approved by Parliament to the rules relating to the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer. He moved the recommendations contained within the report, which Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, seconded.

Appendix 1 of the report showed the current wording of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, compared with the proposed revised wording. A question was raised as to why reference to 'Executive Directors' had been removed from this part of the Employment Procedure Rules in the newly proposed wording. Councillor Edwards explained that the new regulations referred only to statutory Chief Officers, namely the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer. There would still be a process in place to be followed for Executive Directors, and other senior officers of the Council, but these new rules had to be in place for the Council's Chief Officers. Members were reminded that the Council's only Executive Director was also the Council's Chief Finance Officer. Councillor Edwards informed the Council that he would request that this issue be highlighted to the Employment Committee alongside the matter of remuneration for the lead and deputy independent persons.

Council unanimously **AGREED**:

- (a) To amend the Officer Employment Procedure Rules in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report.
- (b) To amend the terms of reference of the Employment Committee in accordance with Appendix 2 of the report.
- (c) To invite the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider whether the annual allowance of the lead and deputy independent persons should be increased to acknowledge their new responsibilities under this legislation, or to consider a fixed payment should it be necessary for them to act in this capacity.
- (d) To provide the Employment Committee with the delegated authority to consider and make a decision on the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations in relation to the annual allowance of the lead and deputy independent persons, or the introduction of a fixed payment.

17. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Francis Burkitt presented a report on the Council's Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register and proposed that the two documents be noted. Councillor David McCraith seconded the proposal.

Reference was made to the recent announcement regarding the suspension of the examination of the Local Plan and a request was put forward for an urgent meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee to re-consider this aspect of the Strategic Risk Register. It was noted that the Risk Register was a Cabinet responsibility, with the Corporate Governance Committee being responsible for the Risk Management Strategy. Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, added that the Register was risk aware and sought to mitigate risk as far as possible, but emphasised that it was impossible to completely eliminate all risks.

Council **NOTED** the Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register.

18. WRITE-OFFS 2014/15

Councillor Simon Edwards, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, presented a report which notified Council of debts written off under powers delegated to the Portfolio Holder and Chief Finance Officer as required by the Constitution. He moved that the report be noted, which was seconded by Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council.

Councillor Edwards reported that the Council had an excellent record of recovering monies owed to it and took this opportunity to congratulate the Executive Director (Corporate Services) and his team.

Council **NOTED** the amounts written off under delegated powers for 2014/15.

19. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

19 (a) Councillor Douglas de Lacey

Councillor Douglas de Lacey asked the following question:

“We do not have many statutory obligations. One key such obligation is to provide a waste collection service. Please would the Portfolio Holder explain why for nearly three weeks at Easter we failed in our duty to empty the public rubbish and dog bins in Girton, leading to piles of dog faeces at the foot of every bin, an unsightly health hazard?”

He had originally submitted the question in March 2015, but explained that the problem still existed.

Councillor Mick Martin, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, reported that the refuse collection team had unfortunately experienced a significant bout of illness which meant that 25% of loaders and vehicle drivers had been off on sick leave. He thanked the dedication of the team during this difficult period of time. Councillor Martin also praised the efforts of two officers who voluntarily went out on the rounds to offer assistance.

Councillor de Lacey, as a supplementary question, asked whether money spent on various projects within the Council could be transferred to cover for these front-line members of staff whenever other significant illnesses occurred in the future.

Councillor Martin noted the suggestion, but made the point that any organisation of any size would struggle to cover for 25% of its workforce.

19 (b) Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer

Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer asked the following question:

“In response to the Syrian refugee crisis, in which 4 million people have fled Syria for neighbouring countries, the Government set up the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme to help a few of the most vulnerable, such as those requiring medical attention unavailable in the initial host country or those who are otherwise at risk. This scheme depends on the cooperation of local councils to provide small numbers of houses and other services. What action has this Council taken to explore participation in the VPR scheme and in particular to assess the resource requirements and the consequences of providing such help to the Council’s other work?”

Councillor Mark Howell, Portfolio Holder for Housing, responded by saying that the Council had taken no action on this issue.

