

Lewes District Council



Council Agenda

28 September 2011

Lewes House, Lewes
16 September 2011

Jenny Rowlands
Chief Executive

Lewes District Council



Council Meeting

Councillors are kindly requested to switch off their mobile 'phones and other mobile devices prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Note: At the commencement of the meeting the Chair will ask for a period of silence to enable councillors to focus their thoughts on the meeting or to pray silently.

13 September 2011

To: The Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 28 September 2011 at 14:30 in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes, when it is proposed to transact the following business:

Please note that a presentation will be made to Councillors in the Chamber by representatives of 3VA at 2.00pm, prior to the commencement of the Council Meeting. 3VA supports voluntary action across the District as well as in Eastbourne and Wealden.

1 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 20 July 2011 (copy previously circulated).

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards

the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct

4 Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.

A list of the Chair of the Council's engagements since the Meeting of the Council on 20 July 2011 is enclosed together with a Report relating to the 69th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe Commemoration which was held on 18 and 19 August 2011.

Attached Documents:

[Announcements - Chair of the Council's engagements since the Meeting of the Council on 20 July 2011](#)

[Announcements - Report relating to the 69th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe Commemoration which was held on 18 and 19 August 2011](#)

5 Questions from Members of the Public

To deal with questions which members of the public may wish to put to members of the Cabinet in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (if any).

Attached Documents:

[Questions from Members of the Public](#)

6 Petitions

To receive petitions from councillors or members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12 (if any).

7 Written Questions from Councillors

To deal with written questions which councillors may wish to put to the Chair of the Council, a Lead Councillor on the Cabinet or the Chair of any committee or sub-committee in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11 (if any).

8 Ward Issues

To deal with ward issues which councillors wish to raise. A councillor wishing to raise a ward issue must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.8 (if any).

9 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Lead Councillors

In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, to receive details of any urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Lead Councillors since the Meeting of the Council on 20 July 2011.

10 Recommendations from Cabinet

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 September 2011 (Minute Extracts herewith) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

Attached Documents:

11 Notices of Motion

(a) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor Butler has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“This Council believes that:

1. Democracy and accountability are important concepts in order to gain public trust in the decision making in the Lewes District.
2. Residents should be able to refer to and view council meetings through the use of audio visual equipment. This would enable access to Council proceedings by residents who for various reasons did not attend the meeting.
3. Conduct of members of the council will be positively affected by the knowledge that footage is in the public domain.
4. Recordings of Council proceedings could assist for future reference in case of any subsequent requirement e.g. to assist in the investigation of a complaint or other enquiry.

This Council resolves:

5. To investigate the possibility of video and audio recording public meetings and making them available online within 48 hours.

6. To allow its public meetings in public places to be recorded, provided that anyone wishing to record them complies with their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 to make recordings for personal or journalistic use and does not disrupt the effective discharge of the meeting.

7. For a Report to be made to Cabinet on costs, staffing resources and options of managing the system.

Conditional upon a favourable report on costings.

8. Request that the Head of Democratic Services and Corporate Head - Legal &

Democratic Services produce a Public Meeting Filming Guidance Procedure to be included in the Council's Constitution for such matters, and that the Corporate Head - Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

9. To request the Head of Democratic Services and Corporate Head - Legal & Democratic Services to make all necessary arrangements for the publication of signs, guidance for chairman, etc to ensure the Council can balance the interests of residents at meetings and those who are filming.”

(b) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor Gardiner has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“This Council agrees:

i) to set aside a tenth of its income from the New Homes Bonus and for this to be available to the appropriate Parish and Town Councils in which each new home is built with the expectation that this money would be spent as determined by the appropriate Town or Parish Council

a) within the Town or Parish in which the New Homes Bonus accrues,
and

b) within the period over which the New Homes Bonus accrues (currently six years)

unless some special arrangement has been agreed with LDC Finance Officers to meet special or specific needs;

ii) to set up procedures and systems for this to happen to funds beginning with new housing built in 2009/2010 for which a New Homes Bonus exists;

iii) to allow this money to be used only

to implement items in a Town or Village Plan

or

to enhance community infrastructure,

or

To allow a Town or Parish to undertake a referendum under a Neighbourhood Planning scheme.”

(c) In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 Councillor Osborne has submitted the following Notice of Motion:

“Cuts to school transport for children

Council notes:

1. Plans by county councils and other local education authorities across Britain to scrap free school transport for children and reduce provision to the very minimum required by statute.

2. The current statutory minimum means that councils can deny school transport to children living up to 3 miles (or 2 miles if the child is under 8 or receiving free school meals) from their “nearest appropriate school” even if:

a) The route involves walking on roads that many people would not consider safe to walk such as those that are unlit with no pavements or step offs, with 60mph speed limits and used by heavy commercial traffic.

b) The “nearest appropriate” school in fact has no place for that child; or

c) The child has chosen to attend a different school for a good reason.

3. These cuts will be devastating to many families and cause special difficulty for families with low incomes, families in rural areas, and families where both parents work, families with children who attend different schools, single parents and families where parents or guardians of children are older people.

4. Removal of free school transport, provided in many counties and boroughs in the form of free school buses, is likely to lead to more cars on the road and congestion, which is bad for the environment and bad for local businesses.

5. Many working parents depend on school transport and will not be able to work if they have to walk their children an hour to school and an hour home again before being available to work and do the same at school closing time.

6. Many working parents/carers with access to a car will still face the difficult choice between giving up their job or sending their children to walk alone, routes that are only assessed as 'safe when accompanied by a responsible adult' by the Council.

7. A local authority school bus transporting 50 children is typically much cheaper and safer than 50 children making journeys by car or foot.

8. Some Councils plan to retain free transport only for pupils on free school meals and this will advertise which pupils receive this support, which many schools currently try to be discreet about to avoid stigma.

9. In East Sussex County Council's new Local Transport Plan it outlines a list of specific objectives that include 'reduce congestion by improving the efficiency of the transport network and encouraging greater use of sustainable modes of transport', 'improve safety for vulnerable road users', and 'improve access to jobs, services and leisure'. ESCC's plans for school buses damage all of these objectives.

10. Rural villages, which in many ways offer a good place to raise children, will become practical no-go areas for some families if school transport is scrapped.

11. The campaign to stop these cuts has received widespread support from, community leaders, unions and charities including The National Union of Teachers, Child Poverty Action Group, Child Accident Prevention Trust, Gingerbread and The Grandparents Association.

Council resolves that:

1. Every child deserves to get to and from school safely .
2. A child's access to their school should not depend on whether their parents' economic circumstances permit it.
3. The proposed cut back in East Sussex would negatively affect the County Council's ability to meet many of its objectives in its new Local Transport Plan.
4. Councils' needs to make cuts should not be met by passing on greater costs to taxpayers, especially not to working parents.
5. Pupils on free school meals should be protected from stigma.

Council calls for:

East Sussex County Council to incorporate plans to retain such services into their new Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which is currently undergoing consultation. This would better enable them to achieve many of their specific objectives, as well as high level objectives like 'Improve accessibility and enhance social inclusion'."

12 Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2010/11 and Work Programme 2011/12

To consider the Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee,
Councillor S Osborne.

Attached Documents:

- 13 Timing of Full Council and Cabinet Meetings from 2012/2013**
To consider the Report of the Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services.
- 14 Meeting of the Council – 20 February 2012**
To consider holding the Meeting of the Council scheduled for Monday, 20 February 2012, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne’s Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE, commencing at 2.30pm.

Jenny Rowlands
Chief Executive

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda, please contact Catherine Knight at Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2LX. Telephone 01273 484118.