



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE
Telephone: 01353 665555

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY ON THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2015** commencing at **6.00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business:

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** **[oral]**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes public question time
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **[oral]**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** **[oral]**
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct
- 4. MINUTES – 16 JULY AND 20 AUGUST 2015**
To confirm as a correct record
- 5. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[oral]**
- 6. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS (IF ANY)** **[oral]**
- 7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10** **[oral]**
 - (i)** This Council instructs the Deputy Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution as detailed below, specifically:-

Reference (Part 3 Page 50 Paragraph 5.5)

Delete “The Planning Manager or Director (Regulatory Services) shall decide whether to include the application on the Planning Committee agenda in consultation with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee”

PROPOSER: Councillor James Palmer

SECONDER: Councillor Charles Roberts

(ii) The Council:

1. Is deeply concerned about the shortage of affordable housing in East Cambridgeshire (1,029 people on the housing register as reported to Council on 21 April 2015).
2. Recognises that without sufficient affordable housing many lower income earners and young people will be forced to leave the countryside, putting local businesses and services under further threat of closure.

The Council notes:

- a) the Conservative Government's proposal to extend the Right to Buy to Housing Association tenants, to be paid for by selling off the most expensive Council Housing stock;
 - b) the research carried out by the National Housing Federation which shows that just 16% of the public believed that extending Right to Buy to housing association tenants would be the most useful way of tackling the affordability crisis, and that the public's top choice, selected by 46% of the people, was to help housing associations and/or councils to build more affordable homes; and
 - c) a report by the Financial Times on 14 June 2015 which shows that there could be a funding gap of over £1 billion to pay for the scheme.
3. The Council is concerned that the Government has:
- a) failed to address the situation for East Cambridgeshire and many other local authorities which no longer have any housing stock to sell as they have transferred theirs to housing associations;
 - b) failed to address the situation in areas of high housing demand , or rural areas, where there are often few suitable sites to build replacement social housing stock;
 - c) failed to recognise that this means housing associations will simply be trying to catch up with replacing homes rather than building affordable housing to give more people homes they need; and
 - d) the reduction of social rent by 1%, whilst beneficial to tenants in the short term, will cost the Council and Housing Associations. The

Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecasts that government cuts to social housing rents will cost local councils £2.6bn over the next five years, and estimates the funds could have been used to build 19,000 homes. The OBR says that social landlord rents in five years' time will be 12% lower than they had expected as a result of the changes, and that this could force some housing associations into insolvency and trigger writedowns of the value of their housing portfolios. Housing Associations locally have indicated that they may need to cut back on services such as debt advice.

4. The Council recognises the desire by many to own their own homes, and suggests that proposals for a "Rent to Own" model and Shared Ownership housing would represent a better way of reaching this goal.
5. The Council also notes that there are existing routes for housing association tenants to own their own properties – some Housing Association tenants already have the Right to Acquire.
6. The Council resolves to:
 - a) carry out a comprehensive assessment of housing need in every ward through a combination of housing needs surveys, analysis of waiting list data and other tools as appropriate
 - b) publish a housing action plan to show how this need will be addressed
 - c) repeat this process of housing needs assessments and action plans every three years
 - d) report the number of people on the housing register to each Full Council meeting
 - e) work with housing associations, developers and other 'interested parties' to find innovative ways to build more affordable homes and to begin to redress the chronic shortage;
 - f) work with housing associations to scope the impact, raise awareness and work together to mitigate the effect of rent and welfare changes;
 - g) ensure the Council's Trading Company purposes include a requirement to deliver at least 30% of affordable rented housing in all housing schemes it delivers or is a partner in delivering; and

- h) to ask the Leader to write to our Member of Parliament to asking them to:
 - i. come to East Cambridgeshire to meet with families on the housing waiting list to explain their decisions;
 - ii. speak up in Parliament for more social and affordable housing, and not less; and
 - iii. demand a genuine “one for one” replacement.

PROPOSER: Councillor Lorna Dupré

SECONDER: Councillor Sue Austen

- 8. **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS (IF ANY)** [oral]
- 9. **CRIME STATISTICS AND LOCAL POLICING ISSUES UPDATE**
To receive a presentation from Sergeant Jon Hiron
- 10. **SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES:**
 - a. **Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy**
 - b. **Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy**
 - c. **Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review**
 - d. **Single Member Vote at Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) Joint Committee**
- 11. **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW UPDATE AND STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
- 12. **DRAFT COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**
- 13. **APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**
- 14. **PROCUREMENT OF A DISTRICT LEISURE CENTRE**

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining agenda items no. 15 & 16 and because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 1 and 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

15. NEW DISTRICT LEISURE CENTRE – APPOINTMENT OF DESIGN TEAM AND SUB-CONSULTANTS

16. EXEMPT MINUTES – 16 JULY 2015

To receive and confirm as a correct record

J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

1. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you are visiting The Grange during normal office hours you should report to the main reception desk, where you will be asked to fill in a visitor's pass that must be worn at all times whilst you are in the building. Please remember to return your pass before you leave.

This will not apply if you come to an evening meeting: in this case you will enter via the rear access doors in the glass atrium at the back of the building and a Facilities Assistant will direct you to the room in which the meeting will take place.

The maximum capacity for meetings in the Council Chamber has been set by the Fire Officer at 100 persons. Allowing for Member/Officer attendance and room layout constraints, this will normally give a capacity for public attendance of 50 people. Admittance to the Council Chamber is on a "first come, first served" basis and public access will be from 15 minutes before the start time of the meeting.

There are a number of schemes aimed at encouraging public participation in the Council's activities and meetings. These include public question times and a process to enable petitions to be submitted. Details of these can be obtained by calling the telephone number as listed at the top of this agenda or by logging onto the Council's website.

Meetings of full Council are webcast and broadcast live to the internet via YouTube.

2. Fire instructions for meetings:
 - If the fire alarm sounds please make your way out of the building by the nearest available exit - i.e. the back staircase or the fire escape in the chamber. Do not to use the lifts.
 - The fire assembly point is in the front staff car park by the exit barrier.
 - This building has an auto-call system to the fire services, so there is no need for anyone to call the fire services.
 - The Committee Officer will sweep the area to ensure that everyone is out of this area.

3. Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked “oral”.
4. If required all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail:

translate@eastcambbs.gov.uk

5. If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

“That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”