

Council Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the **EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL** to be held at the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, EPPING** at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 21 February 2006 for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda.

Handwritten signature of Peter Haywood.

PETER HAYWOOD
Joint Chief Executive (Resources)

Handwritten signature of John H. Scott.

JOHN SCOTT
Joint Chief Executive (Community)

**Democratic Services
Officer:**

Council Secretary: Ian Willett
Tel: 01992 564243 Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

BUSINESS

1. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 22)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2005 (attached)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Joint Chief Executive) To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Apologies for Absence

(b) Announcements

To consider any announcements by:

- (i) the Chairman of the Council;
- (ii) the Leader of the Council; and
- (iii) any other Cabinet Member.

(c) Member Computer Training – Award of Certificates

A number of members have completed IT training and will receive their certificates from the Chairman of Council.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

To respond to questions of the Council made in accordance with the Council's Scheme. Questions will be tabled if not received in time to be incorporated into the agenda.

5. REPORTS OF THE CABINET (Pages 23 - 28)

To consider the following reports of the Cabinet:

- (a) Supplementary Estimates – 2005/06
- (b) Local Area Agreement for Essex
- (c) Council Budgets and Council Tax Declaration – report to follow

6. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS PROCEDURAL CHANGES AND DELEGATED AUTHORITIES (Pages 29 - 30)

(Chairman – District Development Control Committee – Councillor Mrs A Grigg) To consider the attached report.

7. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MAY 2006) - ELECTORAL PILOT (Pages 31 - 34)

(Returning Officer) To consider the attached report.

8. MOTIONS

To consider any motions, notice of which has been given under Council Procedure Rule 11.

9. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To answer questions asked after notice in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 10.3 of the Council Procedure Rules of the Constitution:

- (a) to the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) to any Member of the Cabinet; or
- (c) to the Chairman of any Committee or Sub-committee.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (Pages 35 - 36)**Recommendation:****To commence a debate on Local Government Reorganisation.**

(Group Leaders) David Milliband, Minister for Communities and Local Government, has announced that the Government is actively considering the case for reorganisation of the 34 "two-tier" English counties. The vision is one of self-confident

councils leading and empowering their communities and working with partners to deliver high quality public services. The Minister has advised that a question to be answered is whether the best relationship is between the county and the districts or between one or more unitary authorities and local neighbourhoods.

An Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) press release has emphasised that Ministers have taken no decisions about reorganising the existing structure and are seeking views on the best arrangements for places. Council Leaders are being invited to attend one of eight regional 'roundtable' discussions hosted by ODPM Ministers as part of a wider dialogue on the issues. It is envisaged that a White Paper will be published in summer 2006 delivering a clear vision for the long-term future of local government including the issue of structure.

Group Leaders had an initial discussion on this matter at their meeting on 25 January 2006 and agreed that each Group should prepare a paper summarising the views of that Group as a basis for a debate at this meeting. The views of the Independent Group are attached. Other papers will follow.

11. CABINET COMMITTEE - WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To note that the Cabinet has established a new Cabinet Committee of five Cabinet members to review this contract. The Committee is required to report back by the Cabinet meeting on 10 April 2006.

12. LEISURE MANAGEMENT - CONTRACT MONITORING BOARD

Recommendation:

To appoint five cross-party members to attend the first Contract Monitoring Board meeting due to be held in March 2006.

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) At its meeting on 19 December 2005, the Cabinet considered monitoring arrangements for the Leisure Monitoring contract to ensure that the Council's Key Objectives are being met.

The Cabinet decided that there should be monthly meetings between the contractor, Sports and Leisure Management Limited (SLM), and officers to consider regular reports and any operational issues. In addition, the Cabinet established a Contract Management Board to allow councillors to meet with the senior management and directors of SLM in order to review the contract at a more strategic level. The Cabinet envisaged the Board meeting three times a year.

The Cabinet is proposing that the Board should comprise five cross-party members including the Leisure Portfolio Holder to be appointed each year at the Annual Council meeting. However, as the contract commenced in January 2006, a meeting of the Board is required before the next Annual Council meeting in May 2006. The Council is recommended, therefore, to appoint five cross-party members based on the nominations of Group Leaders and including the Leisure Portfolio Holder to attend the first meeting.

The following nominations had been received at the time of publication of the agenda for this meeting:

Liberal Democrats Group - Councillor J M Whitehouse

Independent Group – Councillor J Knapman

Nominations of other Group Leaders will be reported at the meeting.

13. GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE - EMERGENCY AND URGENT FUNDING (Pages 37 - 38)

(Environmental Protection Portfolio Holder) To note the attached report.

14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
Nil	Nil	Nil

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items which are confidential under Section 100(A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject
Nil	Nil

Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.