Councillor Van de Weyer, as a supplementary question, asked whether this could be explored in order that the consequences could be understood.

Councillor Howell said that the Council’s allocation was very clear and that South Cambridgeshire residents would come first and take priority. It was noted, however, that there was very little the Council could do if anything was imposed by the Government.

19 (c) Councillor John Williams

Councillor John Williams asked the following question:

“In responding to a question about the reduced waste and recycling collections over the Christmas period at the full council meeting on 26 February 2015 the then Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services expanded his response to include the affect the changes are having on staffing and the budget; however he made no mention of the adverse affect the new arrangements are having on other front line street services under his responsibility such as road sweeping. Could the Leader explain why this important adverse affect of the delivery of the new waste and recycling service was not also made known to all members of this council at that meeting?”

Councillor Mick Martin, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, referred to the answer he had provided to Councillor Douglas de Lacey in an earlier question which explained the sickness issues that the refuse collection team had experienced.

Councillor Martin picked up on the inference that he had hidden something from Full Council when answering a previous question, which he emphasised was not the case. He confirmed that street cleansing was not included as part of the changes to the waste and recycling service and that the team had suffered recently as a result of sickness absence and a need to recruit. The process of recruiting street cleaners and drivers was now underway.

Councillor Williams referred to April’s meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee where officers had reported that these issues had not been going on for only a few weeks but had actually been going on for a few months, with staff shortages being evident since Christmas. He claimed that this was nothing to do with sickness and was of the view that it was a plan to save money at the end of the financial year.

Councillor Mick Martin refuted this claim but said that Councillor Williams was entitled to his personal opinion.

19 (d) Councillor Sebastian Kindersley

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley asked the following question:

“The Government plans to extend the Right to Buy scheme to tenants in properties owned by Registered Social Landlords.

I am sure we all fully support the aspiration of homeownership. However, extending Right to Buy to housing associations is the wrong solution to our housing crisis. Following 40 years of successive governments’ failure to build the homes the country needs, soaring rents and house prices and the biggest baby boom since the 1950’s, ensuring that there are enough homes today and tomorrow must be our nation’s top priority.

Will the Portfolio Holder and/or Leader make representation to the highest level of Government highlighting grave concerns about this plan which will do nothing to help people into quality housing and which is likely to bring the number of affordable homes built crashing down as banks withdraw funding from the RSL sector?”

Councillor Mark Howell, Portfolio Holder for Housing, responded by saying that at the moment it was far too early to make such representatives as the full facts had not yet been received, although he understood the concerns. Councillor Howell would consider a response to the Government’s consultation on this issue at a future Portfolio Holder Meeting, which all Members would be invited to attend.

Councillor Kindersley took this opportunity to re-emphasise his gravest concerns in respect of the Right to Buy scheme being opened up to tenants in properties owned by Registered Social Landlords.

Councillor Howell reported that 28 Council houses were sold last year through the Right to Buy and that only 14 villages within South Cambridgeshire would qualify under the current rules relating to the Right to Acquire for housing associations. Based on current trends for Right to Buy under the current rules, this could equate to approximately 9 housing association properties per year being sold. He emphasised, however, that the existing rules were subject to change.

He also highlighted that, according to national research, a third of the residents living in housing association properties were retired with the majority of housing association tenants on the lower quartile of incomes. He felt that this was extremely significant, given that South Cambridgeshire was an expensive area to live.

20. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

Council noted engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last meeting, as set out on the agenda, subject to the addition of the Chairman officially opening the Little Shelford Fun Run on 26 April 2015.

The Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on
Thursday, 4 June 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Sue Ellington – Chairman
Councillor David McCraith – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: David Bard, Val Barrett, Henry Batchelor, Anna Bradnam, Tom Bygott, Nigel Cathcart, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Roger Hickford, James Hockney, Mark Howell, Caroline Hunt, Peter Johnson, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Mervyn Loynes, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Cicely Murfitt, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Robin Page, Alex Riley, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Ben Shelton, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Aidan Van de Weyer, John Williams and Nick Wright

Officers:	Alex Colyer	Executive Director, Corporate Services
	Gary Duthie	Senior Lawyer
	Jean Hunter	Chief Executive
	Fiona McMillan	Legal & Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
	Graham Watts	Democratic Services Team Leader

