



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council



71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1SP - Tel: 01702 716288
council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Carole Mulroney

Vice Chairman: Cllr Caroline Parker

Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

You are hereby summoned to the meeting of the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council, which will take place on **Wednesday 13th February 2013** in Leigh Community Centre, 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea commencing at **7.30pm** when it is hoped to transact the following business.

AGENDA

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS
2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS
3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS
5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS
6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 9th January 2013
7. COMMITTEES
To receive Minutes of Committees
 - a) Planning Committee - To receive minutes of 22nd January 2013
 - b) Allotments – To receive minutes of 16th January 2013
 - c) Leigh Community Centre Committee – To receive minutes of 15th January 2013
 - d) Finance & General Purposes - To receive minutes of 5th February 2013 (With letter from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State DCLG – Brandon Lewis MP)
8. REPORT FROM SBC RATEPAYERS' FORUM – Appendix 1 – Report 2164
9. FINANCIAL REPORT
To receive report 2162/I&E – (Appendix 2)

Paul Beckerson
Town Clerk
7th February 2013

Any member who is unable to attend the meeting should send their apologies before the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 13th March 2013



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Report 2164/CM

SBC RATEPAYER'S FORUM

Attached as Appendix { A } are the replies to the budget related questions submitted to the Forum by the Council. Non budget related questions were not dealt with but will be responded to in writing in due course.

The Leader of the Council gave the 'Major Headlines' of the Council's budget deliberations. These were as follows as they relate to Leigh

He said the act of balancing the budget was difficult to compare with the previous year because of changes in Government funding - it was not like for like. The Borough had to make savings of £10.5M. Southend had an ageing population which placed a strain on adult social care and the number of residents over 65 was due to increase by 11%+ in the next three years.

The Council had reviewed every directory regarding economies and cross cutting themes regarding existing contracts, there was no part of the Council's activities which had not been scrutinised and this would result in stoppages of some things and outsourcing of others. Trying to raise the Council's income by 2% was not necessarily feasible.

Proposed Town Centre car parking charges had been frozen and it was proposed to reduce short stay in Zone C (Leigh) to give shopping areas a stimulus.

In terms of the Capital Budget there was a need for sea defence work which it was hoped to gain significant funding for.

There would probably be another 3 years of cuts. Core services had been cut to the bone and there were reviews of libraries and children's services and the Council was looking to its landholdings in Leigh and Shoebury and selling services to third parties as possible income streams.

The Borough is proposing a Council Tax increase of 1.75%. If the Council accepted the Government subsidy they could not go over 1% but this had a knock on effect and affected the Council tax base. It could not be done this year.

To go over 2% allowed a challenge through a referendum which in itself incurred heavy costs probably outweighing the increase.

The Council has kept its reserves at the same level as a safety net against any overspending.

The Council would be losing staff - up to 80FTE job losses of which 41 were currently vacant. They would be reducing the senior management team to 3 directorates.

In so far as elections were concerned they would be moving to a 4 yearly cycle instead of the current system, this would significantly cut election costs.

On a question from the Chairman of the Town Council, the Chief Executive confirmed that this change would be timed to coincide with Town Council elections to minimise costs.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meeting of Business Ratepayers Consultative Forum
Date: Wednesday, 30th January, 2013
Place: Civic Suite, Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea

Present: Councillors Holdcroft (Leader) (Chairman)
Councillors Courtenay (Children & Learning), Cox (Public Protection, Waste & Transport), J Garston (Planning), Jarvis (Culture & Tourism), and Salter (Adult Social Care, Health & Housing).

In Attendance: R Tinlin (Chief Executive), A Lewis, S Holland, J Chesterton and R Harris
Leigh Town Council:
Councillors Mulroney and Parker
Residents' Associations:
West Leigh Residents Association - Mr L Thorington and Mr L Sawyer
Montague Court Residents Association - Mr R Stuck
Chalkwell Ward Residents Association - Ms L Courtenay
The Burges Estate Residents Association - Mr K Sharman
Federation of Small Businesses
Mrs J Poet and Mr K Ross
Chambers of Commerce:
Mr R Fisher and Mrs J Lambert

Start/End Time: 18.30/20.15

**** **Part I**

1 Apologies and substitutions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lamb (Deputy Leader) and Moring (Corporate Support Services) and Mr P Beckerson (Leigh Town Council, Town Clerk).

