



**Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk,  
NR33 0EQ**

**Full Council**

**Members: All Councillors**

Members are invited to a **Meeting of the Full Council**  
to be held in the Conference Room, Riverside,  
on **Wednesday, 23 February 2022 at 6.30pm**

This meeting is being held in person in order to comply with the Local Government Act 1972. In order to comply with East Suffolk Council's coronavirus arrangements and guidance, the number of people at this meeting will have to be restricted to only those whose attendance is reasonably necessary.

Ordinarily, East Suffolk Council encourages members of the public to attend its meetings but on this occasion would encourage the public to watch the livestream, via the East Suffolk Council YouTube channel instead at <https://youtu.be/tB-LYCmosYg>

If you do believe it is necessary for you to be in attendance we encourage you to notify Democratic Services, by email to [democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk), of your intention to do so no later than 12 noon on the working day before the meeting so that the meeting can be managed in a COVID secure way and the

Team can endeavour to accommodate you and advise of the necessary health and safety precautions.

However, we are not able to guarantee you a space/seat and you are advised that it may be that, regrettably, we are not able to admit you to the meeting room.

An Agenda is set out below.

## **Part One – Open to the Public**

**Pages**

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**1 Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence, if any.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Local Non-Pecuniary Interests that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.

**3 Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, the Leader of the Council, members of the Cabinet, or the Chief Executive, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.1(e).

**4 Minutes**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 January 2022.

**1 - 24**

**5 Questions from the Public**

The following question has been submitted by the public in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 8:

Question from Mr A Robertson to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health

What effective actions are the Communities Team doing in relation to alleviate the speeding and anti-social behaviour, which is happening at the Gateway Retail Park and along the Kessingland Bypass?

## 6 Questions from Members

The following questions from Members has/have been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 9:

a) Question submitted by Councillor Beavan to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

Whilst our communities helped each other through Covid, some selfish people just helped themselves by robbing the public purse. How many holiday let business in my Southwold ward did we give loss of business Covid grants, at what total cost to the taxpayer and how many were refused because they could not prove that they actually did any business at all?

b) Question submitted by Councillor Gandy to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

- Lord Agnew, a Conservative Peer, recently resigned in parliament unable to defend the government's £4.3bn write-off of Covid loans fraud, saying oversight of the loans scheme had been 'nothing less than woeful', adding 'schoolboy errors were made: for example, allowing over 1,000 companies to receive bounce-back loans that were not even trading when Covid struck.'
- The National Audit Office (NAO) also singled out the government's 'inadequate' attempts to tackle fraud because anti-fraud checks had been 'implemented too slowly'.
- HMRC believes that about £5.8bn, or 7%, of the £81.2bn paid out by the taxpayer through the various Covid-19 emergency response schemes has been stolen.

This damning indictment of the chancellor and the government's failure on fraud is indefensible despite the speed with which the funding of a lockdown economy was needed to support jobs and livelihoods.

Though we are certain Council Officers would have done their utmost to prevent, detect and counter fraud when it crossed their desks, by how much were their hands tied by the government's lax and 'lamentable' oversight of the various support schemes and, therefore, what is our best estimate of how much money has been taken from the decent tax paying people of East Suffolk and gifted to criminals because of this central office failure?

c) Question submitted by Councillor Deacon to the Chairman of the Council

As is evident from recent Full Council meetings it would seem that there is some confusion surrounding the way in which Motions are dealt with at Full Council.

Last month Councillor Gandy submitted a Motion on behalf of the Labour Group. She was asked to shorten the Motion, which she duly did, prior to its publication in the Agenda.

At Full Council she was asked to read the Motion aloud, but this requirement does not appear within the Constitution, unless I have missed it.

In addition, when the Motion was discussed, she was told that it wasn't possible for Members to debate the Motion, as there was insufficient evidence for an informed debate to take place.

There appears to be a contradiction here, as well as confusion as to what is the 'approved' length of a Motion, as well as clarifying what form it should take.

Can we please have clarification of this as matter of urgency, as the Constitution is unclear, so that we can all benefit in contributing Motions for future Meetings?

## **7 Petitions**

No petitions have been received as provided by Council Procedure Rule 10.

