

AGENDA



For a meeting of the
COUNCIL
to be held on
THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2012
at
2.00 PM
in the
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM
Beverly Agass, Chief Executive

Members of the Council are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held in the Council Chamber at 1:50pm before the meeting is opened.

1. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The public open forum will commence at **2.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **2.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2011

(Attached)

5. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)

(Attached)

6. CORPORATE PLAN

Report number RCC12 by the Strategic Director, Corporate Focus. **(Attached)**

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME

Report number SD031 of the Resources Portfolio Holder **(Attached)**

8. BUDGET

Report number HOF189 of the Resources Portfolio Holder **(Attached)**

9. LOCALISM ACT

Report number LDS056 by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.
(Attached)

10. SKIN PIERCING

Report number ENV555 by the Healthy Environment Portfolio Holder.
(Attached)

11. FAIR TRADE

The Council will receive a brief presentation on Fair Trade.

12. QUESTIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

To note the list of questions asked under Council procedure rule 11.1 as circulated at the start of the meeting and their reference to the relevant Policy Development Group.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12:

1) From Councillor Ian Selby

This Council welcomes the initiatives by the Grantham Fairtrade Steering Group to encourage the development of Grantham in becoming a Fairtrade Town.

South Kesteven District Council as an important customer and opinion leader supports a strategy to facilitate the promotion and purchase of refreshments with the Fairtrade Mark as part of its commitment to sustainable development.

To support, as an active partner with the Grantham Fairtrade Steering Group and to be recognised by the residents and business community of

South Kesteven, suppliers, employees and other local authorities, as a district that supports and promotes Fairtrade.

South Kesteven District Council endorses the campaign to increase sales of products with the Fairtrade Mark by achieving Fairtrade Town Status. This involves a commitment:

- To offer Fairtrade refreshment options for internal meetings
- To encourage the use of Fairtrade products by officers and elected members of South Kesteven District Council
- To promote awareness of fair trade issues and the opportunities for supporting fair trade in the area through the Council's website and residents' magazines
- To support the Grantham Fairtrade Steering Group by endorsing its intention to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents
- To participate, wherever practicable, in events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight.

2) From Councillor Charmaine Morgan

It is proposed that South Kesteven District Council creates a **Voluntary Sector Fund** specifically for the use of voluntary sector organisations, across the District, which are providing vital facilities to vulnerable residents.

The combination of high unemployment, cuts in welfare benefits and rising household costs is leading to an increase in the level of people in need of assistance from the Voluntary Sector to access the most basic life essentials

3) From Councillor Charmaine Morgan

South Kesteven District Council's Core Strategy recognises that our natural and built heritage play a valuable role in promoting the past.

Our heritage also a generator of economic growth, where heritage assets are protected and used appropriately,

This motion calls for a cross party workshop to examine what specific action should be taken to develop economic growth across South Kesteven District, based on tourism, recognising the value of both our natural and built heritage

4) From Councillor Phil Dilks

Council notes that a Public Open Forum of up to 30-minutes is set aside at the start of each Council meeting for any resident of the District to question the administration, subject to written notification no later than

72-hours prior to the meeting.

The resident may reasonably expect to receive an answer at the meeting as well as a reply to a supplementary question.

Questions from Councillors are also required to be submitted within a similar time-frame, but are then treated very differently to questions from residents.

In referring all questions from councillors to *'the relevant Policy Development Group'* irrespective of who they are directed to, the councillor usually has to wait for an answer even longer than the legal maximum response time to questions lodged under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the spirit of improving openness, accountability, and efficiency, this Council resolves to task its Constitutional Committee to consider appropriate amendments to the Rules of Procedure to be voted on at the next Annual Meeting of the Council, thus ensuring that in seeking information, councillors are not more disadvantaged than the residents they are elected to represent.

5) From Councillor Phil Dilks

This Council resolves that each SKDC Committee and Policy Development Group is invited to provide a short report on its work over the previous year to be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

6) From Councillor Rob Shorrock

This motion calls on the council to do the following:

1. The council will, through its neighbourhood groups, consult widely with existing and would-be tenants and others on government proposals for secure tenancies, rents and housing benefit
2. Seek the views and experience of private sector tenants, and provide support and advice in the face of high rents and housing benefit cuts.
3. Provide a briefing for landlords on the impact of housing benefit changes and work with them to develop affordable pricing strategies
4. Not replace existing or future secure tenancies with fixed term tenancies for existing and future tenants
5. Ensure that proposed business plans for borrowing and investment in housing include a full equality and economic impact assessment on the impact of future rent policy and that full consultation is undertaken with tenants, neighbourhood groups and councillors.

6. Ensure that the Housing Business Plan is discussed and approved by a full meeting of council.