

Lewes District Council



**Council Agenda
for the
Annual Meeting of the
Council
to be held on
9 May 2012**

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

Lewes House, Lewes
1 May 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.

01 May 2012

To: The Members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of **the Council** on 09 May 2012 at 14:30 in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes, when it is proposed to transact the following business:

1 Election of the Chair of the Council

The name(s) of the councillor(s) who have been nominated for the office of Chair of the Council will be reported at the meeting.

Following the election of the Chair of the Council, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, the person

elected to be Chair of the Council shall make a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form, before the Chief Executive.

2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council

The name(s) of the councillor(s) who have been nominated for the office of Vice-Chair of the Council will be reported at the meeting.

Following the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, the person appointed to be Vice-Chair of the Council shall make a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form, before the Chief Executive.

3 Minutes

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 February 2012 (copy previously circulated).

4 Apologies for Absence

5 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

6 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 February 2012 is enclosed.

Attached Documents:

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

7 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).

8 Petitions

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

9 Written Questions from Councillors

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

10 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).

11 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 20 February 2012.

12 Recommendations from Cabinet

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14 March 2012 (Minute Extract herewith) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

13 Appointments

(a) To note the Leader of the Council's appointments to Cabinet (in addition to the Leader) and to note their individual areas of responsibility (Report herewith).

(b) To consider proposals for the appointment of members and Chairs of Committees and other bodies (Report herewith).

(c) To consider proposals for the appointment of members to serve on outside and joint bodies (Report herewith).

Attached Documents:

[Appointments 2012/13 - Report](#)

[Appointments 2012/13 - Appendix A](#)

[Appointments 2012/13 - Appendix B](#)

[Appointments - Appointments of Representatives to Serve on Outside and Joint Bodies 2012/13](#)

14 Recommendations of the Standards Committee

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

Attached Documents:

[Local Standards Framework and Code of Conduct for Councillors - Report](#)

[Local Standards Framework and Code of Conduct for Councillors - Appendix 1](#)

15 Substitute Members

To appoint all members of the Council to the “approved list” of members appointed to act as substitute members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.

16 Notices of Motion

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

“Council notes:

The road accident rate in East Sussex is still far too high with the County falling short of the Government's national road safety target of a 40% reduction from the average. In 2009 the number of people killed or seriously injured in the county was 373, including 32 children, with a further 1685 people sustaining slight injuries.

A survey of East Sussex residents in 2009, concluded that road safety was the most important issue for any new transport strategy to address.

The Community Safety Partnership, of which Lewes District Council is a key partner, has as one of its main priorities the reduction in the volume of traffic collisions as well as the reduction in killed and seriously injured on our roads.

In Lewes, the 'Living Streets Lewes' organisations have collected 1,500 signatures on a petition calling for 20mph limits for the whole of the town.

It is worth highlighting a couple of key statistics that support the need for more 20mph zones:

- Excessive speed is one of the biggest contributory factors in KSI crashes. More than half of road deaths and serious injuries occur on roads with 30 mph limits.(Transport Statistics for Great Britain).
- Britain has the highest percentage of pedestrian road fatalities in Europe 22.5%. (EU European Road Safety Observatory)

The Department for Transport estimates that the average cost per seriously injured casualty on the roads is **£178,160** and that the average cost per fatality is **£1,585,510**.

Speed limits on Britain's urban roads are 60% higher than Europe. (30 mph compared to 18.6 mph) Britain has one of the lowest levels of children walking or cycling to school in Europe. British parents consistently cite traffic speed as the main reason why their children are not allowed to cycle or walk to school.

Already 7m residents who live in towns and villages are adopting or have adopted this policy including Portsmouth, Oxford, Lancashire, Brighton & Hove, Bath and North East Somerset.

Wiltshire County Council are piloting 20mph speed limits and reduction in the speed limits on the surrounding rural roads in six of its villages.

New guidelines from the Department for Transport have relaxed requirements for 20 mph limits in residential areas. It is no longer mandatory to impose physical measures such as bumps. This has significantly reduced the cost and complexity of introducing 20mph limits.

In Portsmouth the 20mph limit on all residential roads has reduced casualties by 22% drop in collisions and at a cost of only £333 per street. Oxford spent £300,000 (£2 per head). The "value" of fewer casualties from an area-wide 20mph limit has given a First Year Rate of Return of over 800%.

