



South Cambridgeshire District Council

**Council Meeting
Thursday, 26 November 2020**

Agenda and Reports

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, Cambridge
CB23 6EA

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 Chair and Members of the
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Notice Is Hereby Given that the next meeting of the **Council** will be a **Virtual meeting - Online** at **2.00 P.M.** on

Thursday, 26 November 2020

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

Dated this date

Liz Watts
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

Presentation

1. **Apologies**
To receive Apologies for Absence from Members.
2. **Declaration of Interest**
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 Chair to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24 September 2020 as a correct record.
(Pages 1 - 18)
5. **Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, the executive or the head of paid service.

6. Questions From the Public

To answer any questions asked by the public.

The deadline for receipt of public questions is noon on Thursday 19 November.

The Council's scheme for public speaking at remote meetings may be inspected here:

[Public Questions at Remote Meetings](#)

7. Petitions

To note all petitions received since the last Council meeting.

8. To Consider the Following Recommendation:

8 (a) Community Governance Review of the parishes of Longstanton and Oakington and Westwick (Civic Affairs Committee 3 November 2020)

The Civic Affairs Committee

Recommended to Council

- A)** The creation of a new civil parish for Northstowe, as detailed in Option A of the report, with a variation to proposed boundaries:
 - i. The adjacent field boundary, marking the perimeter of the Northstowe Extension Land should be the parish boundary between Northstowe and Longstanton, not the Over Road.
- B)** That the new administrative body be called "Northstowe Town Council".
- C)** Elections to "Northstowe Town Council" be held in 2021 with councillors serving for a single year. All councillors to stand for a full four year term in 2022.
- D)** "Northstowe Town Council" should have 15 councillors.
- E)** Elections to Longstanton Parish Council and Willingham Parish Council take place in 2021 with councillors serving for a five year term.
- F)** Officers write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to seek re-alignment of district and county boundaries where these are affected by any changes made by this review.
- G)** The creation of a new polling district with boundaries to match the new parish boundary for Northstowe; amendment of existing polling district boundaries to match the new reduced size boundaries for Longstanton Civil Parish and Oakington & Westwick Civil Parish; the creation of a new polling district for the area north of the guided busway, which is to be moved to Willingham Civil Parish.

(Pages 19 - 76)

9. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Attached are the reports summarising the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority from June to September 2020.

(Pages 77 - 126)

10. Greater Cambridge Partnership

Attached is a summary of the decisions of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board at its meeting held on 1 October 2020.

(Pages 127 - 130)

11. Urgent Executive Decision

(Pages 131 - 132)

12. Questions From Councillors

A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for this item to include those questions where notice has been provided (as set out in the agenda below) and questions which may be asked without notice.

Members wishing to ask a question without notice should indicate this intention to Democratic Services prior to commencement of the meeting. Members' names will be drawn at random by the Chair until there are no further questions or until the expiration of the time period.

12 (a) From Councillor Dr Claire Daunton

Does the Leader agree that this Council should positively encourage cycling as a means of active transportation within our villages?

12 (b) From Councillor Dr Richard Williams

Can the Lead member for planning tell how many planning applications have the GCPS determined after their determination date, or have had extensions agreed in the last 18 months?

12 (c) From Councillor Grenville Chamberlain

Can the Lead member for planning tell members how many planning applications in the last 12 months have external companies such as, but not exclusively, Terraquest been involved in?

12 (d) From Councillor Mark Howell

Will the lead cabinet member for planning agree to hold a meeting with all members of this council, to discuss and scrutinize the five year housing land supply calculations?

12 (e) From Councillor Sue Ellington

Given that mare fen repairs cannot be started in winter because of the water level both within the drain and on the access to the bank, and given that according to the planning conditions for phase 2 of Northstowe which requires completion of the Mare Fen bank repairs before occupation of any phase 2 housing, can the lead member for planning inform council of the implications for the SCDC 5 year land supply?

12 (f) From Councillor Bunty Waters

Will the lead cabinet member for planning confirm that there will be a full independent investigation into the status of the aquifer that has raised wide public concern in Longstanton, and confirm that all members of this council, will promptly receive the reports with the purpose of full transparency?