2 Declarations of interest.

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting:

- (a) Councillor Holdcroft - non-pecuniary - business is a member in FSB/Chamber of Commerce
- (b) Councillor Jarvis - non-pecuniary - Director of company in FSB.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 1st February, 2012

Resolved:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2012 were noted.

4 2013/14 Council Tax - Consideration of Budget Reports and Questions

The representatives from outside organisations had been sent the following documents prior to the meeting and which had been considered at the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd January 2013:-

- (a) Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14 - Report of Corporate Management Team
- (b) Draft Fees and Charges 2013/14 - Report of Corporate Director Support Services
- (c) Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2013/14 and Rent Setting - Report of Corporate Director Support Services and Corporate Director of Adult & Community Services.
- (d) Draft Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2016/17 - Report of Corporate Director Support Services.
- (e) Public Health Grant Allocation - Report of Director of Public Health.

The Chairman briefly outlined the budget process and that the budget proposals are being scrutinised by the 3 Scrutiny Committees and through this meeting as well. The Cabinet will

reflect on the feedback at its meeting on 12th February 2013 and may choose to make variations. The Budget and Council Tax will be finally agreed by the Full Council at its meeting on 28th February 2013.

Representatives attending the meeting had submitted questions on the budget prior to the meeting, and these were responded to verbally at the meeting. Representatives had also submitted a number of questions concerning non-budget related matters which would be responded to separately.

(Note: the answers provided below are a summary of the replies to the submitted questions, not a verbatim record.)

Questions from Leigh Town Council

Question 1:

Improvements to Community Services and Employment in Leigh - Last year Leigh-on-Sea Town Council (LTC) secured the future of a major community asset, the Leigh Community Centre, providing both valuable services which have a positive impact on all sectors of the community and six permanent jobs, all at a cost of only £37,000. Additionally by its action it has saved Southend Borough Council (SBC) the cost of "mothballing" the building.

This year LTC will be refurbishing Strand Wharf in the Old Town to provide a public area with funds that have been prudently saved over a number of years. LTC will use local contractors as far as possible which will boost the local economy and provide a valuable asset for the Town.

What similar schemes will SBC be carrying out in the next financial year to boost employment and community services in Leigh and how much has SBC set aside for these purposes?

Answer from Councillor Holdcroft:

The Council is in the process of bringing forward a development brief for Elm Road which seeks to identify an appropriate form of development for this important site in Leigh.

The business support services which the Council offers, as referred to in the responses to other questions raised this evening, are provided across the Borough and would have a benefit for business and employment opportunities within Leigh.

Question 2 & 3:

Essential Services - LTC supports the provision of youth services, particularly for disabled children, in Leigh. It also joined the campaign to preserve the Royal Mail Parcel delivery service in Leigh, the loss of which will mean that residents may have to travel 7 or 8 miles into central Southend to collect parcels. LTC has also responded to SBC's Library service consultation.

LTC is determined that public services such as Libraries, Police Stations, children's play areas, parks and gardens are maintained and enhanced in Leigh and similarly will seek to preserve other services which it feels are vital to the wellbeing of its residents.

2. Does SBC share the LTC view that the provision of these services is very important and that there should be no reduction in the level or quality of services provided?

3. Will SBC confirm that if they are considering any reduction in services that LTC will be notified at the very earliest opportunity and involved in any such issues which affect Leigh?

Answer to Question 2 from Councillor Holdcroft:

The provision of services for our residents is extremely important, however, in the light of significant funding reductions from the Government the level and quality of all services need to be continually reviewed and no guarantee of protection for specific services can be provided.

Answer to Question 3 from Councillor Holdcroft:

Notification and consultation of any service reduction will be conducted as usual through the budget consultation process.

Question 4:

The government is changing the way that council tax is calculated and providing SBC with a grant to compensate LTC for the subsequent loss of income.

Will SBC guarantee to pass on this grant in full to LTC in this and future years?

Answer from Councillor Holdcroft:

As part of the new Government funding changes, a grant of £33,000 has been identified for LTC for the introduction of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, which has been passed on in full for 2013/14. For 2014/15 this grant is merged within the overall grant funding for the Council and is no longer separately identified. Within the indicative grant position for 2014/15, a reduction of 8.9% has been issued by the Government and therefore the LTC grant will be reduced in line with the final overall grant reduction for the Council.



