



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Council Meeting
Tuesday, 23 February 2021

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 held as a **Virtual meeting - Online** at **2.00 P.M.** on

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

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

Dated this 15 February 2021

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 26 November 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 Tuesday, 16 February 2021.

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

[Public Questions at Remote Meetings](#)

7. Petitions

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

8. To Consider the Following Recommendations:

8 (a) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2026 (Cabinet - 7 December 2020)
Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

1. Acknowledge the projected changes in service spending and the overall resources available to the Council over the medium-term.
2. Approve the refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy at [Appendix A](#) and updated financial forecast at [Appendix B](#) to the report.

(Pages 19 - 44)

8 (b) Localised Council Tax Support Scheme: 2021/22 (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)
Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

Approves the adoption of Option 1, comprising the LCTS Income Bands scheme currently in operation, with an uprating of calculation figures in line with the Consumer Price Index.

(Pages 45 - 50)

8 (c) Capital Investment Programme (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)
Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

Approve the revised Capital Programme outlined at [Appendix A](#) to the report.

(Pages 51 - 60)

8 (d) Treasury Management Strategy (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)
Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy attached at [Appendix A](#) to the report which sets the policy framework for the Council's treasury management activity, including (i) the Treasury Management Policy Statement, (ii) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and (ii) Treasury Indicators.

(Pages 61 - 102)

8 (e) Capital Strategy (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)

Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

approve (i) the updated Capital Strategy attached at [Appendix A](#) to the report which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment, and (ii) Prudential Indicators.

(Pages 103 - 122)

8 (f) General Fund Budget 2021/2022 (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)

Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

1. consider the report and, if satisfied, to:

- (a) Take into account the detailed budgets presented at [Appendix B](#), and summarised at [Appendix A](#), with an estimated General Fund Gross Operating Expenditure for 2021/2022 of £71.917 million, estimated Gross Operating Income of £49.146 million and estimated General Fund Net Operating Expenditure of £22.771 million;
- (b) Acknowledge the key factors which have led to the proposed 2021/2022 General Fund Revenue Budget, with service pressures summarised at [Appendix C](#) and offsetting efficiency savings/policy options summarised at [Appendix D](#);
- (c) Acknowledge that the 2021/2022 General Fund Revenue Budget gross expenditure is covered by forecast income sources (assuming no change in Government grant) and, therefore, any addition(s) to expenditure that are made by the Cabinet or Council will need to be met from the General Fund Balance;
- (d) Approve the 2021/2022 General Fund Revenue Budget taking into account the statement by the Chief Finance Officer on the risks and robustness of the estimates as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 (reproduced at [Appendix F](#));
- (e) Set the Council Tax Requirement for 2021/2022 at £9,997,693;
- (f) Approve an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £155.31, plus the relevant amounts required by the precepts of the Parish Councils, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner, and the Cambridgeshire Fire Authority;
- (g) Approve the estimates of the amounts required to be made under the

Non-domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 as set out in paragraphs 36 to 39;

- (h) Approve the acceptance of any grants made during 2021/2022 by the Government under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of Business Rates;
- (i) Approve the use of the additional income from the Business Rate Pool, estimated at £1,100,000 in 2021/2022, for transfer to the established Renewables Reserve for priority projects;
- (j) Subject to any changes to the recommendations above, Full Council approves that:
 - (i) The 2021/2022 General Fund Revenue Budget based on known commitments at this time and planned levels of Service/functions resulting in a Budget Requirement of £21.722 million;
 - (ii) The District Council Precept on the Collection Fund (Council Tax Requirement) of £9.998 million in 2021/2022 (based on the Local Government Settlement) and a Band D Council Tax of £155.31.

(Pages 123 - 172)

8 (g) Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/2022 (Cabinet - 3 February 2021)
Cabinet

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

Housing Revenue Account (HRA): Revenue

- (a) approve the HRA revenue budget for 2021/2022 as shown in the HRA Budget Summary as presented at Appendix A to the report;

HRA: Review of Rents and Charges

- (b) Approve that council dwelling rents for all social rented properties be increased by the Consumer Prices Index plus 1% (1.5%), in line with legislative requirements introduced as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Act, with effect from 1st April 2021;
- (c) Approve that affordable rents are reviewed in line with rent legislation, to ensure that rents charged are no more than 80% of market rent for 2021/2022. Local policy is to cap affordable rents at the lower level of Local Housing Allowance, which will result in rent variations in line with any changes notified to the authority in this level, effective from 1st April 2021;
- (d) Approve inflationary increases of 0.6% in garage rents for 2021/2022.
- (e) Approve the proposed service charges for HRA services and facilities provided to both tenants and leaseholders, as shown in Appendix D.

HRA: Capital

(f) Approve the required level of funding for new build investment between 2021/2022 and 2025/2026 to ensure that commitments can be met in respect of the investment of all right to buy receipts currently retained or anticipated to be received by the authority for this period. This expenditure will take the form of HRA new build, with the 70% top up met by other HRA resources;

(g) Approve the HRA Medium Term Financial Strategy forecasts as shown in Appendix B;

(h) Approve the Housing Capital Programme as shown in Appendix C.

