

# **Lewes District Council**



## **Council Agenda**

### **16 October 2013**

Southover House, Lewes  
4 October 2013

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.

4 October 2013

**To: The Members of the Council**

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 16 October 2013 at 14:30 in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, 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 18 July 2013 (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 18 July 2013 is enclosed - Appendix A.

**Attached Documents:**

[Announcements - Chair'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).

**Attached Documents:**

[Written Questions from Councillors - Question from Councillor O'Keeffe](#)

[Written Questions from Councillors - Briefing Note ref Question from Councillor O'Keeffe](#)

[Written Questions from Councillors - Projects Timetable ref Question from Councillor O'Keeffe](#)

[Written Questions from Councillors - List of Projects ref Question from Councillor O'Keeffe](#)

**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 question prior to the commencement of the meeting.

*(NB This item is 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 18 July 2013.

**11 Recommendations from Cabinet**

To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30

September 2013 (Minute Extracts to be circulated - if any) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

**12 Updates to Constitution: Responsibility for Functions and Localism Act 2011 Duties**

To consider the Report of the Corporate Head – Legal and Democratic Services

**Attached Documents:**

[Updates to Constitution: Responsibility for Functions and Localism Act 2011 Duties - Report](#)

[Updates to Constitution: Responsibility for Functions and Localism Act 2011 Duties - Appendix A](#)

[Updates to Constitution: Responsibility for Functions and Localism Act 2011 Duties - Appendix B](#)

**13 Representative on Outside Body - Joint Portfolio Holders Strategic Planning Group**

To confirm that Councillor Tom Jones has been appointed as the Council's representative on the Joint Portfolio Holders Strategic Planning Group, which is a new outside body.

**14 Notices of Motion**

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

**“Background:**

In the last 10 years, 57 people have died in fires in buildings in East Sussex, 8 of those in the Lewes District. All of these were potentially preventable if sprinklers had been installed in the building.

Fire sprinklers save lives, prevent injuries and reduce damage to buildings. In short, they reduce the impact of fire in all respects. Sprinklers are inexpensive to install and are unobtrusive. Only those sprinklers close to the fire will operate and extinguish the fire. Rehousing is avoided and repairs are much quicker and considerably less expensive than if the fire had been allowed to grow and spread. Installing a sprinkler is like having a firefighter in every room.

It is often the less obvious impacts of fire that cause the most destruction to people's lives. Buildings can be rebuilt but in just a few minutes, a lifetime's accumulation of

irreplaceable personal possessions may be destroyed. Childhood memories, photographs, contracts, certificates...

Sprinklers typically use 60 litres of water per minute to control a fire. This is between 1/25th and 1/100th of the water used by each fire service hose. In fact, sprinklers use even less water than this because they tackle the fire immediately, when it is still small. Smaller fires need much less water to control them. Houses which suffer major fires are seldom able to be lived in afterwards and are often demolished. Rooms protected by domestic sprinklers can usually be back in use within a few hours, and the rest of the house is usually unaffected

When a business suffers a fire, it is widely recognised that 85% of those businesses will never recover or will cease trading within 18 months. Sprinklers can protect a business and allow them to prosper. They protect firefighters, safeguard our heritage and reduce damage to the environment.

Sprinklers can also be used to compensate for a reduction in other fire safety features when a building is being designed. This creates greater design flexibilities for the design team. For example, if a building is sprinklered, it may be possible to reduce the number of staircases or extend the distance that people can travel to escape. The approximate cost of installing a domestic sprinkler in a new build 3-bedroom property is £1,500. In comparison, the cost of installing fire protection measures to meet Building Regulations is around £1,200 (fire doors, compartment wall etc.).

Domestic sprinklers are not expensive, costing typically less than 2% of the cost of an average new house, or about the cost of carpeting a house, and are designed to last at least 50 years.

**Myths Squashed!**

- x Sprinklers do not 'false alarm' – they will only operate if there is an actual fire
- x Only the sprinkler heads directly affected by the fire are triggered (normally four or less) – not the whole building, as often depicted in the movies
- x The odds of winning the lottery are greater than the 16 million to one chance of a sprinkler malfunction – they are extremely reliable

### **Motion 1: Fire Sprinklers in New Council Buildings**

Proposed By: Cllr Carolyn Lambert

Seconded By: Cllr Tom Jones

The Motion:

That Lewes District Council commits to install fire sprinklers in all new-build Council-owned buildings.

That should finances allow, Lewes District Council would consider installing domestic sprinkler systems in refurbished homes owned by the District Council where these are occupied by people with restricted mobility.

That this council will also actively promote the use of fire sprinklers and encourage

others to install them into any building where they are not otherwise required to be installed by Building Regulations or council Planning rules.”

**15 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 Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1AB. Telephone: 01273 484332.