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Income and Expenditure 19th December to 29th January 2013 Report 2162/I&E Expenditure incurred under the Power of Well Being

Cheque	Expenditure	Payee	Purpose
Leigh Town Council Cheques			
100538	£62.00	Cllr C Mulroney	Reimbursement for Xmas Trees, bases and lights purchased
100539	£276.19	4 th /6 th Leigh Sea Scouts	Donation from Xmas Lights & Carols on Strand Wharf Collection
100540	£746.34	DOTS	Photocopying
100541	£46.20	Mayfield Cleaning Ltd	Bus Shelter Cleaning
100542	£50.00	SBC	Carols on Strand Wharf – Site hire
100543	£150.00	The Salvation Army	Community Transport – Hire of minibuses
100544	£100.00	Southend West Activity Centre	Donation for help with Carols on Strand Wharf
100545	£50.00	1312 ATC Squadron	Donation for help with Carols on Strand Wharf
100546	£521.52	Cory Environmental	Leigh Lights Clean-up & Confidential and Bulk Waste Removal from 67 Elm Road
100547	£5,095.09	Cable Test Ltd	Installation of Xmas Lights. Electrician for Switch-on. Festoon Lights & control gear replacement
100548	£180.00	St John Ambulance	First Aid Cover at Leigh Lights
100549	£295.00	Community Transport Association	Annual Membership
100550	£84.60	Fulton Paper	Paper
100551	£209.98	Cory Environmental	Skate Park Bin Rental & Refuse Collection
100552	£86.40	Mark One Hire	Leigh Lights – Equipment Hire
100553	£450.00	Leigh Community Centre	VMCL Room Hire Receipts
100554	£50.00	4 th /6 th Leigh Sea Scouts	Further Donation from Xmas Lights & Carols on Strand Wharf Collection

100555	£66.29	V Choppen	Mileage Claim
100556	£46.80	Viking	Stationery
100557	£30.12	Acumen Wages Service	Dec 12 Payroll Processing
100558	£46.20	Mayfield Cleaning Ltd	Bus Shelter Cleaning
100559	£30.12	Acumen Wages Service	Jan 13 Payroll Processing
100560	£780.00	Cable Test	Lights Storage July – Nov 12
100561	£100.00	Petty Cash	Cash
100562	£1,140.00	ISS Facility Services	Hedge Cutting at Allotments
Payroll Transfer	£12,000.00		Pay Tax NI & Pensions for January 13

Imprest Items

£19.77	NCH Software	LTC Hour Guard Time Sheet Recorder
£19.50	Digital daffodil	LTC Laser Pointers for Planning
£105.62	Henry's Electronics	CC Mirror Ball for Lower hall
£91.18	Micron Consumer Products	LTC Memory Upgrade

Direct Debits

£232.62	British Telecom	LTC Telephone - Line Rental & Calls
£548.74	BES Commercial Electricity	CC Electricity
£39.95	e.on	LTC Electricity for Skate Park
£1,098.00	Southend Borough Council	CC General Rates
£73.69	The Calls Warehouse	CC Telephone
£2,236.31	Corona Energy	CC Gas

Leigh Town Council Income

£194.00	Community Transport	Community Transport Members
£98.50	Allotment Rent	Plot Holders
£171.00	Farmers' Market	Stall Holders
£20.00	Miscellaneous Income	

Community Centre Cheques

100051	£315.01	Southend Adult Community College	Electricity
100052	£116.40	Go Local repairs Ltd	Dishwasher Service
100053	£47.95	Essex Supplies (UK) Ltd	Cleaning Materials
100054	£1,558.00	Southend Adult Community College	Security Alarms
100055	£0	Cancelled Cheque	
100056	£0	Cancelled Cheque	
100057	£30.36	Essex & Suffolk Water	Water Charge
100058	£146.41	Anglian water	Sewerage Charge
100059	£216.00	Polar House	Community Centre – Letterhead, Artwork etc
100060	£212.99	Cory Environmental	Bin Rental/Refuse Collection
100061	£342.81	British Telecom	Telephone Rental and Calls to 26 Nov

Community Centre Income

£4010.80	Room Hire	Hirers
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