

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the County Council will be held at Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge on Tuesday, 13th December 2016 at 1.30p.m.

A G E N D A

Prayers led by Father Chris Newman, Parish Priest of St Neots, Buckden

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 18th October and 22nd November 2016 (previously circulated)
2. Chairman's Announcements (oral)
3. Declarations of Interests (oral)
[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-decoint>]
4. Public Question Time (oral)
To receive and respond to questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.3.
5. Petitions (oral)
To receive petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.4.
6. Item for Determination from General Purposes Committee (oral)

Treasury Management Report Quarter 2

To consider the following recommendation arising from the General Purposes Committee meeting on 29th November 2016 (minute 284 refers):

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the Treasury Management Report; and
- b) Forward to Full Council for approval.

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the General Purposes Committee and the minutes of the meeting are available via the following link: [General Purposes Committee meeting 29/11/2016](#)

7. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 – Recommendation to Extend Six Month Rule (pages 6-7)
8. Report of the Constitution and Ethics Committee (pages 8-15)
 - Greater Cambridge City Deal Modification to the Joint Assembly and Executive Board Standing Orders to Improve the Handling of Public Questions
9. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)

(a) Motion from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

This Council notes:

- the changes to gritting routes in Cambridgeshire, published on 14 October 2016.
- the prediction of freezing weather this winter resulting from movement of the polar vortex.

This Council believes the extent of gritting proposed is inadequate for the safety of Cambridgeshire residents and will leave a considerable number of villages completely isolated in the event of ice or severe snowfall.

This Council also believes that ensuring the roads remain open during periods of bad weather, is crucial to ensuring the economic prosperity of the County.

This Council therefore asks that the Chief Executive reinstate as many of the gritting routes from last year's gritting plan as possible, particularly roads to local secondary schools and roads that keep villages connected to the highway network, using money from the Council's reserves to fund any shortfall above the budgeted cost, up to an additional £650k.

[The Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer advise that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

(b) Motion from Councillor Julie Wisson

This Council notes that:

- Improvements to the A14 and continued growth in rail travel are both to be welcomed but major schemes often have local consequences that are not necessarily seen as part of the bigger picture;

- traffic modelling for the A14 shows that after the scheme is completed, there will be an increase in the amount of traffic using the A1 south of Brampton through the Buckden roundabout putting further pressure on what is already a pinch point and as a result, congestion will increase;
- traffic using the level crossing between Buckden and Offord numbers 2000 vehicles per week, 450 pedestrians and many cyclists and this causes serious congestion on Offord High Street and Buckden Mill Road while the level crossing barriers are down;
- Level crossings, particularly on high speed lines like the East Coast route pose a safety risk to both rail users and motorists and pedestrians;
- Network Rail has previously acknowledged that for safety reasons and for reasons for increased efficiency for faster trains closure of the level crossings on the East Coast mainline from London to Doncaster are necessary with alternative crossing routes provided. However, following a consultation period in 2015 Network Rail then shelved the scheme proposal to provide alternative rail crossing routes for financial reasons;
- This situation will only get worse as the amount of trains on this line and across the level crossing increases as a result of improved frequencies and new services.

Therefore, this Council calls upon Network Rail to:

- Reconsider its previous decision on alternatives to the crossing between Offord and Buckden and identify how this situation will be resolved as a matter of urgency.

Further, this Council asks that:

- The Council's Chief Executive writes to Network Rail expressing concern over the pace of the Level Crossing replacement programme on the East Coast Mainline and particularly in relation to the crossing between Offord and Buckden and requests that a programme for the replacement of this crossing is identified as soon as possible; and
- Officers arrange a meeting with Network Rail to express the concerns of this Council and discuss how these issues can be addressed.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

(c) Motion from Councillor Paul Bullen

This Council notes that:

- on 16th February 2016 a decision was made to switch off and/or dim the street lights throughout the county of Cambridgeshire and that any Town or Parish Council could, if they so wished, pay a fee to Cambridgeshire County Council to have their lights kept on.

