

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORD OF EXECUTIVE / CHIEF OFFICER DECISION**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Portfolio Holders and key decisions made by Chief Officers. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules.

Portfolio	Community Development
Subject Matter	Draft Parish Charter
Ward(s) Affected	All
Date Taken	1 st November 2007
Contact Officer	Gemma Webb, Strategic Partnerships Officer, 01223 713340, Gemma.Webb@scambs.gov.uk
Key Decision?	No.
In Forward Plan?	No.
Urgent?	No.

Purpose / Background
<p>To agree the content of the proposed Parish Charter for South Cambridgeshire and to receive guidance on paragraphs 17, 21, 22 and 23.</p> <p>The proposed Parish Charter is aimed at further promoting and developing co-operation between Town and Parish Councils and the County and District Councils in Cambridgeshire. South Cambridgeshire District Council and its parishes would sign this specific version.</p> <p>The Rural White Paper in 2000 introduced the concept of Quality Town and Parish Councils and in June 2003 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister introduced guidance on the Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme that included a model charter. The framework for the proposed charter is based on the Cheshire Charter, which was developed from this model.</p> <p>The Government's 10-year vision for local government reaffirms the importance of Parish Councils in local service provision. The local government white paper, strong and prosperous communities (October 2006) encourages councils to develop neighbourhood charters, setting out local priorities and standards to manage services at the neighbourhood level. The proposed charter will act as evidence of the local authority's commitment to work together with parishes.</p> <p>The report was referred to the Portfolio Holder by Cabinet in July 2007.</p>

Declaration(s) of Interest
<i>Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.</i>
None.

Dispensation(s)
In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.

None.

Consultation
Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.
- EMT.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

The district council can comply with the majority of points within the Charter without difficulty and these fit with the council's commitment to working with Parish Councils. However, a few statements, relating to delegated responsibilities, are more contentious and require specific Elected Member input and guidance.

Paragraph 21: The original wording also included "Where it is not good value or practicable the District Council will, in consultation with the parish or town council, explore alternative solutions to encourage more local-level input into service delivery. A quality parish or town council will be assumed to provide equal or better value." EMTs advice is to remove these final two sentences.

Paragraph 22: This relates to the financial aspects of delegation.

Paragraph 23: The original wording also included "It is agreed that the District Council will be the service provider of last resort and so delegated funding will be by grant from the District Council." EMT recommends removing this final sentence due to the difficulties relating to grant funding, however, an alternative position on funding delegation would need to be proposed.

Final decision	Reason(s)
To agree the content of the proposed Parish Charter for South Cambridgeshire.	To set out how the District Council and parish councils aim to work together for the benefit of local people.

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Portfolio Holder	MARK HOWELL		
Chief Officer	GREG HARLOCK		

Further Information

The draft Parish Charter is attached at Appendix A.