

## SCDC Report to Parish Councils / Community Council – November 2010

### Full Council

There has not been a meeting of Full Council since the last report. The next Full Council will take place on 25 November.

### Cabinet

Cabinet has not met since 09 September. The next meeting is scheduled for 11 November.

### Scrutiny and Overview

Scrutiny and Overview has not met since 02 September and the next meeting is scheduled for 04 November.

(Although cutting down on meetings produces cost savings it does not always lead to open and transparent decision-making).

Copies of the following Scrutiny reports are now available from South Cambs on 01954 713 451:

- Scrutiny and Overview Annual Report 2009/10
- Scrutiny Review of Arbury Park
- Scrutiny Review of the Financial and Budget Setting process

### Planning

You may have read recent press articles about what appeared to be an attempt to coerce some members of the Planning Committee at South Cambs to vote on a matter before them on political grounds. Our colleagues on this committee assure us that their experience is that members only take into account relevant and material planning considerations. They receive regular mandatory training on this and it would be a very foolish councillor who made a decision on any other grounds.

### Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on South Cambs

Local authority budgets are set to fall by 28% over the next 4 years. For councils this is likely to be significantly front loaded, perhaps as much as 14% next year; as the reductions to the budgets of Fire Authorities will only happen from 2013/14. The detailed impact on SCDC won't become clear until December and the real impact could be significantly worse or better as factors such as population growth, allocation of funds between upper and lower tier councils and the transfer of concessionary fares funding to the County Council are worked through.

South Cambs has identified the need to make £1.2m of spending cuts to balance the budget.

If the Council chooses to freeze council tax next year it will receive a grant equivalent to the yield a 2.5% increase would generate; this grant will be for at least the next 4 years, but there are no guarantees beyond 2014/15.

Many direct grants (mostly county level e.g. Supporting People) will be reduced and incorporated with the general formula grant, but the Growth Area Fund (GAF) and School Sports Partnership schemes will be scrapped altogether. South Cambs had assumed it would get £650,000 next year to fund existing growth budget commitments from GAF!

Funding for private sector Disabled Facility Grants will be protected and increased in line with inflation. More funding will be provided for disabled adaptations to council owned properties.

#### Blue Wheelie Bins

The first collections of the new blue bins have taken place. We are obviously very keen that this scheme is a success, as it is costing a lot of money and we all want to recycle as much of our waste as possible. If you have more material than your blue bin can take, then just put it in the old green boxes (or other equivalent) and put them out for collection at the same time.

#### South Cambridgeshire Chief Executive Jean Hunter

A slot has been found in the diary of the new Chief Executive for your local district councillors to tour Histon, Impington and Orchard Park. This will take place in early December and provide an opportunity for Jean to get to know the patch and for us to bring our issues well and truly onto her radar.

#### Neighbourhood Panel

The Histon panel on 12 October agreed the following priorities:

- Anti-social behaviour at Cottenham Recreation Ground
- Reduce ASB traditionally associated with Halloween and Bonfire Night

Next meeting: Tues 11 January 2011 at 7.30pm Cottenham Village College

#### Electoral Services

Andrew Francis, Electoral Services Assistant, will be acting in the post of Electoral Services Manager from 1 October 2010 until 28 February 2011.

#### Digital switchover

Cambridgeshire ACRE are seeking volunteers across South Cambs to help support the local changes to how our television signal will be received from the end of March 2011. This is when the analogue signal will be switched off and replaced with a digital signal and you will need special equipment to receive the new signal. Volunteers will be there to raise awareness and make sure no one misses out on the help that is available – a form to volunteer needs to be completed by 19 November. For more information please contact Edward Aniskowicz on 01353 860 850.

#### Casework

Your councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help, but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

Jonathan Chatfield  
01 November 2010