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Bard, Brian Burling, Andrew Fraser, Raymond Matthews, Tony Orgee, David Whiteman-Downes and Tim Wotherspoon.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. SUSPENSION OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE SUBMITTED LOCAL PLAN

Councillor Sue Ellington, Chairman, proposed that Standing Order 12.1(a), regarding Notice of Motions, be suspended to enable Council to consider two motions that had been received after the expiration of the required seven working days' notice. Councillor David McCraith, Vice-Chairman, seconded the proposal and it was unanimously **AGREED**.

Councillor Ellington also proposed that Standing Order 14.10, regarding motions which may be moved during debate, be suspended to enable the two motions to be moved and seconded, with there being one debate prior to individual votes being held on the two motions. Councillor McCraith seconded the proposal and it was unanimously **AGREED**.

Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Opposition, proposed that Standing Order 12.5, regarding the maximum time limit for the consideration of motions, be suspended to enable debate of both motions to continue beyond one hour. Councillor Sebastian Kindersley seconded the proposal.

Voting on the proposal, with 23 votes in favour 22 votes against and 1 not voting, the proposal was lost as the required two-thirds of Members present and voting did not vote in support. Enough Members as prescribed in the Council's Standing Orders requested a recorded vote for this proposal. Votes were therefore cast as follows:

In favour

Councillors Val Barrett, Henry Batchelor, Anna Bradnam, Nigel Cathcart, Christopher Cross, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, James Hockney, Peter Johnson, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Mervyn Loynes, Cicely Murfitt, Des O'Brien, Robin Page, Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

Against

Councillors Tom Bygott, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Kevin Cuffley, Simon Edwards, Lynda Harford, Roger Hickford, Mark Howell, Caroline Hunt, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Alex Riley, Tim Scott, Ben Shelton, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters and Nick Wright.

Not Voting

Councillor Sue Ellington.

NOTE – Councillors Neil Davies and Roger Hall were not present at the meeting when this recorded vote took place.

Councillor Robert Turner, Portfolio Holder for Planning, proposed the following motion:

“This Council notes the letter from the Inspectors regarding the suspension of the Local Plan examination and their call for more work on the evidence supporting the Plan. It welcomes the opportunity to address the Inspectors' preliminary concerns at this stage and looks forward to the officers presenting their plan and timetable for the additional work to the Planning Portfolio Holder and, subsequently, to present their findings, their evidence and any new or additional recommendations to Full Council at the earliest opportunity.”

NOTE – Councillor Neil Davies attended the meeting at this stage of proceedings.

Councillor Turner referred to the letter that had been received by the Inspectors dated 20 May 2015 and reminded Members that a briefing note was immediately circulated to all Members of the Council to ensure that they were kept up to date with the latest information and that he had also participated in a radio interview to discuss what this meant for the Local Plan examination. Councillor Turner also referred to the briefing for all Members of the Council that was held on 28 May 2015 where issues relating to the Local Plan examination process were informally discussed.

Councillor Ray Manning, Leader of the Council, seconded the proposal.

Councillor Bridget Smith proposed the following motion:

“We note the contents of the letter from the inspector and are deeply concerned that this seriously jeopardises the protection that is afforded to the Green Belt and questions the number of houses that this Council has identified as sufficient to meet future needs.

We are extremely concerned that the Local Plan was not robust enough to enable the inspector to consider it sound without requiring further evidence in a number of key areas.

- (a) We call on this council to commission immediate independent advice to ascertain if the housing numbers and Green Belt study are correct and fit for purpose and to confirm that the extra evidence required by the inspector to support this can be delivered in a reasonable time, at reasonable cost and using our existing workforce.

If the commissioned study, or an internal study, indicates that the current housing numbers are insufficient and/or the Green Belt study is inaccurate or inadequate we call on this Council to instigate an independent inquiry as early as possible to identify how such fundamental errors could have arisen.

