

# **Lewes District Council**



## **Council Agenda**

### **5 December 2012**

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

Lewes House, Lewes  
23 November 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.

23 November 2012

**To: The Members of the Council**

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 05 December 2012 at 14:30 in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes when it is proposed to transact the following business:

**1 Minutes**

To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 17 October 2012 (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 17 October 2012 is enclosed.

Attached Documents:

**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 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

To deal with questions (if any) which councillors may wish to put to the Leader of the Council. It will be at the Leader's discretion to re-direct questions to relevant Members of the Cabinet.

A councillor wishing to raise a question must notify the Chair of the Council of the text of the question prior to the commencement of the meeting.

*(NB This item is being conducted on a trial basis and will be limited to a maximum of 5 questions, with no more than 1 question being asked per councillor. If a question requires a detailed or technical response, the Leader may decide that a written response is more appropriate).*

**9 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).

**10 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 17 October 2012.

**11 Recommendations from Cabinet**

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 November 2012 (Minute Extracts to be circulated) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

**Attached Documents:**

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 20 November 2012](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Document that was circulated at the Cabinet meeting on 20 November 2012 relating to the Lewes](#)

[District Local Plan – Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Document that was circulated at the Council Meeting on 5 December 2012 relating to the Lewes](#)

[District Local Plan – Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document](#)

**12 Notices of Motion**

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

**Planning and housing**

“This Council wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note the following:

Lewes District Council believes that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make;

Lewes District Council opposes:

The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications.

The Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission to only be needed for extensions from the rear wall of any home reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others (currently planning permission is required for extensions of more than 3 metres for attached houses and or 4

metres for detached houses

The Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to immediately appeal to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme with which they may be concerned.

The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.

This Council notes that the current Coalition government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, and so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the cross-party LGA;

This council however welcomes other parts of the stimulus package including:

£300 million to provide 15,000 affordable homes across the country

An extension of the refurbishment programme to bring an extra 5,000 empty homes back into use

£280m for FirstBuy, the shared equity scheme to give a further 16,500 first time buyers the chance to own their own homes

Up to £10bn of guarantees to housing associations, property management companies and developers which will be able to use the guarantees to secure lower borrowing costs. This will lead to hundreds of thousands of extra rental homes being built.

This council also notes the following facts:

the record of Government from 1979 to 1997 during which 1.1 million social homes were lost, through a failure to invest in replacements of right-to-buy sales. In 1997 one million families were on social housing waiting lists.

the record of the previous Labour government on providing affordable social housing – and that during their 13 years in power, the social housing stock fell by another 420,000 houses, as Labour continually failed to build more homes than they were selling off. In the meantime, social housing waiting list soared to almost 1.8million, a rise of 741,000 families.

This council resolves to formally write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, outlining this council's opposition to the plans."

**13 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies**

To receive feedback from the Council's representatives who serve on outside bodies in respect of meetings they have attended (if any). A councillor wishing to provide feedback must notify the Chair of the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

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.