12 (g) From Councillor Nick Wright

Marshalls of Cambridge has been one of the biggest employers in South Cambridgeshire for many years. It's move from our district is a loss not only of Cambridge airport, but a major innovator, a large manufacturer and the centre of a large cluster of supporting businesses. What has this administration done to try and find an alternative site close to Cambridge?

12 (h) From Councillor Heather Williams

Will the Lead member for Planning commit to implementing a policy within the Greater Cambridge Planning Service, where all Deemed Discharge Notices are to be published on the planning register and council website within 48hrs of having received the notice?

13. Notices of Motion

A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30 minute period, debate shall cease immediately, the mover of the original Motion, or if the original Motion has been amended, the mover of that amendment now forming part of the substantive motion, will have the right of reply before it is put to the vote.

13 (a) Standing in the Name of Councillor Pippa Heylings

We are living through an unprecedented crisis that disrupts and challenges in nearly every aspect of our residents' lives, be it social, economic, in health or environment. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of the availability of local, good quality food. Cambridgeshire and the Fens are home to more than 50% of UK's Grade 1 and 2 Agricultural land. British farmers are proud to produce food to some of the highest standards of animal welfare, environmental protection and food safety in the world. More than a million people signed the recent food standards campaign petition. Yet, the Agriculture Act 2020 still risks putting our farmers in an untenable situation whereby they will have to compete with food imports that have been produced using methods and products that would be illegal on British farms, leading to the sale of substandard food.

The Back British Farming campaign sought to uphold and defend British food and farming standards through primary legislation but House of Lords amendments upholding this aim have been voted down by majorities in the

House of Commons, including our own local MPs. As a far less robust concession to campaigners, the Government has placed the Trade and Agriculture Commission on a statutory footing, though without statutory powers. It is welcome news that MPs will have the chance to vote on the recommendation of the Commission in relation to any new trade deal but this alone does not give the strength of guarantee deserved of our farmers or our food security – and leaves British farming vulnerable to political convenience.

This Council

- believes that guarantees to uphold British food and farming standards should be written into primary legislation
- authorises the Leader to contact our local MPs to underline the importance of having food and farming standards written into primary legislation.

13 (b) Standing in the Name of Councillor Geoff Harvey

Launching the recently published Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus, Jeremy Long, Chair of the Arc Local Enterprise Partnerships Group, said:

“Our vision is for the Arc to be a global hub for innovation, and home to exemplary models of green development that will inspire communities around the world. The Arc’s place is at the forefront of the UK’s green recovery and this will be made possible through bold leadership that focuses on the big opportunities ..”

The prospectus itself reveals the extraordinary breadth and level of ambition. Prominent within this vision for future sustainable prosperity are green and seamless transport infrastructure and research into green energy technology, including nuclear fusion and advanced battery storage. Yet from our own local experience, we know that local electricity infrastructure is at capacity, leading to schemes facing restrictions in relation to green energy or facing additional costs and delays to enable grid reinforcement to take place. Considerable work is therefore underway in the Greater Cambridge area to address this issue as part of our work on developing planning policy, as well as considering the role of the public sector in facilitating the delivery of additional infrastructure, working in partnership with the district network operator. This work is taking into account the electrification of transport and heat.

It is therefore concerning to note that the Prospectus does not explicitly mention energy infrastructure, which will be key to the Net-Zero ambition. The ambition for energy infrastructure should be equal at least to the ambition for transport infrastructure; the two are very much intertwined. Furthermore, a central government national infrastructure project of this scale offers unique opportunities to demand multi-agency cooperation; opportunities that may be grasped only once, or lost forever. For example, the electrified East-West Rail project could and should be under consideration as the first building block in a coherent energy infrastructure plan. For example, east-west HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) energy connectivity and storage might be installed along the track-side sufficient not only to power trains but also as a smart-grid

or green energy spine to link together the many green energy assets envisioned for the Arc in years to come; whilst development of specialist switchgear, solid state transformers, smartgrid management software and LVDC (low voltage direct current) distribution are all technology areas with export potential that can be part of a green recovery.