(Pages 173 - 200)

9. Council Tax Resolution

To approve the formal Council Tax resolution for 2021/22 **(report to follow)**

10. Swavesey Byeways Rate 2021/22

The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL

Retains the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate at £1.20 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2021/22 in order to fund the required level of maintenance.

(Pages 201 - 204)

11. Calendar of Meetings 2021/22

To approve the Calendar of Meetings 2021/22.

(Pages 205 - 210)

12. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Attached are the reports summarising the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority from October to November 2020, and December 2020 to January 2021.

(Pages 211 - 264)

13. Greater Cambridge Partnership

Attached is a summary of the decisions taken at a meeting of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board at its meeting of 10 December 2020.

(Pages 265 - 270)

14. Membership of Committees and other bodies

(a) To note and endorse the following change in appointments and memberships of committees and substitute arrangements:

(i) the election as Vice Chair of the Grants Advisory Committee of Councillor Sue Ellington, following the resignation of Councillor Clare Delderfield

from that role;

- (ii) the replacement of Councillor Clare Delderfield by Councillor Bill Handley as a regular member of the Grants Advisory Committee.
 - (iii) the replacement of Councillor Clare Delderfield by Councillor Steve Hunt as a substitute member of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee;
 - (iv) The appointment of Councillor Ian Sollom to the Brexit Advisory Group, to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of former Councillor Philip Allen.
- (b) To note and endorse any other changes in the membership of committees or substitute arrangements which have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the political group to which the seat has been allocated.
- (c) To note that the Chief Executive has appointed the Head of Environment and Waste to the Officer representation on the Investment Partnership Board, replacing the Chief Operating Officer.

15. Questions From Councillors

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

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

15 (a) From Councillor Grenville Chamberlain

Will the Leader explain whether the recently introduced change of rules in respect of loans provided by the Public Works Loan Board would have impacted the Council's ability to borrow funds for the purpose of acquiring any of the recently purchased properties? If so, which ones?

15 (b) From Councillor Dr Richard Williams

Has the Leader, any member of Cabinet or any Senior Officer of the Greater Cambridge Planning Service held any discussions, or had any other contact, with Hill Group and/or L & Q Estates (including their representatives or agents), concerning the proposed 'Westley Green' development near Six Mile Bottom?

16. 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.

16 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor Claire Daunton

One of the many consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic is an increase in regular

and frequent goods traffic through the villages of South Cambridgeshire. This traffic ranges from small delivery vans to large articulated lorries (HGV traffic). The increase has come about at the same time as more of our residents are cycling and walking. It has also happened at a time when the government has put forward proposals to abolish the current weight restrictions.

A number of issues are linked to these developments. The increase in traffic, especially that of HGVs, has made the roads and pavements less safe for cyclists and pedestrians; and the air pollution, noise and speed has led to increased stress for residents, with consequent mental health problems. Further, the wider use of satnavs, which encourage drivers to take the shortest routes (often rural roads), is having a cumulative effect not only on the lives of residents but also on the state of our roads. Rural roads were not built for HGVs. Where weight restrictions are in place, they are little observed and the police have indicated they are not able to enforce.

We believe the way to tackle these issues is:

- a) to encourage local communities to report HGV infringement of current restrictions;
- b) to encourage the police to take action against persistent offenders;
- c) to encourage satnav companies to incorporate the County's advisory freight routes into their systems;
- d) to encourage firms to move towards hybrid or electric vehicles as ways of cutting emissions rather than relying on heavier, longer vehicles;
- e) to encourage the installation of appropriate 20mph speed limits, along with physical highway restraints, in the areas worst affected;
- f) to use planning conditions to prevent or mitigate the problems, as appropriate

This Council requests that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that the government take fully into account the effects of HGV traffic on rural communities, as set out above, when considering changes to current regulations on weight.

This Council requests that the Leader also write to the County Council to request that it facilitates the use of measures set out above to make our village roads safer and improve the daily lives of our residents.

16 (b) Standing in the name of Councillor Pippa Heylings

In its meeting of July 2019, this Council recognised that we are facing both an ecological and climate emergency and, in response, adopted Doubling Nature as a vision with one of our aims being that 'the Council should be an exemplar for the landscape scale restoration of the natural environment'.

As a Council, we own very little land directly and, therefore, our Doubling Nature vision depends ultimately on partnerships and the sharing of a vision with communities, landowners, farmers and developers. Parts of South Cambridgeshire lie within the proposed Fens Biosphere buffer and transition zones. A [Biosphere](#) is a special status awarded by UNESCO to a unique and valuable landscape, such as the Fens. Biospheres connect people, economies and nature to secure a future where all can thrive. Following extraordinary, sustained and coordinated efforts by local (and national) stakeholder bodies, campaigners and enthusiastic members of the public, the proposed Fens Biosphere was awarded Candidate Status by UK Man and the Biosphere (UK MAB) on behalf of UNESCO in November 2019, opening the real possibility that the Fens Biosphere could become UK's 8th UNESCO Biosphere designation; one of 714 in 129 countries, and the only lowland Biosphere in the country.

