

# **Lewes District Council**



## **Council Agenda**

### **26 February 2014**

14 February 2014

Chief Executive

**Lewes District Council**



## Council Meeting

*(Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Councillors are invited to attend a presentation by STEPS which is an organisation that supports people aged 65 or over to stay living independently. STEPS can visit people at home and help them work out what support they need. The presentation will be held in the Council Chamber commencing at 1.45pm and is scheduled to last for 30 minutes).*

*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.

14 February 2014

### **To: The Members of the Council**

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of **the Council** on 26 February 2014 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 4 December 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 4 December 2013 is enclosed.

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).

**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 4 December 2013.

**11 Recorded Vote on Budget and Council Tax Setting**

To adopt the proposed change to the Council's Procedure Rules (Constitution, Part 4) to require mandatory recorded named votes on setting the annual budget and council tax, in accordance with the new legislative requirements, to read as follows:

***“Recorded Vote on Budget and Council Tax setting***

*This is a mandatory standing order under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014*

*Immediately after a vote is taken on any decision relating to the budget or council tax, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and entered into the minutes.”*

**12 Recommendations from Cabinet**

(i) To note that the Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2013 relating to City Deal (Wave 2), was no longer to be considered by the Council as the requirement to create a joint committee in respect of the Deal, as referred to in that Recommendation, had subsequently been superseded by the anticipated Recommendation of the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 February 2014 to establish the Greater Brighton Economic Board. The text of the Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2013 is reproduced below for information:

*“That a joint committee be created under section 102(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of the second wave of City Deals, as detailed in Report No 152/13.”*

(ii) To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 January 2014 (Minute Extracts herewith) (and to receive questions and answers on those Recommendations) and to make resolutions thereon.

(iii) To consider the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2014 in respect of the financial matters leading up to the setting of the Council Tax (Minute Extracts herewith), together with the amendments to the budget proposed by Councillors Osborne and Gardiner (herewith);

(iv) To consider and, if thought appropriate, adopt a formal resolution for the Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2015 (Report herewith); and

(v) To consider the remaining recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2014.

**Attached Documents:**

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 6 January 2014](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - 13 February 2014](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Proposed amendments to the budget from Councillors Osborne and Gardiner](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Setting the Council Tax Report](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Setting the Council Tax Appendices A to F](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Setting the Council Tax Appendix G](#)

[Recommendations from Cabinet - Setting the Council Tax - revised Appendices D, E, F and G, as circulated at the Council meeting](#)

## **13 Pay Policy Statement**

To consider the Report of the Director of Corporate Services (herewith).

**Attached Documents:**

[Pay Policy Statement - Report](#)

[Pay Policy Statement - Appendix A](#)

## **14 Notices of Motion**

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

**“GREEN WASTE COLLECTION**

East Sussex County Council Cabinet took the decision at their meeting on 28 January 2014 to close the Seaford Household Waste Re-cycling Site four days a week.

The decision was made on financial grounds despite intense public opposition, including the presentation of a petition signed by over 10,000 residents.

Concerns raised by residents included the probability of huge queues at both Newhaven and Seaford Household Waste Sites, additional fly tipping, environmental costs of increased pollution not to mention additional wear and tear on the County's roads.

There is particular concern about the impact on Newhaven, which perhaps can now be described as the Rubbish Capital of East Sussex.

### **Notice of Motion**

Given the concerns outlined above, this Notice of Motion proposes that Lewes District Council institute a green waste collection for Seaford to take effect from the date of the proposed closure of the tip four days a week."

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

## **“CHARGING OF CAR PARKING FEES IN OFF ROAD CAR PARKS ACROSS LEWES DISTRICT**

It is widely acknowledged that despite a small upturn in the general economy of this country, household budgets are increasingly being squeezed by the cost of living crisis. According to the Office for National Statistics, in real terms, wages peaked in 2009 and have not recovered since.

As a council, we have a duty to support the local economy in any way that we can. We have recognised the need for Newhaven to be nurtured in particular, but shops on Lewes high street also remain empty, and at the top end of town a number of shop fronts have been converted to residential use over the last few years. Unfortunately our options are limited. We cannot set local business rates, for example. One of the options that *is* open to us is the removal of car parking charges, encouraging people to visit our towns and engage with local businesses.

The government has recognised the negative relationship between car parking charges and high street revenue. In a document entitled *High Streets at the Heart of Our Communities – the Government’s Response to the Mary Portas Review* by the Department of Communities and Local Government, recommendation #9 was: “Local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres and we should have a new parking league table.” (p12)

And in its evidence to the Transport Committee in March 2013, the Department of Transport said “The Government recognises that parking charges can have a real impact on the success of the high street. We encourage local authorities to look closely at their parking provisions and charges, ensuring they deliver the best outcomes locally. To this end,



Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government have ... changed a policy inhibiting competition between council areas to one which says parking charges should not undermine the vitality of town centres.”

The purpose of charging for car parking is not to eliminate congestion – only double yellow lines can do that. Rather, it is to regulate traffic and ensure that commuters don't clog up parking spaces. But there are other ways to achieve the same outcome. Simply time limiting the car parks will have the same effect. Indeed, our car parks are already time limited according to proximity to the town centre. This is a much more effective way of ensuring that car parking spaces turn over regularly, whilst still encouraging people to visit our towns.

It also has the added effect of levelling the playing field between small retailers in our towns and the larger corporate retailers. Currently, the only free parking to be found in Lewes is at the supermarkets. Although some people may use the supermarkets' car parks without shopping in store, the overall effect is inevitably that trade is pulled away from the high street, and into those supermarkets.

The current scheme is also deeply unpopular. Since the introduction of car parking charges in Lewes town, over 200 acts of vandalism have been carried out on payment machines, and time and time again the people of the District have voiced their opposition to our current payments system in surveys and petitions. It is our role as councillors to listen to the people of Lewes District.

As stated above, the government wishes to see competition between local authorities on car parking charges. Our direct neighbour, Wealden District Council, does not charge for parking in its (approximately) 2,500 spaces across 42 car parks. Instead, they have a team of three Community Officers, one part time admin post, and 40% of a Senior Officer post regulating car parking, which is time limited. Penalties for over-staying recoup some of the

costs, and are issued using an in-house system.

Although some revenue will continue to come in in the form of fines for overstaying in time limited car parks, I have purposely not set out a study of the costs of this scheme, and how they can be recuperated. That is up to our cabinet members to decide, should this motion be passed. Rather, this motion is intended to be a statement of intent: that this council will prioritise making car parking free across Lewes District.

Therefore I propose the following motion:

a) That this council commit to ending all charges for off-road car-parking across Lewes District by the end of this Council Term, that is, by May 2015.

b) That the car parks in the District which had their maximum stay reduced from 72 hours reduced to 10 or 24 hours in 2012, be restored to a 72 hour maximum stay.

c) That this council write to East Sussex County Council to ask them to consider either abolishing on-road car parking charges, or, at the very least, making the first hour of parking free on-road.”

**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.

**16 Announcement from the Leader of the Council – Councillor Page**

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

**17 Election of Leader of the Council**

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

**18 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 Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1AB. Telephone (01273) 484332.