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EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 17 JULY 2014
DECISION LIST

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	<p>The following question was asked by Mrs Jane Howell of Hillrow, Haddenham:</p> <p><u>Reference Agenda Item 8 – Notice of Motions under Procedure Rule 10</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Constitutional Amendments – Planning</u></p> <p>‘I note that these amendments have been drafted by the Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Q1: Would you please identify who the Deputy Monitoring Officer is and would you also confirm his or her legal qualifications? An authority such as this needs the best legal advice available particularly as you no longer have a Standards Committee. The amount of Planning activity, which is and will be going through East Cambs over the next 10 years, will require experienced and scrupulous monitoring.</p> <p>Items 8 (i) - (iii) are not clearly drafted and could be legally challenged.</p> <p>Q2: Re. Point (i) – Could you explain why</p>	-

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				<p>you found it necessary to add this amendment and under what circumstances it would be implemented?</p> <p>I would have thought that the Chief Executive and Leader have enough to do without arbitrating on Planning Committee Agendas.</p> <p>When a Member calls-in an application to be heard at committee it's usually to represent one of their constituent's interests.</p> <p>Q3: Re. Point (ii) On what possible basis would a Member feel the need to withdraw their support for their constituent and how many Members have expressed their desire to do so in the last year?</p> <p>Q4: What is the reason and purpose for removing the requirement that substitutes go on site visits?</p> <p>Surely it is essential that all Members of the Planning Committee are fully acquainted with the application in order to discuss and debate it fairly.</p> <p>The Chief Executive stated that he could respond to Q1. The Motion listed here from Members, related to a previous delegation given by full Council to the Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Deputy Monitoring Officer was Amanda Apcar who</p>	

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				<p>was a qualified Solicitor.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council, Councillor Palmer, responded to the overall questions by stating that the motion was to be debated in full by all Councillors at this meeting and Mrs Howell was very welcome to listen to the debate as a member of the public.</p>	
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	-	Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Griffin-Singh, Hobbs, Morris and Read.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	No declarations of interests were received.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 15 May 2014	-	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:</p> <p>Minute 16 ‘Annual Review – Corporate Priorities and Risk Register 2013/14’ – page 8 first paragraph: delete words ‘if he’ in second line.</p>	Democratic Services Officer
5.	-	Election Result – Soham South By-Election	To note the result of the Soham South By-Election held on 19 June 2014.	The Chairman welcomed Councillor Hamish Ross who had been elected as a Conservative District Councillor to the Soham South Ward following the By-	

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				<p>Election on 19 June 2014.</p> <p>Councillor Palmer expressed his pleasure as Leader at Cllr Ross' election and referred to the fact that there were now two recently elected Conservative Councillors.</p> <p>Members acknowledged Cllr Ross' election with a round of applause.</p>	
6.	-	Chairman's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	<p>The Chairman made the following announcements:</p> <p><u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND SUBMISSION – COUNCIL SIZE</u></p> <p>Members will recall that at the special Council meeting on 15 April 2014, Members approved the inclusion of the following points in a submission to be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to facilitate our inclusion in their electoral review programme from 2015/16 onwards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a revised Council size of a maximum of 27 Members; (ii) confirm the whole election cycle for future District elections; (iii) an implementation date of May 2019 for elections to the revised boundary arrangements; 	-

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				<p>The Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council now has completed the submission to the Boundary Commission in accordance with the above points, a copy of which has been circulated for Members information this evening.</p> <p><u>INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION</u></p> <p>At the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2014, Members received a report on Individual Electoral Registration (IER). The Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission now have produced a handy leaflet providing a guide for Members to IER, copies of which have been tabled this evening.</p>	
7.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	No petitions had been received.	-
8.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	<p>(a) <u>Constitutional Amendments - Planning</u></p> <p>The following Motion, as amended, was proposed by Cllr James Palmer and seconded by Cllr Josh Schumann:</p> <p>This Council instructs the Chief Executive and Deputy Monitoring</p>	On being put to the vote the motion was carried.	Chief Executive/ Principal Solicitor and Deputy MO

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			<p>Officer (under the authorisation given to them by Special Council on 15 April 2014 ref Agenda 6) to make the necessary constitutional amendments to ensure that:</p> <p>(i) In the event of amendments to the draft and published agenda of Planning Committee that the case officer is obliged to consult with the Chairman of Planning Committee and in the event of the Chairman disagreeing with the proposed action, that this matter is referred to the Chief Executive for final decision in consultation with the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>(ii) In the event of call-in from a Member to request that a planning decision be made by Planning Committee (ref 3(41/42) para 5.3 and 5.4), that there be a right to withdraw this request prior to the publication of the agenda.</p> <p>(iii) That the absolute requirement for a substitute member of the Planning Committee to attend a site visit before he/she can</p>		

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			<p>determine the application at Committee be removed.</p> <p>(b) <u>Employee Pay Protection</u></p> <p>The following Motion was proposed by Cllr Gareth Wilson and seconded by Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith:</p> <p>This Council feels that changing the redundancy rules while in the middle of a redundancy process is morally wrong and we wish ECDC to be regarded as a good employer.</p> <p>We therefore instruct the Chief Executive to retain our existing policy for pay protection arrangements to two years for those staff who have accepted a reduction in their salary with changed conditions of employment in the restructuring set of proposals that have been introduced. Reducing the period from two years to one year is a fundamental change in our employment policy and it should have been discussed by all Members at a full Council Meeting and agreed before the redundancy procedure was started.</p>	<p>On being put to the vote the motion was lost.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>

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			This will have no effect on this year's budget and only a relatively small effect on next year's budget figures.		
9.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	There were no questions from Members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.2.	
10.	-	Political Proportionality & Membership of Committees & Sub-Committees	To receive a report giving details of the revised political balance of the Council and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees arising from the result of the Soham South By-Election on 19 June 2014.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the details of the revised political balance of the Council, as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, be noted. 2. That in accordance with the ceding and gaining of places agreed by Group Leaders in accordance with the revised proportionality calculations, the following changes be made to the membership of Committees and Sub-Committees, etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative Group – Councillor Alderson to be appointed to Commercial Services Committee and Councillor Ross to be appointed to Corporate Governance and Finance Committee. Independent Group – Councillor Read to be removed from Corporate Governance and Finance Committee and Councillor Fordham to be appointed to Licensing Committee. 	