

Lewes District Council



Council Agenda

20 February 2012

The venue for this meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.

Lewes House, Lewes
7 February 2012

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.

7 February 2012

To: The Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 20 February 2012 at 14:30 in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, when it is proposed to transact the following business:

(Please note the change from the usual venue).

1 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 6 December 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 6 December 2011 is enclosed.

Attached Documents:

[Chair of the Council's Engagements](#)

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).

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 Cabinet Members

In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17, to receive details of any urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Meeting of the Council on 6 December 2011.

10 Recommendations from Cabinet

To consider the Recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet held on 5 January 2012 (Minute Extracts herewith) and 8 February 2012 (Minute Extracts herewith) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

(i) To consider the Recommendations on the financial matters leading up to the setting of the Council Tax;

(ii) To consider and, if thought appropriate, adopt a formal resolution for the Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2013 (Report herewith); and

(iii) To consider the remaining recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet.

Attached Documents:

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 5 January 2012](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 8 February 2012](#)

[Setting the Council Tax - Report](#)

[Setting the Council Tax - Appendices A to E](#)

[Setting the Council Tax - Appendix F](#)

11 Notices of Motion

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

“This Council notes the Communities and Local Government Committee's report into the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published on Wednesday, 21st December 2011. It notes the report is very sympathetic to the arguments put forward by the Local Government Association in its lobbying work and by Liberal Democrats both inside and outside Parliament.

In particular this council notes that there is positive support from the Committee for calls for reform in the following areas:

Sustainable Development

- That the final NPPF must provide a better balance between economic, environmental and social issues so that elected councillors can decide weighting and trade offs between priorities at local level;

- It also suggests any implication of a default "yes" to development should be removed from the NPPF and clarified by saying that local authorities should be encouraged to define sustainable development in line with the

Local Plan;

- Very significantly, the committee suggests that the presumption in favour of sustainable development should be redefined as 'a presumption in favour of sustainable development consistent with the Local Plan'.

Definition of Viability

- The Committee agree with the LGA that the approach to economic 'viability' in the draft NPPF must make "clear that calculations of viability presuppose requirements to provide infrastructure and other measures necessary to the development, not simply returns deemed acceptable by the developer."

Transition Arrangements

- Committee supports the LGA assertion that councils must have adequate time to get sensible plans and new evidence bases underpinning them in place
- Committee explicitly recommend that the Government establish a timetable for a transition period in consultation with local government.

Statutory status of the local plan

- Recommend that the NPPF unambiguously reflect the statutory supremacy of local plans, in accordance with the 2004 Planning Act.

Council calls for these recommendations to be strongly supported, and for the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government as a matter of urgency asking for the Government to take these on board.”

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

“In support of a waste reduction campaign, spearheaded by local residents and our Recycling and Sustainability Officer, a report was submitted to Cabinet in 2009 supporting a policy for Reducing Plastic Bag Usage in the Lewes District. Many residents, small local businesses, town and parish councils have given their support. This Motion is intended to strengthen our active role in reducing single-use plastic bags in our District.

This administration strongly support a policy of reducing waste and wishes to help find solutions that encourage retailers and, in particular, large retailers to demonstrate their corporate and social responsibilities. It would be admirable if retailers involved in proposals for large, new retail developments in Lewes District could headline their support in a very practical way.

This motion proposes to find an accommodation between the Council – existing and future retailers as to how best a reduction in single-use bags can be achieved. The Council has no power to insist, but finding local solutions wherever practicable better serve the wishes of our local communities.

This Council resolves that:

1. The Council will encourage all retailers in the Lewes District to consider actively reducing single-use plastic bags and introduce the use of reusable bags to support the sustainability credentials in our District.

2. The Council commends action to reduce the discard of single-use plastic bags by large retailers, set out at the time they apply for planning permission.”

12 Pay Policy Statement

To consider the joint Report of the Corporate Head – Internal Services and the Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services (Report herewith).

Attached Documents:

[Pay Policy Statement - Report](#)

[Pay Policy Statement - Appendix](#)

13 Town/Parish Councillors to Serve on the Standards Committee

To note that the Sussex Association of Local Councils has nominated Councillors Kathy Baker (Plumpton Parish Council), Councillor Don McBeth (Ditchling Parish Council) and Councillor Candida Terry (Peacehaven Town Council), to serve on the Standards Committee.

14 Announcement from the Leader of the Council – Councillor Nicholson

To receive an announcement from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson.

15 Election of Leader of the Council

To elect the Leader of the Council (who will be the Chair of the Cabinet).

16 Announcement by the new Leader of the Council

To receive an announcement by the new Leader of the Council (if any).

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.