## 8 Notices of Motion

The following Motions have been submitted in pursuance of Council Procedure Rule 11:

### a) Motion submitted by Councillor Smith-Lyte

This Council notes:

1. East Suffolk Council has done considerable work on publicising eco-friendly agriculture, for example at the 'Farming Today, Fit for Tomorrow' conference last year, but could do more to provide practical examples and leadership in the field.
2. As a local landowner, the Council has a responsibility to lead and share best practice in sustainable farming practices, even if only on a small scale.
3. Agroforestry is the growing of trees and crops on the same piece of land, allowing for land to be used for short-term income while still preserving forests and tree growth.
4. The Council owns several small plots of land that could be used to pilot a small-scale agroforestry scheme.
5. If the approach is successful on ESC land, partner working to expand the scheme could be explored, such as working with Suffolk County Council to expand the scheme onto SCC-owned land, or extending advice and support to interested landowners, using well established agroforestry schemes such as Wakelyns.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask officers to put together a business case costing a small agroforestry pilot on a suitable piece of ESC-owned forested land, with crops to be selected based on what would best suit the biome of the site.

### b) Motion submitted by Councillor Beavan

This Council recognises that:

1. Revenue from current assets can be improved and there is also a need to invest in green growth to achieve our net zero target.
2. East Suffolk invests the most Treasury cash in other authorities of all district councils in the UK, both absolutely at £97m and relatively at 71% of total investments compared to UK average of 17%, at an annual 0.26% rate of return. Whilst we appreciate that reserves must be liquid enough to maintain cash flow, we maintain £30m available for use within three months so there is room for investing just £8m of the £97m in our own community.
3. The local knowledge held by Community Partnerships means that they are well-placed to identify many opportunities for green, revenue-generating investments within East Suffolk district boundaries.

This Council resolves to:

1. Ask each Community Partnership to recommend possible green investments in their area, up to a total worth of £1m for each Community Partnership area, to be investigated by officers. Business cases for suitable

investments will then be prepared for consideration by Cabinet and the Audit & Governance Committee at its next Treasury Management Investment Strategy for 2023/24.

c) Motion submitted by Councillor Byatt

This Council notes that:

- During the Corona Virus Pandemic the Government was obliged to put in place laws, rules and guidelines to prevent the disease from spreading in order to save lives and reduce its impact on the National Health Service. During this time in 2020 and 2021 millions of people obeyed these rules, often at huge personal cost, particularly during times of lockdown.
- This Council responded to this national emergency; our Communities Teams supported the vulnerable; our colleagues stepped up to support their neighbours; the voluntary sector responded with heroic action to get food and medicines to those that needed them and ordinary people from all walks of life did the right thing to support each other, making enormous sacrifices for the common good.
- This response and adherence to the law was not reflected to the same extent by Government operations at 10 Downing Street. Evidence of social gatherings with 'excessive consumption' of alcohol represent a serious failure by the Prime Minister and his staff to observe not just the high standards expected of those working at the heart of Government but also of the standards expected of the entire British population.
- Although a Metropolitan Police investigation of the Prime Minister over these breaches of Covid-19 Regulations has not concluded, Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, has confirmed publicly that he believes the Prime Minister should resign, stating he has no confidence in him as Leader of The Conservative Party.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to:

- Write a letter of support to Peter Aldous MP, stating that the issue of the parties at 10 Downing Street during the pandemic should no longer be a distraction for the Government when it should be facing the various serious challenges such as a cost-of-living crisis, economic recovery from the pandemic and a deep loss of trust and faith in our democratic institutions, all matters that have consequences for this Council.
- Following the admirable stance of their colleague, Peter Aldous MP, write further letters to the other two MPs in East Suffolk, Therese Coffey and Dan Poulter, urging them to write their own letters to the Chairman of the 1922 Committee of Backbench Conservative MPs, stating that they similarly have no confidence in the Prime Minister and request that he resign.

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>9 ESC General Fund Budget and Council Tax Report 2022/23 ES/1049</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources.	<b>25 - 115</b>
<b>10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2022/23 ES/1050</b> Report of the Cabinet Members with responsibility for Housing and Resources	<b>116 - 139</b>
<b>11 Southwold Neighbourhood Plan ES/1051</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management.	<b>140 - 238</b>
<b>12 Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020-21 ES/1053</b> Report of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.	<b>239 - 253</b>
<b>13 Cabinet Members Report and Outside Bodies Representatives Reports to Council ES/1052</b> Report of the Leader of the Council.	<b>254 - 269</b>

## Part Two – Exempt/Confidential

**Pages**

There are no Exempt or Confidential items for this Agenda.

**Close**



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

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