- (b) In order to ensure the fullest transparency, this Council resolves to establish a committee of at least 9 members to advise on and scrutinise the work of responding to the Inspector's letter.
- (c) We also call on this Council to commission immediate independent advice on how we can best manage the speculative planning applications which we are undoubtedly going to have to deal with in significant numbers over an unspecified period."

Councillor Smith was extremely concerned about the impact the current situation would have on the district's villages and the green belt. She was of the view that the Inspectors would have judged the Plan to be unsound had they continued with the examination and the fact that many other Councils found themselves in a similar position was no excuse. Councillor Smith was worried that no backup plan or alternatives had been developed, with her original concept of adding additional houses to Northstowe rather than including them at a Bourn Airfield development being an example of a proactive alternative. In her opinion there had been a planning policy void in South Cambridgeshire for a year already, and there could be a void for further years to come which would potentially cause catastrophic damage to the villages and character of the district. It was to this that her motion referred.

Councillor John Williams seconded the proposal and referred to East Cambridgeshire District Council and Uttlesford District Council, both of whom had also experienced problems with the methodology of their respective Local Plans but had acknowledged the issues and sought to address them. He was concerned that Councillor Turner's motion did not seek to address the significant issues raised by the Inspectors which had led to suspension of the examination of the Local Plan. Councillor Williams, in supporting Councillor Smith's motion, called for an independent review.

The Chairman invited Members to debate the subject of both motions.

Councillor Deborah Roberts was concerned about speculative development and said that this could occur in any village within the district. She questioned, if the Local Plan was sufficient, why Planning Officers were recommending refusals on so many planning applications and referred to an application at the meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 June 2015 where approval was given for 220 homes in the village of Barrington. Councillor Roberts felt strongly that more should be done to stand up against such developments and that sufficient resources should be put in place to support any appeals that were submitted as a consequence. She agreed that independent advice should be sought.

Councillor Anna Bradnam referred to new planning policy guidance that had been published in March 2014, which she felt should have been used to inform the Council's decision when considering the submission of the Local Plan at its meeting on 13 March 2015. She did not think that Councillor Turner's motion would do what was necessary to address the issues raised in the letter by the Inspectors, whereas she was of the view that Councillor Smith's endeavoured to deal with them in a proactive way.

Councillor Hazel Smith made the point that the views of local Members and residents should be taken into significant account as part of any consultation process. She added that they truly understood the problems in their respective areas, whether they were in relation to flooding, sewerage or roads and also properly understood the impact that additional development would have on their communities. She stressed that the process had to involve them. Councillor Smith made reference to the hard work that the Council's experienced officers had put into the Local Plan to date, but agreed that an independent perspective would be helpful. She cited Waterbeach as an example where flooding issues had been ignored and Bourn Airfield as an example of a development that was only included as an option in the third round of consultation, as it was not supported by evidence in rounds one or two. She hoped that the process going forward would take these issues into account.

Councillor Douglas de Lacey proposed an amendment to Councillor Turner's motion, by adding the following words to the end of the motion:

"The Council requests officers to provide a timetable for this process by the end of June, and anticipates that all this work will be completed and the plan will be ready for resubmission to the Inspector not later than 31 December 2015. The Council agrees to satisfy all reasonable requests for the resources necessary to adhere to this timescale."

Councillor Nigel Cathcart seconded the amendment.

Councillors Robert Turner and Ray Manning, as proposer and seconder of the original motion, accepted the amendment which became a substantive motion.

NOTE – Councillor Roger Hall attended the meeting at this stage of proceedings.

Councillor Ben Shelton referred to the meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 June 2015 as an example of where Members could work together to stand up for residents, citing an application at Melbourn for 199 houses that had been refused as an example.

Councillor James Hockney said that the significance of the letter from the Inspectors could not be understated. He reflected on his ward of Waterbeach where partial development had been allocated in the green belt, which had attracted the submission of speculative planning applications resulting in potentially over 200 additional houses in the area. Councillor Hockney was keen to learn from other Councils who did not have a Local Plan in place or were unable to evidence a five-year land supply, to ascertain how they were preventing speculative development. He added his concern that the additional homes would be used by people seeking to commute to Cambridge and London rather than for local need and was very keen to protect Waterbeach as a village community and not a town.