This Council believes that:

- the decision to switch off lights in villages, towns and cities was wrong and that given the large number of concerns from residents, and especially those working shifts or unsociable hours, the decision should be reversed and the lights in residential areas should be kept on during the hours of darkness.
- in order to make savings, street lighting in the rural roads outside villages, towns and cities in Cambridgeshire can be switched off in accordance with current policy.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- reverse the decision made on 16th February 2016 to switch off and/or dim the street lights throughout the county of Cambridgeshire, in villages, towns and cities, and to fund any budget shortfall from the General Reserve for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

[The Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer advise that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

10. Questions:

(a) Oral Questions (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

(oral)

Members will be invited to ask questions of:

- the Leader of Council
- Group Leaders
- the Chairman/woman & Vice-Chairman/woman of any Committee
- Spokesmen/women
- Council representatives on Outside Bodies, Partnership Liaison and Advisory Groups and Internal Advisory Groups and Panels

Note: questions should relate to business discussed at a committee meeting, any matter relevant to the business of the Council and/or matter which affects the County of Cambridgeshire. The maximum time allowed for questions and answers will be 60 minutes.

(b) **Written Questions** (Council Procedure Rule 9.2)

(oral)

To note responses to written questions from Councillors submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

Dated 5th December 2016



Quentin Baker
Director of LGSS Law
and Governance
& Monitoring Officer

The County Council is committed to open government and members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. It supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording and taking photographs at meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening, as it happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chairman of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request:
<http://tinyurl.com/ccf-film-record>

The Council cannot provide car parking on the Shire Hall site so you will need to use nearby public car parks. Details of other transport options are available on the Council's website at: <http://tinyurl.com/ccf-carpark>

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact Michelle Rowe at the County Council's Democratic Services on Cambridge (01223) 699180 or by email at: michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

**SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 –
RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND SIX MONTH RULE**

To: Full Council

Date: 13th December 2016

From: The Monitoring Officer

Purpose: To seek approval, for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, for the absence of Councillor David Harty from any meeting of the Authority from the date of this meeting for six months on the grounds of his serious ill health.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to:

- i) note that Councillor David Harty has not been able to attend meetings of the Council due to ill-health since his attendance at full Council on 19th July 2016;
- ii) extend its best wishes to Councillor Harty; and
- iii) approve Councillor Harty's non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health up to the County Council elections on 4th May 2017 pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Council or as a representative of the Council on an Outside Body he/she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.
- 1.2 Due to ill-health Councillor David Harty has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since his attendance at full Council on 19th July 2016. A request is put forward to Council to approve an extension to the usual six month rule to enable Councillor Harty to remain in office. If this request is not approved Councillor Harty will cease to be a member of the Council.
- 1.3 Council is therefore asked to give approval to Councillor Harty's non-attendance by reason of ill-health.

Source Documents	Location
Local Government Act 1972	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/85

GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL MODIFICATION TO THE JOINT ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD STANDING ORDERS TO IMPROVE THE HANDLING OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To: Council

Date: 13th December 2016

From: LGSS Director Law and Governance

Purpose: To consider the recommendation of the Constitution and Ethics Committee to modify Standing Orders for the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly and Executive Board.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Full Council:

- i) agree that the Standing Orders for the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly and Executive Board be modified in accordance with the draft Standing Orders as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.
- ii) authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals including the two technical recommendations proposed by Constitution and Ethics Committee.

