

11 February 2008

Dear Councillor

COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Council will be held at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden on Tuesday, 19 February 2008 at 7.45 pm, or at the conclusion of the question and answer session, whichever is the earlier.

Yours faithfully

ALASDAIR BOVAIRD

Chief Executive

Commencing at 7.30 pm, there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to ask questions and make statements subject to having given two working days prior notice.

Representatives of Swards End Parish Council and EALC will be present to mark the parish council's achievement of quality status.

A G E N D A P A R T I

- 1 Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member Allowances (see attached).
- 2 Members' question and answer session (up to 15 minutes).
- 3 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.
- 4 To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2007 (attached).
- 5 Business arising.
- 6 Chairman's communications.
- 7 Leader's communications.
- 8 Matters arising from Committees –
 - (i) Request from Performance Select Committee to change the date of its next scheduled meeting from 6 May to 29 April.
- 9 Review of the level of Reserves and Balances (to follow).

- 10 Capital Programme 2007/08 – 2010/11 (to follow).
- 11 Housing Revenue Account Estimates and Rent Setting 2008/09 (to follow).
- 12 District Council Requirement and Council Tax 2008/09 (to follow).
- 13 Treasury Management Strategy (to follow).
- 14 To consider the appointment of Statutory Officers (attached).
- 15 To appoint a member of the Staff Appeals Committee to replace Councillor Chambers. This is needed because Councillor Chambers is unable to attend staff appeal hearings in view of his role as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee.
- 16 Notices of Motion.

(i) To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor P A Wilcock and seconded by Councillor C Smith:

'The Council asks that the leadership of this Council note:

1) That a poorly researched and conducted Local Development Framework Core Strategy process has attracted extensive criticism from local residents, and local newspapers, and critical comments from Essex County Council and the Government Office for the East of England.

2) That any strategy that emerges from this process could be declared unsound at an Examination in Public.

This Council welcomes:

3) The invitation by Sir Alan Haselhurst to convene a meeting of community representatives to try and explore a bottom up approach to site the housing within the District.

And that the Council therefore resolves:

4) To carry out further research and consultation on the Local Development Framework options (particularly with reference to consultation documents, public exhibitions and supporting evidence) and to take account of the output of the meeting convened by Sir Alan Haselhurst in order to gain consensus among the parish councils in the communities of Uttlesford, and the agreement of all political parties.

(ii) To consider the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor P A Wilcock and seconded by Councillor G Sell:

The Council asks that the leadership of this Council note:

1) The advice contained within the report by Mr Roots, former Chief Executive of Westminster criticises both the previous administration's responsibility for

the current financial position and the current administration's failure to get to grips with the lack of corporate capacity and the continuing lack of appropriate controls.

2) The absence of competent political leadership is undermining the morale of the Council's dedicated staff and putting at risk the effective delivery of services to the people of the district.

And that the Council therefore resolves to:

1) Draw up and implement a Recovery Plan to address the Council's political, financial, strategic and operational weaknesses in line with the recommendations from Mr Roots.

2) That all political groups in the Council work together to resolve the issues through swift collective agreed action by all, and give a clear indication to the staff of the support for the excellent work they do.

3) An immediate start is made to appoint a new chief executive, ensure robust arrangements are put in place for the interim Head of Paid Service, and to continue with the recruitment of a new Director of Corporate Services.

4) Seek external support as necessary from bodies such as the Improvement and Development Agency.

17 To consider questions under Council Procedure Rule 8.2.

18 Any other items which the Chairman considers to be urgent.

PART II

(Para 1-4 of Schedule 12A Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972)

19 Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (to follow).

To: All Members of the Council.

Lead Officer: Alasdair Bovaird

Committee Officer: Peter Snow

MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council's Committee meetings and listen to the debate. All agendas, reports and minutes can be viewed on the Council's website www.uttlesford.gov.uk.

Members of the public and representatives of parish and town councils are now permitted to speak at the meetings. You will need to register with the Committee Officer by 2.00 pm on the Friday before the meeting. An explanatory leaflet has been prepared which details the procedure and is available from the Council offices at Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.

to the public. Part II includes items which may be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as they may deal with information which is personal or sensitive for some other reason. You will be asked to leave the meeting before Part II items are discussed.

You are entitled to see any of the background papers that are listed at the end of each report.

If you want to inspect background papers or speak before a meeting please contact either Peter Snow on 01799 510430, Maggie Cox on 01799 510369, Cathy Roberts on 01799 510434, or by fax on 01799 510550.

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Council Offices has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets. The Council Chamber has an induction loop so that those who have hearing difficulties can hear the debate.

If you are deaf or have impaired hearing and would like a signer available at a meeting, please contact Peter Snow on 01799 510430 or email psnow@uttlesford.gov.uk as soon as possible prior to the meeting.

FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by Committee staff. It is vital you follow their instructions.

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts.
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings.
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building.
- Do not re-enter the building until told to do so.