Councillor Nick Wright outlined that the intention of this joint Local Plan was to protect the green belt and local villages, which had to be carefully balanced with the need to provide additional homes in the area, with some sites close to the city of Cambridge and some allocated as strategic sites. The letter from the Inspectors made reference to changing strategic sites and questioning their sustainability, but he made the point that

strategic sites contained more affordable housing and made the market value of other houses within them more affordable, as had been shown with Cambourne. He suggested that any scrutiny of the Local Plan should be undertaken by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and added that he had confidence in the Council's planners.

Councillor Janet Lockwood was concerned that South Cambridgeshire would not be one of the best places to live in the country if developers had free range over the green belt. She was of the opinion that a dedicated committee or group of Members needed to give consideration to the Local Plan and work with the Portfolio Holder going forward.

Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer asked how the issues raised by the Inspectors in their letter in respect of the green belt, housing and the sustainability of developments at Bourn Airfield and Waterbeach would be dealt with. He felt that these issues should not be left to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and supported Councillor Smith's proposal of a dedicated committee or group of Members to work with the Portfolio Holder and officers.

Councillor Robin Page felt that the green belt should be sacrosanct and was concerned that allowing development within it would ruin rural Cambridgeshire. He was also of the opinion that the Bourn Airfield development should never have appeared in the Local Plan and it was significant that the Inspectors had questioned its sustainability.

Councillor Des O'Brien referred to the Sustainable Development Strategy, which he said was the greatest foundation for which the green belt could be protected. However, he understood that inclusion of the Sustainable Development Strategy would not be pursued and that it could no longer feature as part of the Local Plan. He was extremely concerned that by taking the Sustainable Development Strategy out of the Plan would, in effect, mean having to start the process from the beginning. Councillor O'Brien was keen for the Council to look forward and work up a good, sound Local Plan rather than make do with what it currently had in place.

Councillor Nigel Cathcart was of the opinion that the Local Plan was a means by which conflicting requirements could be met and he felt that it was a Plan that could be defended. Referring to the Inspectors' letter, it was Councillor Cathcart's view that the additional information and evidence requested by the Inspectors was achievable, but emphasised that this had to be dealt with as a matter of urgency and as a priority for the Council.

Councillor Douglas de Lacey acknowledged that some Members wanted the Council to agree to a different Local Plan in 2014, but said that the Local Plan approved for submission by the Council last year was the Plan that the Council now had in place. He felt that officers should be encouraged to deliver what was required by the Inspectors and called for Members to support Planning Officers as they themselves supported the Local Plan in the face of planning applications as and when they were submitted. Councillor de Lacey supported the commissioning of independent advice to assist with the process going forward.

Councillor Simon Edwards referred to the suggestion made earlier at the meeting to add more houses to the allocation at Northstowe, rather than continuing with strategic sites such as Bourn Airfield. He was of the view that this was completely undeliverable. He reminded Members that 6,000 homes were supposed to be built by 2016 at Northstowe, yet a single brick had yet to be laid on the site and adding more houses to the allocation would take the Council no further forward. Councillor Edwards felt that the establishment of a committee would be too longwinded and delay progress unnecessarily. In terms of speculative planning applications and the issue of a five year

land supply, following a suggestion that independent advice be sought, he indicated that a significant amount of legal advice on this subject had already been provided.

Councillor Tumi Hawkins was concerned with the last paragraph of page 3 of the Inspectors' letter which outlined an apparent inconsistency between the Strategic Development Strategy Review and the Plan's reliance on meeting development needs in new settlements, which could lead to a finding of unsoundness. Councillor Hawkins reminded Members that the Inspectors had highlighted issues with Bourn Airfield and she therefore questioned the process that was originally followed when assessing sites, which she claimed was inconsistent.

Councillor Peter Johnson said that the border had been lost in his local village of Waterbeach and that the proposed new development was unsustainable in the area.