Within the proposed Biosphere buffer zone, activities will be focused on linking people, science and conservation to support the core zone of sites of specific conservation value. Such activities could include trialling new agricultural crops and techniques, encouraging communities to develop new spaces for nature and looking at how water resources can be managed on a landscape scale. As a centre of excellence and focus for a united community effort across the region, it can bring significant social, economic and environmental benefits.

In order to leap the final hurdle to gain UNESCO Biosphere designation, the Biosphere initiative needs to demonstrate the widest level of local support, including that of the local authorities. Although several local authorities within the candidate area have voiced support, it is critical that the support is demonstrated through formal endorsement. Senior proponents of the Fens Biosphere gave a passionate presentation to the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee in January along with a request for support, which was unanimously recommended by the Committee. This Council

- recognises the value of the Fens Biosphere and formally supports its request for UNESCO Biosphere designation;
- authorises the Leader to write formally to convey its support;
- authorises the Leader and the Chair of CEAC to champion the Fens Biosphere initiative by writing to all relevant local authorities to encourage them to do the same.

17. **Standing in the name of Councillor Geoff Harvey**

Fossil fuel divestment was once viewed as a moral undertaking; now it is as much about reducing financial risk. In October last year, Cambridge University finally announced its aim to have no meaningful exposure to fossil fuels in its investment funds by 2030. A [University report](#) summarised the long-running debate and included this recollection from visiting American environmentalist, Bill McKibben that *Exxon built rigs to account for climate change-related sea rise while funding climate change denialism research (Oreskes and Conway 2010).* He commented “*intellectual dishonesty on that scale would get you kicked out of Cambridge in a minute*”. But alongside the moral arguments, were those of sound finance: ‘*Overall, there is little evidence to suggest that a global portfolio invested to exclude fossil fuels would underperform one that included them and such a portfolio might avoid the volatility that is likely to affect the fossil fuel sector in the coming years.*’

It has been calculated that were oil companies to extract all oil in their existing developed reserves (oil fields), this alone, when burnt, would use up the remaining available carbon budget before [breaching 1.5 degrees Celsius global temperature rise compared to preindustrial levels](#). Yet oil companies continue with oil exploration. Last year, [BP announced a £14billion asset write-down](#) acknowledging a shift towards renewable energy. There is a real risk of remaining invested in assets that will become *stranded assets*; the ownership of oil reserves that will now have to remain in the ground. In 2015, [UK local authority pension funds lost nearly £700million](#) when the market for coal collapsed. [Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, issued a blunt warning in 2015](#) that investors, like pension funds faced “*potentially huge*” losses as action on climate change could make vast reserves of oil, coal and gas “*literally un-burnable*”.

This Council has declared a climate and ecological emergency. We now know Investments in fossil fuels are not only harmful to the environment but also put the sustainable future of pensions at risk.

In December last year, the National Climate Change Committee released a paper ‘Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget’. It lists 9 ‘*overarching priorities*’ for local authorities and one of these relates to pensions schemes investments. ‘*Local authority pension funds should disclose their approach to assessing and managing*

climate risks and should consider investing in Net Zero aligned schemes within their legal duties. This aligns with Clause 124 of the Pension Schemes Bill currently before Parliament where the Act is likely to mandate larger private sector pension schemes to manage climate change as a financial risk and to report publicly on how so.

We note from the Investment Strategy Statement of the Cambridgeshire County Council Pension Fund, *'The Fund supports the principles of the [Financial Reporting Council] UK Stewardship Code and is working with the Fund's advisers with the intention to sign up to the Code.'*

We further note: this Code requires *'Signatories systematically integrate stewardship and investment, including material environmental, social and governance issues, and climate change, to fulfil their responsibilities.'*

The Pension Fund Committee, in partnership with Investment Sub Committee and Local Pension Board decides pensions investment strategy. Nevertheless, SCDC staff pensions are part of a Defined Benefits scheme, meaning that SCDC has a financial interest in the long-term efficiency of the fund since any future shortfall, including by failure to recognise any risks (or investment opportunities) associated with climate change, would be set against a balance sheet liability. Fiduciary obligations are aligned with the UK's legal obligation to meet its climate goals. As [a UK's Pension Minister said of the Climate Change Act](#): *"This legislation commits the UK to a path that pension funds must play a massive role in"* which means no longer helping fund oil production and exploration and keeping within the remaining carbon budget.

This Council

- Asks the Chief Executive to write to the Pension Fund Committee, Investment Sub Committee and Local Pension Board jointly, to request how they, on behalf of SCDC as an employer, intend to manage the effects of climate change as a financial risk to their investments and how this will be reported.

18. Chair's Engagements

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

Date	Venue / Event
February 6	AGM of Royal British Legion

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR MEMBERS 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.

To turn on live captions and subtitles, select Captions/Subtitles On [CC] button in your video controls. To change the caption language, select the Settings button > Captions / Subtitles, and choose the language you want.

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