



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 22 AUGUST 2001

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Call in arrangements

Any executive decision recorded in this bulletin may be called in for review by the relevant Select Committee, either by the Chairman of that Select Committee or by any five other Councillors. The Committee Manager must be notified of any call in by **29 August 2001**. All decisions not called in by this date will be implemented.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's constitution, 'Select Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 16.

INFORMATION ITEMS – ISSUE DATE 22nd AUGUST 2001

1. “The next meeting of the Cambridgeshire Rail Policy Group is at Shire Hall at 10.30 am on Thursday 4th October. SCDC Members are represented by Cllr John Batchelor, but he is unable to attend this particular meeting and asks if there are any Members who would be interested in attending in his place. Volunteers please advise either Cllr Kime or Cllr Batchelor. “

Contact Officer: Michael Monk, Senior Development Plan Officer, 443182

2. **NEW COUNCILLOR FOR BAR HILL AND OAKINGTON AND WESTWICK**
Councillor Roger Hall joined the Council unopposed on 15th August 2001.

His contact details are:

Address: 11 Almond Grove, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8DU

Tel: 01954 780304

Mobile: 0798 0931877

E-mail: rogerhall@barhill11.fsnet.co.uk

Councillor Hall is a member of the Personnel Resources and Communications Select Committee.

3. **WEEKLY STAFF NOTICE BOARD**

Councillor David Bard, as Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder, has agreed that the weekly Notice Board sent round to all staff should also be sent to all councillors, minus the job adverts. This will be sent by e-mail where possible.

4. **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

At the request of the Personnel Resources and Communications Committee, the independent panel on Members' Allowances is to be asked to make recommendations on a suitable level of allowance for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council. The Committee is not seeking any changes to the recommendations made by the panel.

5. **WORKING PARTIES**

The Planning and Housing Committee has agreed that the following working parties should be discontinued on the grounds that their roles are either more appropriate for the Committee as a whole or could be performed by ad hoc groups:

Cambourne Working Party

Housing Policy Advisory Group

Housing Performance Review Sub-Committee

The roles of the Telecommunications and the Development Plan and Transportation Working Parties are referred to the Cabinet as executive functions, but the Committee will play its part in the development of planning policies.

Contact Officer: Susan May, Committee Manager, tel. 01223 443016

6. **LOCAL COUNCIL AUDIT**

The Personnel Resources and Communications Committee on 21st August received notice of Audit Commission publications, amongst which was "A New Approach to Local Council Audit" which proposes a lighter touch to the audit of all but the largest

local councils and the employment of local auditors. The new regime is to be introduced in April 2002. A copy of the publication may be obtained from the Finance and Resources Director.

7. **FINANCIAL REPORTING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Committee also received a document looking at issues and options in local government financial reporting and accountability. This suggests a shortened finalising of accounts, an open meeting before acceptance of the accounts and a livelier presentation of them. Comments are required by the Audit Commission by 30th September. Again, a copy of the publication may be obtained from the Finance and Resources Director if you are interested.

Contact Officer: Greg Harlock, Finance and Resources Director tel 01223 443081

8. **PLANNING AND HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE – CALL-IN OF THE CAMBOURNE LETTINGS SCHEME**

At its meeting on 10th July 2001, the Cabinet had resolved that the Council's existing housing allocations policy should be used, within the terms of the Cambourne Social Housing Agreement, to allocate properties at Cambourne (Minute no. 8 refers).

On 17th July 2001, the Planning and Housing Select Committee considered that decision, called in at the request of a group of nine Members of Council. This was the first ever call-in under the new structures now in place at the Council.

After a lengthy debate, the Select Committee agreed that the Cabinet should **not** be asked to re-consider its decision of 10th July 2001.

Members of the Select Committee endorsed Cabinet's view that Cambourne should not be singled out for special consideration in terms of housing allocation. While they could see some merit in a system based on choice, they said that any move towards such a scheme should be made simultaneously across the entire district.

The Council's current housing allocation scheme (based on a points system) will be subjected to a Best Value Review next year, and should be completed by autumn 2002. Members agreed that this would provide an excellent opportunity to re-consider the whole issue of a choice-based scheme on a district-wide basis.

Contact Officer: Ian Senior, Committee Clerk tel. 01223 443028