



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Council Meeting
Thursday, 22 September 2022

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 in the **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at **2.00 P.M.** on

Thursday, 22 September 2022

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

Dated this 13 September 2022

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

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 21 July 2022 as a correct record.
(Pages 1 - 10)
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 midnight on Friday 16 September 2022.

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

[Public Speaking at Physical Meetings](#)

7. Petitions

To note all petitions received since the last Council meeting.

8. To Consider the Following Recommendation:

8 (a) 2021/22 Provisional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn (Cabinet 12 September 2022)

(Pages 11 - 18)

9. West Wickham Neighbourhood Plan

(Pages 19 - 122)

10. Appointment of IRP Member

Council is asked to consider an update, to follow, on the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel, arising from recruitment following the expiry of the term of office of Graham Jagger, the Chair of the Panel.

11. Review of Political Proportionality

Council is asked to review the political proportionality following the resignation from the Liberal Democrat Group of Councillor Dan Lentell (report to follow).

12. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

To note any reports of the work of the Combined Authority, if available, since the last meeting of Council.

(Pages 123 - 128)

13. Greater Cambridge Partnership

To note any reports of the work of the Greater Cambridge Partnership, if available, since the last meeting of Council.

14. Update on the OxCam Arc

(Pages 129 - 132)

15. Members of Committees and Outside Bodies

Council is asked to:

- i) Note the appointment of Councillor Sunita Hansraj in place of Councillor Dan

Lentell as a member of the Grants Advisory Committee and of Councillor Peter Sandford as a substitute Member on that Committee (as first substitute);

- ii) Note the appointment of Councillor Peter Fane as a substitute Member on Civic Affairs Committee and on Climate and Environment Advisory Committee;
- iii) Note any other changes in membership or substitutes in respect of any other committee;
- iv) Note the appointment of substitute Members to the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group. Nominations received from the Conservative Group are Councillors Heather Williams and Graham Cone. The nominees for the Liberal Democrat Group will be announced at the meeting.
- v) Note, and where required, endorse, any other changes in membership or substitutes of any other joint bodies.
- vi) Note, and where required, endorse any changes to Outside Bodies appointments; and
- vii) Endorse the appointment of Councillor Sue Ellington as Vice Chair of the Grants Advisory Committee.

16. 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 Interim Democratic Services Team 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.

16 (a) From Cllr Dan Lentell

Does the leadership of this council share my concern that the inclusion of the hospitals at Addenbrooke's in the GCP's proposed congestion charge scheme is likely to derail the wider proposals and sink any chance for better public transport in Cambridgeshire?

16 (b) From Cllr Graham Cone

What does the leader think the fairest way is to stop those that can least afford it paying a congestion charge, given the proposals indicated exemptions for those with lower incomes?

16 (c) From Cllr Dr Richard Williams

Does the administration support the inclusion of Addenbrookes Hospital within the proposed Cambridge congestion charge zone?

16 (d) From Cllr Carla Hofman

Can the leader explain to residents how they can ensure that they have their legitimate concerns about the City Access Proposal which was recently launched by the GCP heard and responded to?

16 (e) From Cllr Sally Ann Hart

Can the leader explain the democratic processes that exist in the running of the GCP which ensure residents of South Cambridgeshire have appropriate influence over the decisions that are made by this body?

16 (f) From Cllr John Loveluck

Can the Leader please explain to the Council how residents of South Cambridgeshire will benefit from the City Access proposals recently announced by the Greater Cambridge Partnership?

16 (g) From Cllr Heather Williams

Does the Leader believe that the threat of redundancies hanging over current and future employees helps with recruitment?

16 (h) From Cllr Mark Howell

What are the Leader's thoughts of our refuse collectors threatening strike action due to "insulting pay offer"?

16 (i) From Cllr Sue Ellington

Is the Leader planning any cabinet reshuffles anytime soon?

16 (j) From Cllr Richard Stobart

Can the Council Leader please explain why seeking the support of residents when making radical changes to current transport practice is fundamental to the success of those changes?

16 (k) From Cllr Lisa Redrup

Given that the National Grid and UK Power Networks are advising that there will be constraints to supply, can the lead member for the environment please explain what contribution the Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) will make to the electrification of the refuse collection vehicle fleet?

17. 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.

17 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor Pippa Heylings
Stop dumping raw sewage in our chalk streams

Despite repeated calls to put a stop to the dumping raw sewage in our precious rivers and chalk streams, the latest annual assessment (published this July) by the Environment Agency showed a “shocking” decline in performance¹ on pollution for most of England's water and sewage companies, much worse than previous years. Anglian Water was given just 2 stars for performance for 2021, meaning they require significant improvement.

South Cambridgeshire residents are rightly concerned about the health implications of the poor water quality in our chalk streams especially at a time in hot summer months when local children and families would expect to be able to bathe and enjoy nature-rich river banks.

The latest study by Cam Valley Forum² has shown that the levels of E.coli are highest downstream of Anglian Water's small sewage works in and around our villages, such as the one at Haslingfield, that are frequently discharging raw, untreated sewage into the rivers Mel, Rhee and Granta through ‘storm overflows’³. The study points to the disturbing fact that when river levels are lower during the dry summer months, more of the chalk streams would be composed of effluent from the sewage plant and could, potentially, cause a risk to bathers' health.