The introduction of 20mph speed limits is supported by NICE, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, who recommend 20 mph limits where children and young people are likely to be.

Council resolves that:

The residents of Lewes District have a right to the benefit from 20mph limits in residential areas. These include:

Fewer casualties - Lowering urban and residential speed limits to 20 mph has been found to decrease child pedestrian accidents by up to 70% (Transport Research Laboratory). In Portsmouth, drivers had 23% fewer and passengers 31% fewer after 2 years of wide area 20 mph limits. Elderly drivers had 50% fewer injuries and 40% fewer injured passengers.

Popularity - 71% of drivers support 20 mph speed limits on residential streets. (British Social Attitudes Survey 2011)

Pollution, Climate Change and Air Quality - When 30 km/h (18.5 mph) zones were introduced in Germany, car drivers on average changed gear 12% less often, braked 14% less often and required 12% less fuel.

Health Improvements - Reduced local emissions, improved air quality and increased likelihood of a shift to active modes of transport like walking or cycling. Slowing speeds from 30mph to 20 mph has been shown to increase levels of cycling by 12%

Better Quality of Life and Reduced Inequalities - Slower speeds benefit large numbers of non-car users, reducing noise and allowing better urban design standards for quality places. Those currently suffering the greatest inequalities tend to live nearer to busy roads and therefore benefit more from 20mph limits. 20 mph reduces health inequalities by extending the life expectancy of disadvantaged people.

Less Congestion - At 20 mph more cars occupy the same road space due to shorter gaps between them relative to 30 mph, easing traffic 'flow'. Junctions are more efficient as drivers can merge into shorter gaps. Less risk encourages sustainable travel and public transport.

Easier parking – As people feel safer, more will walk or cycle in towns and villages and there will be fewer car trips, freeing up road space and parking for those that have to drive.

Cleaner air quality - especially benefits motorists. They breathe in-car air, which is three times more polluted than at the pavement. Standing traffic, which produces unnecessary fumes, reduces as traffic flow becomes smoother. Less fuel is burnt due to less acceleration and the transfer of some trips away from cars towards walking, cycling and public transport.

Motoring costs drop. As crashes fall in severity and frequency, so do legal and repair bills. This will be reflected in motor insurance premiums dropping in 20 mph limit postcodes.

Repair bills fall. Vehicles maintain value from fewer crashes, less brake and tyre wear.

Stress reduces as drivers have more time to see and react to hazards. Fewer road rage incidents occur due to more considerate driving styles, including less dangerous overtaking and it is easier to pull out. With casualties down by 22% some drivers will suffer less emotional trauma and anxiety from their part in liability for crashes. Noise also reduces.

Less parents' taxi duty. Road danger reduction brings safer independent

child travel, improves their life skills, and frees up parents for more productive activities than driving.

Society benefits. Fewer road victims frees up facilities for other health needs. Fewer workdays are lost. Widow, disability benefit and care savings. Active travel cuts obesity and heart disease. Inequalities reduce as fewer children die. Quality of life rises. Fewer potholes.

Council calls for:

Lewes District Council requests that East Sussex County Council urgently assesses the feasibility of introducing 20mph limits on residential roads in the towns and villages of Lewes District. The Council understands that some roads are not appropriate for 20mph limits, in particular major trunk roads and arterial routes. However, the Council is convinced of the immediate need to introduce 20mph limits where feasible to yield the substantial benefits to local residents outlined above”.

17 The Draft Council Plan 2012/13

To consider the Report of the Chief Executive (Report herewith).

Attached Documents:

[The Draft Council Plan 2012/13](#)

18 Structure of Full Council Meetings at Lewes District Council

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

Attached Documents:

[Structure of Full Council Meetings at Lewes District Council](#)

19 Updates to Constitution: Key Decisions, Chair of the Council and Financial Procedure Rules

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

Attached Documents:

[Updates to Constitution: Key Decisions, Chair of the Council and Financial Procedure Rules - Report](#)

[Updates to Constitution: Key Decisions, Chair of the Council and Financial Procedure Rules - Appendices A, B and C](#)

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.