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley proposed an amendment, to retain Councillor Turner's motion, inclusive of Councillor de Lacey's amendment, but to add to it paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of Councillor Smith's motion, so that it read:

"That this Council notes the letter from the Inspectors regarding the suspension of the Local Plan examination and their call for more work on the evidence supporting the Plan. It welcomes the opportunity to address the Inspectors' preliminary concerns at this stage and looks forward to the officers presenting their plan and timetable for the additional work to the Planning Portfolio Holder and, subsequently, to present their findings, their evidence and any new or additional recommendations to Full Council at the earliest opportunity. The Council requests officers to provide a timetable for this process by the end of June, and anticipates that all this work will be completed and the plan will be ready for resubmission to the Inspector not later than 31 December 2015. The Council agrees to satisfy all reasonable requests for the resources necessary to adhere to this timescale.

We call on this council to commission immediate independent advice to ascertain if the housing numbers and Green Belt study are correct and fit for purpose and to confirm that the extra evidence required by the inspector to support this can be delivered in a reasonable time, at reasonable cost and using our existing workforce.

In order to ensure the fullest transparency, this Council resolves to establish a committee of at least 9 members to advise on and scrutinise the work of responding to the Inspector's letter.

We also call on this Council to commission immediate independent advice on how we can best manage the speculative planning applications which we are undoubtedly going to have to deal with in significant numbers over an unspecified period."

Councillor Anna Bradnam seconded the amendment.

Councillor Robert Turner informed Members that the work set out in Councillor Smith's motion under paragraph (a) was being undertaken and confirmed that independent advice was already been sought. In terms of paragraph (b) of Councillor Smith's motion, Councillor Turner did not see the need to set up another committee to look into this matter. He reminded Members that he held monthly Portfolio Holder Meetings which anyone could attend and that he and officers were working closely with colleagues at the City Council.

Voting on the amendment, with 22 votes in favour, 25 votes against and 1 abstention, the amendment was lost.

Councillor Ray Manning supported Councillor O'Brien's point that the Council needed to move forward. He reminded Members that it was a joint Local Plan with Cambridge City Council and that the two Councils were working together. He reiterated Councillor Turner's point about Portfolio Holder Meetings and agreed that there was no need to set up another committee. He indicated that both Councils would put in the time, resources and expertise that were necessary. Councillor Manning highlighted the Inspectors' comments in their letter regarding unsustainability and said that the same argument would apply to speculative planning applications and that they could still be refused on grounds of unsustainability.

Councillor Bridget Smith, in summing up her motion, explained that her motion was about the Council working together for the good of South Cambridgeshire and emphasised that it was not about apportioning blame. She acknowledged that her proposal in paragraphs (a) and (c) of her motion had cost implications but argued that it would be money well spent as it made sense to have the Plan looked over by an independent person who had not had any involvement in its development. By doing so would provide a significant level of assurance. She felt that her proposal for a committee to advise and scrutinise the work in response to the Inspectors' letter would provide Members and residents with more confidence in the way in which the Council was dealing with the issue. She was keen that Members worked together to ensure that unwanted and unplanned development did not become a reality in South Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Robert Turner, in summing up his motion, agreed with the time limit of 31 December 2015 put in place via Councillor de Lacey's amendment and indicated that this issue would be dealt with as a priority. He agreed that speculative developments were very damaging but reported that applications had been submitted for the past two months which the Planning Committee had refused. He emphasised, however, that every planning application had to be taken into consideration on its own merits. Councillor Turner said that he would work as hard as necessary to get the Local Plan approved as quickly as possible in order that any further speculative development was avoided. He felt that Councillor Smith's motion would only delay and slow down the process.

Voting on Councillor Robert Turner's substantive motion, with 34 votes in favour, 12 votes against and 2 abstentions, Council **AGREED** the motion.

Voting on paragraph (a) of Councillor Bridget Smith's motion, with 21 votes in favour, 26 against and 1 abstention, this part of the motion was lost.

Voting on paragraph (b) of Councillor Bridget Smith's motion, with 18 votes in favour, 28 votes against and 2 abstentions, this part of the motion was lost.

Voting on paragraph (c) of Councillor Bridget Smith's motion, with 24 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 2 abstentions, Council **AGREED** this part of the motion.