In June 2022, despite further information received from the water company, Ofwat decided to continue its enforcement case⁴ against Anglian Water due to serious concerns about its compliance with the requirements of their environmental permits⁵, particularly because of a lack of effective water quality monitoring and no immediate action plan in place.

This Council agrees:

- to support the chair of the Environment Agency's call for increased criminal liability for the Chief Executives and Boards of water companies because they remain undeterred by the penalties currently being issued by the courts.
- to ask the CEO to write to the Secretary of State for DEFRA and the CEO of Ofwat asking them to introduce legally-binding targets for intermediate and ultimately zero discharges and a sewage tax on discharges.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-and-sewerage-company-performance-on-pollution-hits-new-low>

² <https://camvalleyforum.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/20403-CVF-Report-on-faecal-indicator-bacteria-counts-in-a-sample-taken-from-the-effluent-at-Haslingfield-STW-during-a-storm-overflow-3rd-March-2022-CSSI.pdf>

³ Anglian Water acknowledges that “*storm overflows are no longer fit for purpose, especially as our climate is changing and extreme weather is more commonplace*”. <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/river-cam-study-finds-massively-raised-counts-of-faecal-ba-9254432/>

⁴ <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/investigation-into-sewage-treatment-works/#responses>

⁵ The number and length of sewage dumps from storm overflows is measured by Event Duration Monitors (EDMs). However, analysis of Environment Agency data reveals water companies have either installed monitors which do not work 90% of the time, or have simply not installed the monitors at all. The worst offender is Anglian Water, which saw half (49%) of sewage discharges not measured due to faulty monitors or no monitors installed.

- To ask Cabinet to consider the possibility of a formal application to Defra for an inland bathing water stretch along the River Cam in South Cambridgeshire, together with Anglian Water and local partners such as Cam Valley Forum; this would require the water company to undertake water quality sampling and monitoring for at least a year.
- That, given the seriously water-stressed status in our region, the CEO and Leader will call on Cambridgeshire MPs to urgently seek the government support necessary for investment in the regional scale water supply infrastructure called for in the Integrated Water Study evidence base for the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

**17 (b) Standing in the name of Cllr Bill Handley
Cost of Living Emergency Motion**

Our country is in the grips of a cost of living emergency - like nothing that has been seen in generations with soaring inflation and the Bank of England predicting a recession this autumn.

Millions of families and pensioners are being forced to choose between heating and eating. And millions more are worried about how to pay their bills this winter, with another staggering energy price rise just around the corner.

We already have a high cost of living in South Cambridgeshire and those of our residents on low incomes will face unprecedented hardship this winter.

Businesses are also impacted by the energy price rise and local traders are warning that many of them will not be able to survive the increase in costs without support.

In these circumstances this Council declares a ‘Cost of Living Emergency’.

On behalf of South Cambridgeshire residents it instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Government to ask that it:

- Reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in South Cambridgeshire a further £600 this year;
- Re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support South Cambridgeshire pensioners;
- Restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021;
- Reverse cuts to Working Tax Credit;
- Cancel the October energy price rise - saving £1,600 on the average energy bill.

While for its part, South Cambridgeshire District Council has already:

- i. Given advice in its quarterly publication, South Cambs Magazine, with particular regard to support provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire Home improvement Agency;
- ii. Provided a Cost of Living Support page on its website to help local people find immediate support with food poverty, housing, debt, energy bills, transport, unemployment and health and wellbeing, whilst also signposting to grants and loans to help improve the energy efficiency of their homes;
- iii. Partnered Cambridgeshire ACRE in the provision of warm hubs in the District.

And will:

- i. Confirm its commitment to continue funding Citizen's Advice for this financial year (£85,000) to provide advice services to South Cambridgeshire residents;
- ii. Be mindful of the Cost of Living Crisis in the setting of next year's Council Tax;
- iii. Promote its Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer and Housing Tenant Advice Officers;
- iv. Ask the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to consider bringing forward a proposal to amend the Local Council Tax Support Scheme in the district to 100% for working people, thereby reducing the council tax burden for working low income households;
- v. Ask the Grants Advisory Committee to review the Community Chest grant scheme to consider having applications that demonstrate not only wellbeing benefits to their community but also support for those on low incomes and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources or Cabinet as appropriate;
- vi. Confirm its commitment to improve the energy efficiency of council homes as outlined in the HRA Asset Management Strategy;
- vii. Request that the Cabinet set up an advisory group reporting to it to monitor and propose support for those in the District struggling with the cost of living

crisis including local businesses;

viii. And work with partners to give access to affordable food across the District.

18. Chair's Engagements

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

Date	Venue / Event	Attended by
9 September	Opening and signing of Book of Condolences at South Cambridgeshire Hall	Chair
11 September	Invitation from Clerk to the Lieutenancy Cambridge City Council: Witnessed the Proclamation of King Charles III at Guildhall, Cambridge on behalf of the Council and laid a wreath commemorating the late Queen.	Chair
18 September	Invitation from Bishop of Ely: Act of Remembrance Service, Ely Cathedral	Chair

Guidance 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@scamb.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.