



**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
ISSUE DATE 24TH MARCH 2004**

CONTENTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Committee Meetings
2. Introducing Steve Hampson (Housing and Environmental Services Director) and Tim Wetherfield (Head of Policy & Communications)
3. Members Training Advisory group - Training Survey
4. Training Courses/Seminars/Conferences for members
 - Smith Square debate on "Personal or Public? Who's responsible for the health and welfare of local communities"
 - Seminar for local authority members on "Sprinklers Save Lives"
 - EERA Conference on E-Government, 2005 and beyond
 - Training Course on Speed Reading
 - Training Course on Negotiation and Influencing Skills
5. Information on Regional Management Boards for fire authorities
6. Call-in Arrangements

OFFICER DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

1. Heritage Initiative Budget
 - Willow pollarding grant to the Cambridge National Golf Centre (**Bourn**)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM 29th March 2004 to 2nd April 2004			
MONDAY 29 th March 2004			
TUESDAY 30 th March 2004			
WEDNESDAY 31 st March 2004	10 am	Northstowe Member Steering Group	Council Chamber
THURSDAY 2004 1 st April 2004	10 am	Cabinet	Council Chamber
FRIDAY 2 nd April 2004			

TWO NEW SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS JOIN SCDC

These two new senior posts mark the culmination of an organisational review by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2002, which implemented changes in the departmental structure and senior staff responsibilities to enhance strategic capacity at the Council.

Steve Hampson will join the Council on March 15 as director of the new combined Housing and Environmental Services department.

Before joining the Council, Steve was executive director at Harlow Council responsible for housing services. He previously worked as an area housing officer for Cambridge City Council and managing homelessness services at the London Boroughs of Haringey and Southwark.

He said, "The opportunity to join South Cambs came at just the right time for me, I was attracted by a new, broader spread of responsibilities and the challenge of joining the Council as both the organisation and the district undergo significant change. My new directorate covers both housing and environmental services and so touches upon every resident in South Cambs."

Tim Wetherfield has been appointed head of policy and communications and also joins on March 15. This new post has been created to strengthen the Council's corporate performance management and help improve communications with our communities.

Before joining the Council he worked for five years at South Bucks District Council as corporate strategy officer. During that time, he developed their corporate approaches to business planning, performance management and customer relations, and took a lead role in communicating the Council's aims and performance. He has also worked for Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council.

MEMBERS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

You will have received a Councillor Training and Development Survey recently which has been designed by the Members Training Advisory Group to:

- Identify if training can be delivered to Councillors in a more cost effective and structured way.
- To give equal access to training for all members.
- Align training needs with the needs of the Modernisation agenda.
- Gather information to be used for designing an induction programme for new members.
- Assess on-going training and development needs for returning members.
- Identify if there are any urgent training needs that require immediate attention.

Please ensure you return this form to Lucie Edginton in Democratic Services by the 2nd of April 2004. A pre-paid envelope was enclosed with the survey. Thank you in advance.

TRAINING COURSES, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

Subject	Date and location
<p><u>Smith Square Debate Series. Debate 1</u> "Personal or Public? Who's responsible for the health and welfare of local communities" A series of debates focused upon the role of local government and the challenges we face in meeting the changing needs of the communities.</p>	<p><u>1st April 2004</u> 5.30 pm – 7.30pm LGA Local Government House Smith Square London SW1P3HZ</p>
<p><u>E-government conference 2005 and beyond</u> How prepared is your organisation to meet the 2005 e-government target and how prepared are you for the real challenge of realising the benefits of your e-government investment? Suitable for elected members, Scrutiny members, senior officers and customer service professionals</p>	<p><u>21st April 2004</u> Robinson College, Cambridge</p>
<p><u>Speed Reading</u> Aim is to teach participants the techniques to read faster, retain information and to vary the ways they handle written material. Training provided through exercises to enhance reading ability and provide for continued development</p>	<p><u>26th April 2004</u> EERA Flempton House, Flempton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk</p>
<p><u>Negotiation and Influencing Skills</u> Aim to enable participants to understand the principles, processes and skills needed in influencing others through persuasion, negotiation and consensus seeking</p>	<p><u>27th April 2004</u> EERA Flempton House, Flempton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk</p>
<p><u>Sprinklers save lives!</u> Seminar for local authority members to inform them about sprinklers and the role they play in fire safety. You will learn how sprinklers operate, what their benefits are, the arguments to dispel the myths that have built up around sprinklers and how to lobby for their installation in your local area.</p>	<p><u>12th May 200</u> 10 – 12.30 LGA Local Government House Smith Square London SW1P3HZ</p>

If you are interested in attending any of these courses/conferences, please contact Lucie Edginton in Democratic Services for a booking form. Email: lucie.edginton@scambs.gov.uk or phone 01223 443026

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS ON REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARDS (RMB's)

The LGA is pleased to report that despite the huge agenda for change and the many other challenges fire authorities are currently facing, all authorities in the English regions have or will have established an RMB by the 1st of April 2004.

RMB's will have delegated powers under section 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 although these definitions will vary according to the interpretations made in each region. In accordance with guidance provided by the LGA by the 1st of April 2004, each of the authorities in the regions will have signed a constitutional agreement.

Each of the fire authorities in the regions have elected or will elect a chair for the RMB and all of the authorities in the regions have agreed or will have proposed membership and voting arrangements in accordance with the LGA guidelines i.e. that each authority has an equality of voting members or that they take account of the population or number of local government electors in the constituent authorities. More information can be found on the LGA's website www.lga.gov.uk

CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Democratic Services Manager must be notified of any call in by **Wednesday 31st March 2004 at 5pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 1st April 2004**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Democratic Services Section to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS

Subject	Action Taken
<u>Conservation Manager</u> Grant to Cambridge National Golf Centre from the Heritage Initiative budget for willow pollarding. The site is publicly accessible.	Award a grant of £2,400 (50% of total cost). This grant will achieve positive management of willow pollards. There is a condition attached to the grant that will achieve the planting of new willow and better management of trees to prevent any from falling into Bourn Brook to avoid being a flood hazard.