

# AGENDA



For a meeting of the
<b>COUNCIL</b>
to be held on
<b>THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2012</b>
at
<b>2.00 PM</b>
in the
<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM</b>
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 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.*

**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. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

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

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

(Attached)

**5. COMMUNICATIONS (INCLUDING CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS)**

**(Attached)**

**6. GRAVITY FIELDS**

The Council will receive a brief review of the Gravity Fields Festival.

**7. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

Report number LDS078 by the Scrutiny Committee Chairman. **(Attached)**

**8. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report number LDS079 by the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Communication. **(Attached)**

**9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Report number LDS080 by the Constitution Committee Chairman. **(Attached)**

**10. 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.

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION GIVEN UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12:**

**1) Councillor Paul Wood**

South Kesteven District Council operates the leader/cabinet arrangements for running the Council and the majority of decisions are taken by the members of the cabinet. The full Council take very few decisions and the majority of members are not involved in strategy decision making. Most members do not have a major role to play in the running of SKDC.

There are alternatives to this arrangement and the Localism Act 2011 permits Councils to change from one form of governance to another. The Chief Executive and the Monitoring officer have both confirmed to me that this is both legal and possible.

An alternative could be to operate a full committee system in which several committees are set up with specified responsibilities. The committees would be politically balanced and have responsibility for taking strategy decisions within their remit. In this way all members would be actively involved and be part of the running of SKDC.

Operating a committee system would mean that, apart from day-to-day operational decisions, decisions are made by committees comprised of Councillors from all political groups.

A committee system operated at SKDC for many years prior to the leader/cabinet arrangements and was very successful. Committees are the most democratic form of decision making and enable all Councillors to be involved and gain experience in many areas.

I am aware of other Councils reverting back to a Committee system and in particular Nottinghamshire County Council which is Conservative led agreed to return to Committees following a Nottinghamshire Conservative manifesto pledge. They successfully organised this change in the period from November 2011 to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and now operate a full committee system. Nottinghamshire have also contained all costs within their existing budgets.

I propose that South Kesteven District Council agree to return to the Committee system and set a timescale to achieve this.

The deadline for notices of motion for the meeting on 13 December 2012 will be 2pm on Friday 30 November 2012.