

14 March 2007

Dear Councillor

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the Committee Room at the Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden on Thursday 22 March 2007 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

A G E N D A P A R T I

- 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.
- 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2007 (herewith).
- 3 Business arising.
- 4 Procurement Strategy.

(a) Item for Information

Presentation on the Essex Procurement Hub by John Wickes, Manager of the Hub.

(b) Item for Decision

Procurement Strategy

To consider the draft Procurement Strategy and Project Plan which set the framework in which the Council will conduct its procurement activity, and to agree a Council wide procurement strategy.

- 5 Museum Service: Heritage Quest Centre Funding And Heritage Lottery Fund Application – reference from Community Committee 15 March 2007

Item for decision

To consider the report of the Museum's Curator and the reference from the meeting of the Community Committee held on 15 March 2007 regarding plans to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in June 2007 for 72.5% of project costs, and, in order to secure HLF support, a suggested capital contribution spread over the three years of the project totalling £150,000 of which £60,000 has already been committed by the Council.

- 6 Budgetary Control 2006/07 (to follow)

Item for decision

To consider the Council's General Fund Budget for the current financial year.

- 7 Council Tax – review of policy on long term empty homes (to follow)

Item for decision

To consider whether the Council wishes to change the current policy relating to empty homes.

- 8 Any other items that the Chairman considers to be urgent.

To: Councillors R P Chambers, M L Foley, M A Gayler, E Gower, D W Gregory, R T Harris, **S C Jones**, A J Ketteridge, T P Knight, V J T Lelliott, A R Row, M J Savage, G Sell and P A Wilcock.

Lead Officer: Philip O'Dell
Committee Officer: Catharine Roberts

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.

The agenda is split into two parts. Most of the business is dealt with in Part 1 which is open to the public. Part II includes items which must be discussed in the absence of the press or public, as they might 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 Mick Purkiss on 01799 510430, Maggie Cox on 01799 510369, Cathy Roberts on 01799 510434 or Peter Snow on 01799 510431 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 Mick Purkiss on 01799 510430 or email mpurkiss@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.