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
Name:	Quentin Baker	Name:	Councillor Mandy Smith
Post:	Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer	Portfolio:	Chairwoman, Constitution and Ethics Committee
Email:	quentin.baker@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	mandysmith1235@btinternet.com
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 For both the City Deal Joint Assembly and Executive Board, agendas and reports are currently published five clear working days before the relevant meeting. Each Executive Board meeting also considers a forward plan, which gives advance notice of decisions that are expected to be taken.
- 1.2 The existing Standing Orders for both Committees require notice to be given of public questions by 10am the day before the relevant meeting. Responses are then prepared by officers where appropriate, in order to advise Joint Assembly and Executive Board members on responding to questions in the meeting. Meetings of both Committees have historically taken a larger number of questions than is the case with other Committees of the three partner Councils – the June 2016 Executive Board had 32 public questions.
- 1.3 Responses to public questions are currently published in the minutes of the relevant meeting.
- 1.4 Alongside the Joint Assembly and Executive Board, there are other forums through which members of the public can effectively engage with and ask questions to the City Deal. Where the infrastructure programme is concerned, questions can be asked at Local Liaison Forums, which have been established to allow local Members and the public in areas directly affected by schemes to engage with the detailed proposals and to keep informed of plans. These are useful forums for questions to be directed where they relate to specific schemes, and are able to provide detailed responses. Officers are also available to answer questions across the City Deal programme if contacted, with the City Deal email address being the most obvious channel for queries.
- 1.5 Similar reports to this one have been considered by the relevant Committees at Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, as any changes to the Terms of Reference and Standing Orders for these Committees requires approval from all three Councils. Both the City and District Council have approved the changes in full.
- 1.6 The Council's Constitution and Ethics Committee met on 24 November 2016 to consider this issue. Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed that the Standing Orders for the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly and Executive Board be modified in accordance with the draft Standing Orders as set out in the report at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively subject to the following amendment:
 - the words 'if it is a pressing issue' be omitted from the last subsection of paragraph 11 of the two appendices

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have already approved the suggested changes to the terms of reference for the City Deal Assembly and Executive Board so this proposed amendment, if approved, will need to be considered by both authorities.

- 1.7 The Committee is also recommending two technical changes for Cambridgeshire's Constitution which do not impact on the meaning of the draft Standing Orders as follows:
- Section 7.2 in both appendices – replace “one week” with five working days.
 - Both appendices – replace Chairman with Chairman/woman.
- 1.8 Proposed modifications are shown in the two Appendices with tracked changes. All three Councils will need to agree the changes as proposed in order for them to take effect.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 Members of the public, officers and Members all consider that the current turnaround time of just over one day allowed between receipt of public questions and the relevant meeting means that often detailed and technical questions are not always answered sufficiently. The proposed modifications to the Standing Orders of both committees are intended to give officers more time to advise Joint Assembly and Executive Board members on the issues involved in those public questions, and therefore to improve the quality of responses given at the meetings, while ensuring the public have the same length of time to prepare their questions.
- 2.2 Increasing the time allowed for preparation of responses as proposed would also allow for questions and responses to be more effectively published, including where questions are not fully answered in the relevant meetings, so responses would be more easily accessible. This would also facilitate an aspiration to publish written responses to some questions where possible in advance of the relevant meeting, where those questions are of a technical nature.
- 2.3 By bringing forward both the deadline for receipt of public questions and the publication period for agendas and reports, the proposed modifications would retain the existing time period between publication of agendas and the deadline for submitting questions. It should be noted that this would mean reports needing to be completed 2-3 days earlier than is currently the case, although with effective work planning that should not be problematic.
- 2.4 If the three Councils choose not to support the recommendations, the existing Standing Orders would continue to be in force.

2.5 Engagement and consultation

The proposed changes have arisen from a proactive proposal by key stakeholders to improve the functioning of public questions at City Deal meetings.

The proposed changes have been discussed with members of the City Deal Executive Board and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the City Deal Joint Assembly.

2.6 Localism and Local Member involvement

The proposed modifications to the Standing Orders of both Committees would allow for more effective and productive involvement of local Members and the public in City Deal meetings.

Source Documents	Location
County Council Constitution Part 3C – Joint Committees	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20050/council_structure/288/councils_constitution



Appendix 1

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL JOINT ASSEMBLY
STANDING ORDERS**

Relevant extracts only. Proposed additions to current Constitution underlined thus, deletions struck through ~~thus~~; new material rejected by Constitution and Ethics Committee in italics and struck through, ~~thus~~.