In short, we need not only an Ox-Cam Arc but also an Ox-Cam Spark.

This Council

- urges that green energy infrastructure, enabled by multi-agency cooperation, is considered at the earliest possible juncture in the Ox-Cam Arc national infrastructure project.

- requests the Leader and Chief Executive to raise the matter of timely consideration of energy infrastructure for the Ox-Cam Arc, within its political and governmental structures, as they deem appropriate.

13 (c) Standing in the Name of Councillor Heather Williams

This Council notes the outcome of the 'First Conversation' and 'Call for Sites' stages in the development of the next Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. The Council records its thanks to officers involved in developing the next Local Plan and recognises the work being undertaken by officers to draw up a list of preferred sites.

In light of the large number of sites put forward in the Call for Sites which affect almost every village/ town and community in our District, this Council calls for Parish and Town Councils to be offered the opportunity to comment on sites put forward for their area and for their views to be taken into account in the process of drawing up a list of preferred sites.

13 (d) Standing the Name of Councillor Ian Sollom

The Council notes:

- That numbers of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) are rising fast. Nationally, the percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals has increased across all schools from 13.6% in 2018, to 15.4% in 2019 and 17.3% at the beginning of 2020. In South Cambridgeshire District, over 2,400 pupils were eligible and claiming FSM at the beginning of September, up by over 25% from January 2019, and numbers continue to rise due to the impact of the pandemic.
- That every child who is entitled to Free School Meals is a sign of a family under significant financial pressure.
- That this picture of increasing child poverty is supported by the rapid rise in the number of families dependent on food banks. The Trussell Trust have reported the period of April to September to be the busiest half-year period for food banks in the network since the charity opened, and more than a third of their three-day emergency food parcels went to children. The Cambridge City Foodbank has reported a 23% increase in the number of people fed between March and July

compared to last year, included a 28% increase in the number of children fed.

- That children who are hungry are less able to learn and thrive at school.
- That the extension of the school meals voucher scheme campaigned for by Marcus Rashford to cover the period of the summer holiday was incredibly important and valuable to families in food poverty.
- That the second lockdown and the continuing rise in unemployment are likely to lead to further increases in child poverty in the short term.
- That the economic consequences of the pandemic risks further increases in child poverty in the longer term.
- That moves by the government to extend support over the Christmas holiday period and throughout 2021 are a welcome start in addressing the problems of food poverty, but that more will need to be done to ensure no child in the UK goes hungry.

This Council therefore supports the calls by the Child Food Poverty Task Force, supported by Marcus Rashford and many leading food suppliers and producers, which calls for:

- The expansion of free school meals provision to every child whose family is in receipt of Universal Credit or equivalent, or with a low-income and no recourse to public funds.
- That provision be made for food vouchers to cover school holidays and periods of lockdown for all families in receipt of Universal Credit or with low-income and no recourse to public funds.
- That Healthy Start vouchers should be increased in value to £4.25 and expanded to be made available to all those in receipt of Universal Credit or with a low-income and no recourse to public funds.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the MPs representing the District in Parliament to call for additional government funding for:

1. The extension of eligibility for free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit.
2. Food vouchers or equivalent to be made available for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown.
3. The extension of eligibility for free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers as defined in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

14. Chair's Engagements

To note the Chair's engagements since the last Council meeting:

Date	Venue/Event	Attended by
Sun 8 November	Remembrance Sunday Video recorded for the Council	Chair & Vice Chair

Guidance Notes for Membership of the Public for Remote Meetings

Members of the public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting, except during the consideration of exempt or confidential items, by following the link to be published on the Council's website.

Any person who participates in the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules, is deemed to have consented to being recorded and to the use of those images (where participating via video conference) and/or sound recordings for webcast purposes. When speaking, members of the public should not disclose any personal information of any individual as this might infringe on the rights of that individual and breach the Data Protection Act.

For more information about this meeting please contact democratic.services@scams.gov.uk