The Chairman confirmed that Council **RESOLVED** the following motions:

- (1) That this Council notes the letter from the Inspectors regarding the suspension of the Local Plan examination and their call for more work on the evidence supporting the Plan. It welcomes the opportunity to address the Inspectors' preliminary concerns at this stage and looks forward to the officers presenting their plan and timetable for the additional work to the Planning Portfolio Holder and, subsequently, to present their findings, their evidence and any new or additional recommendations to Full Council at the earliest opportunity. The

Council requests officers to provide a timetable for this process by the end of June, and anticipates that all this work will be completed and the plan will be ready for resubmission to the Inspector not later than 31 December 2015. The Council agrees to satisfy all reasonable requests for the resources necessary to adhere to this timescale.

- (2) That we also call on this Council to commission immediate independent advice on how we can best manage the speculative planning applications which we are undoubtedly going to have to deal with in significant numbers over an unspecified period.

The Meeting ended at 7.27 p.m.

Agenda Item 7

Meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council 24 September 2015

Notice of petition for debate

The following e-petition, containing 108 signatures, has been received by Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer:

"We petition the Council to:

- (a) state its willingness to accommodate a proportionate number of refugees;*
- (b) approach relevant government departments and other local authorities to develop a coordinated scheme for accommodating refugees;*
- (c) urge the government to participate in EU-wide approaches to helping refugees.*

The Civil war in Syria is causing one of the worst humanitarian crises of recent times. A consequence of this is that many people are seeking refuge in other countries, including Europe. The UK is accepting very few Syrian refugees. The government established a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme but only 216 people have been resettled under the scheme. A further 4,000 have been given refugee status. Over 4 million people have already fled Syria."

This e-petition exceeds the 100 signatures required for a petition to be reported to and debated at a meeting of the Council. The following process will therefore be followed at the meeting to facilitate debate:

- (i) Petition organiser (or a representative) to present the petition for up to 3 minutes;
- (ii) Relevant Portfolio Holder invited to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes;
- (iii) Council to debate the petition and make a decision to either:
 - vote in support of the petition;
 - vote against the petition;
 - note the petition;
 - refer the petition to another body, Portfolio Holder or officer for consideration;
 - agree any other appropriate action.

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Agenda Item 9



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Report To: Council

24 September 2015

Lead Officer: Legal and Democratic Services Manager

Appointment to the Independent Remuneration Panel

Purpose

1. For Council to agree membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP)
2. This is not a key decision, however, Council is required to appoint an IRP under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Council:
 - (a) re-appoints Kevin McIntyre as a member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for a 3-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2018, and
 - (b) confirms that the level of expenses paid to the individual members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be no more than £200 each per financial year, with the final amount payable to be agreed by the Executive Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Reason for Recommendation

4. Council is required to make appointments to its IRP under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and agree payment to the members of that Panel for their services.

Background

5. On 25 July 2011 Council agreed to appoint the following persons to form an IRP:
 - Graham Jagger for a 2-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2013 (on 25 July 2013 Council re-appointed Mr Jagger for a further 3-year term of office, expiring on 31 July 2016)
 - Simon Harris for a 3-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2014 (on 25 September 2014 Council re-appointed Mr Harris for a further 3-year term of office, expiring on 31 July 2017)
 - Kevin McIntyre for a 4-year term of office, with an expiry date of 31 July 2015
6. Mr McIntyre's has indicated a willingness to serve a further term on the Panel, subject to Council approval.

Considerations

7. Council is requested to consider the recommendations made to re-appoint Mr McIntyre as an IRP member, together with the level of monies payable to the Panel members for consideration of Members' allowances for 2016/17, depending on the level of investigation deemed appropriate by the Council.

Options

8. Council can either:
 - (a) agree the recommendation
 - (b) make a variation to specific elements of the recommendations, or
 - (c) reject the recommendations

Implications

9. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

Legal

Council is required to appoint appropriate persons to form an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Members' Allowances.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

10. Consultations were not required in this instance.

Effect on Strategic Aims

11. Not applicable.

Background Papers: Council reports, 21 July 2011, 25 July 2013 and 25 September 2014

Report Author: Graham Watts – Democratic Services Team Leader
Telephone: (01954) 713030