7. Notice of and summons to meetings

- 7.1 Notice will be given to the public of the time and place of any meeting of the Joint Assembly in accordance with the Access to Information rules of South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 7.2 At least five clear working days before a meeting, a copy of the agenda and associated papers will be sent to every member of the Joint Assembly. Other than in exceptional circumstances this will take place ~~one week~~ five working days before the deadline for submission of public questions. The agenda will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by such details as are available.

11. Questions by the public and public speaking

At the discretion of the Chairman, members of the public may ask questions at meetings of the Joint Assembly. This standard protocol is to be observed by public speakers:

- (a) notice of the question should be given to the Democratic Services team at South Cambridgeshire District Council (as administering authority) by 10am the day at least three working days before the meeting;
- (b) questions should be limited to a maximum of 300 words
- (~~b~~c) questioners will not be permitted to raise the competence or performance of a member, officer or representative of any partner on the Joint Assembly, nor any matter involving exempt information (normally considered as 'confidential');
- (~~e~~d) questioners cannot make any abusive or defamatory comments;
- (~~e~~e) if any clarification of what the questioner has said is required, the Chairman will have the discretion to allow other Assembly members to ask questions;
- (~~e~~f) the questioner will not be permitted to participate in any subsequent discussion and will not be entitled to vote;
- (~~f~~g) the Chairman will decide when and what time will be set aside for questions depending on the amount of business on the agenda for the meeting. Normally questions will be received as the first substantive item of the meeting;



- (gh) individual questioners will be permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes;
- (hi) in the event of questions considered by the Chairman as duplicating one another, it may be necessary for a spokesperson to be nominated to put forward the question on behalf of other questioners. If a spokesperson cannot be nominated or agreed, the questioner of the first such question received will be entitled to put forward their question.
- (j) questions should relate to items that are on the agenda for discussion at the meeting in question. The Chairman will have the discretion to allow questions to be asked on other issues ~~if it is a pressing issue~~.



Appendix 2

**GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
STANDING ORDERS**

Relevant extracts only. Proposed additions to current Constitution underlined thus, deletions struck through ~~thus~~; new material rejected by Constitution and Ethics Committee in italics and struck through, ~~thus~~.

7. Notice of and summons to meetings

- 7.1 Notice will be given to the public of the time and place of any meeting of the Executive Board in accordance with the Access to Information rules of South Cambridgeshire District Council.
- 7.2 At least five clear working days before a meeting, a copy of the agenda and associated papers will be sent to every member of the Executive Board. Other than in exceptional circumstances this will take place ~~one week~~ five working days before the deadline for submission of public questions The agenda will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted, and will be accompanied by such details as are available.

11. Questions by the public and public speaking

At the discretion of the Chairman, members of the public may ask questions at meetings of the Executive Board. This standard protocol is to be observed by public speakers:

- (a) notice of the question should be given to the Democratic Services team at South Cambridgeshire District Council (as administering authority) by 10am the day at least three working days before the meeting;
- (b) questions should be limited to a maximum of 300 words
- (~~b~~c) questioners will not be permitted to raise the competence or performance of a member, officer or representative of any partner on the Executive Board, nor any matter involving exempt information (normally considered as 'confidential');
- (~~e~~d) questioners cannot make any abusive or defamatory comments;
- (~~e~~e) if any clarification of what the questioner has said is required, the Chairman will have the discretion to allow other Board members to ask questions;
- (~~e~~f) the questioner will not be permitted to participate in any subsequent discussion and will not be entitled to vote;
- (~~f~~g) the Chairman will decide when and what time will be set aside for questions depending on the amount of business on the agenda for the meeting. Normally questions will be received as the first substantive item of the meeting;



- (gh) individual questioners will be permitted to speak for a maximum of three minutes;
- (hi) in the event of questions considered by the Chairman as duplicating one another, it may be necessary for a spokesperson to be nominated to put forward the question on behalf of other questioners. If a spokesperson cannot be nominated or agreed, the questioner of the first such question received will be entitled to put forward their question.
- (j) questions should relate to items that are on the agenda for discussion at the meeting in question. The Chairman will have the discretion to allow questions to be asked on other issues ~~if it is a pressing issue~~.