



## Cambridge City Council

### CIVIC AFFAIRS

**To: Committee Members:** Councillors Boyce (Chair), Rosenstiel (Vice-Chair), Marchant-Daisley, Herbert, Benstead and Pitt

**Alternates:** Councillors Brierley and Pogonowski

*Despatched: Tuesday, 13 November 2012*

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 November 2012

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Committee Room 1 & 2 - Guildhall

**Contact:** Martin Whelan

**Direct Dial:** 01223 457013

### AGENDA

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** *(Pages 1 - 4)*

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare at this stage any interests that they may have in any of the following items on the agenda. If any member is unsure whether or not they should declare an interest on a particular matter, they are requested to seek advice from the Head of Legal Services before the meeting.

**4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

**5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - EMPLOYERS DISCRETIONS** *(Pages 5 - 28)*

**6 THE LOCALISM ACT AND THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM** Head of Corporate Strategy *(Pages 29 - 36)*

**7 COMMITTEE DATES - 2013/14** *(Pages 37 - 42)*

The 2013/14 meeting calendar is presented for approval.

A number of committees are responsible for approving their own committee dates and this process has either already been completed or will be completed over the coming weeks. Due to congestion in the calendar suggested dates have been included for the following meetings:

- Joint Development Control Committee and Joint Development Control Committee Development Control Forum
- Area Committees

### 2013/14 meeting calendar

The underlying structure of the 2013/14 meeting calendar was reviewed in readiness for the production of the indicative calendar in September 2011, with the intention of improving the consistency of meeting dates. This primarily applies to planning related committees, which are proposed to run on a consistent cycle of

- 1<sup>st</sup> week in the month – Planning Committee
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week in the month – Development Control Forum
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week in the month – Joint Development Control Committee
- 4<sup>th</sup> week in the month – Joint Development Control Committee DCF

Other minor changes have been made to reflect

- Confirmation of the dates for autumn party political conferences and school holidays.
- Removal of Standards Committee as a committee of the council.

### East Area Committee

East Area Committee is currently meeting on a 6 weekly cycle as a trial. The outcome of the trial, and a decision whether to continue with this cycle is not planned to be made until the spring of 2013. The suggested dates are based on a 8 week cycle.

### School Holidays

All meetings have been checked against the published Cambridgeshire County Council school holiday dates for 2012/13 and 2013/14.

## Elections in 2014

The local elections are provisionally scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 and there are also European Elections in June 2014. Normally the local elections would be moved to the June date, however the calendar is based on the current circumstances.

A revised calendar will be presented to Civic Affairs at a later date if required, to amend the calendar if the Local Elections are moved to coincide with the European Elections.

*(Pages 37 - 42)*

## **8 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES 2013/14** *(Pages 43 - 48)*

### **Members Allowances for May 2013-April 2014**

At its meeting on 1 February 2012, in agreeing to recommend to Council the continuation of the existing members allowance scheme for a further municipal year, the Committee also agreed that the scheme be reviewed as part of the Leader's review of the Council's decision-making processes. The report elsewhere on this agenda recommends that the Council's decision-making processes are retained with no change. Therefore, committee is asked whether the allowances scheme should also be retained with no change.

### **Background**

It was in the 2007/08 municipal year that the current monetary value for the basic allowance entitlement to all 42 councillors was set. The current monetary value for the variety of special responsibility allowances entitlement, received by a majority of councillors, were also first adopted for the 2007/08 year with some minor changes since to certain allowances, for example to reflect annual electoral results. The total budget for basic and special responsibility allowances is £252,500.

Before councillors can make or amend an allowances scheme, they must have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by an independent remuneration panel. By being required to have regard to the views of 'lay people', who will have researched the issues, it is expected that councillors would more carefully consider the justification for any increase in allowances they receive. The allowances scheme has been considered annually by the Independent Remuneration Panel up to March 2011, when the Panel recommended continuation of the existing scheme,

primarily because of the economic climate at the time. Also in March 2011, the Committee agreed that the Panel did not need to meet prior to adoption of the 2012/13 scheme if circumstances had not changed.

The committee's deliberations on the work of the Independent Remuneration Panel since 2007/08 and the scheme adopted has left some issues which while the scheme remains unchanged, will continue to be unresolved. Any changes to the scheme however are difficult to address in isolation without impacting either on the current standstill budget or on the other allowances within the scheme. Any changes committee were to propose would first require input from the Panel and then agreement by the Council.

### **Recommendation**

For 2013/14 therefore, the scheme could again be retained if the committee agrees to retain the decision making structures (set out in the report elsewhere on the agenda) and there are no changes in the composition of the Council for the new municipal year. Accordingly the committee is requested to recommend to the Council:

That the current Members Allowances Scheme (**attached**) be continued for the 2013/14 municipal year.

*(Pages 43 - 48)*

**9 A REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL CANVASS AND PUBLICATION OF REGISTER OF ELECTORS** *(Pages 49 - 52)*

**10 FEEDBACK ON THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTION HELD ON 15TH NOVEMBER**

Oral Report

# Information for the Public

**Location** The meeting is in the Guildhall on the Market Square (CB2 3QJ).

Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the building is accessible via Peas Hill, Guildhall Street and the Market Square entrances.

After 5 p.m. access is via the Peas Hill entrance.

All the meeting rooms (Committee Room 1, Committee 2 and the Council Chamber) are on the first floor, and are accessible via lifts or stairs.

**Public Participation** Some meetings may have parts that will be closed to the public, but the reasons for excluding the press and public will be given.

Most meetings have an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make statements.

To ask a question or make a statement please notify the Committee Manager (details listed on the front of the agenda) prior to the deadline.

- For questions and/or statements regarding items on the published agenda, the deadline is the start of the meeting.
- For questions and/or statements regarding items NOT on the published agenda, the deadline is 10 a.m. the day before the meeting.

Speaking on Planning or Licensing Applications is subject to other rules. Guidance for speaking on these issues can be obtained from Democratic Services on 01223 457013 or [democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk).

Further information about speaking at a City Council

meeting can be found at;

<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/Having%20your%20say%20at%20meetings.pdf>

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**Filming,  
recording  
and  
photography**

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Full details of the City Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings can be accessed via:

[www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1057&ID=1057&RPID=33371389&sch=doc&cat=13203&path=13020%2c13203](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/democracy/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1057&ID=1057&RPID=33371389&sch=doc&cat=13203&path=13020%2c13203).

**Fire Alarm**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding please follow the instructions of Cambridge City Council staff.

**Facilities for  
disabled  
people**

Level access to the Guildhall is via Peas Hill.

A loop system is available in Committee Room 1, Committee Room 2 and the Council Chamber.

Accessible toilets are available on the ground and first floor.

Meeting papers are available in large print and other formats on request prior to the meeting.

For further assistance please contact Democratic

Services on 01223 457013 or  
[democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk).

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