

# The Council Meeting

Moot Hall, Town Hall  
19 October 2011 at 6.00pm

# Information for Members of the Public

## Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda, which is usually published 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available at [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk) or from Democratic Services.

## Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please pick up the leaflet called "Have Your Say" at Council offices and at [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

## Private Sessions

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss issues in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

## Mobile phones, pagers, cameras, audio recorders

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are turned off before the meeting begins and note that photography or audio recording is not permitted.

## Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to Angel Court Council offices, High Street, Colchester or telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

## Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are located on each floor of the Town Hall. A vending machine selling hot and cold drinks is located on the first floor and ground floor.

## Evacuation Procedures

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. Make your way to the assembly area in the car park in St Runwald Street behind the Town Hall. Do not re-enter the building until the Town Hall staff advise you that it is safe to do so.

Colchester Borough Council, Angel Court, High Street, Colchester  
telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number you wish  
to call

e-mail: [democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk)

[www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

# COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

19 October 2011

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at the Moot Hall, Town Hall on **19 October 2011 at 6:00pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.



**Chief Executive**

## AGENDA

**Please note that this is an Extraordinary Council meeting summoned to consider the items of business listed below only.**

### **Pages**

#### **1. Welcome and Announcements**

(a) The Mayor to welcome members of the public and Councillors and to invite the Chaplain to address the meeting. The Mayor to remind all speakers of the requirement for microphones to be used at all times.

(b) At the Mayor's discretion, to announce information on:

- action in the event of an emergency;
- mobile phones switched to off or to silent;
- location of toilets;
- introduction of members of the meeting.

#### **2. Personal Interests of Members**

Disclosures by Members under Council Procedure Rule 9(3) to 9(9) (if any).

#### **3. Prejudicial Interests of Members**

Disclosures by Members under Council Procedure Rules 9(10) and 9 (11) (if any).

(Note: Members should only declare personal and/or prejudicial interests on items that are to be considered at the meeting).

#### **4. Abbots Activity Centre**

**1 - 2**

A Notice of Motion

Proposer: Councillor Lewis

Motion that:

“This Council resolves to inform Cabinet that its proposed closure of the Abbots Activity Centre is ill-judged and contrary to the wishes of the people of Colchester. The Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to set up an all party Task and Finish Group to look into this decision and protect services for older people at Abbots Centre and it report back to Cabinet before any final decision is taken.”

Main Amendment

Proposer: Councillor Dopson

The motion on Abbots Activity Centre proposed by Councillor Lewis be approved and adopted subject to the deletion of the word “its” and all following wording and its replacement with the following words:-

“the consultation over the proposed closure of the Abbots Activity Centre has raised many concerns. The Council recognises the efforts of the Cabinet in bringing forward alternative options for continuing to provide services for older people and the wider community from this building. The Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to ensure the decision, when taken, protects a level of service for older people at the Abbots Centre.”

If this amendment were to be agreed the revised motion would read:-

“This Council resolves to inform Cabinet that the consultation over the proposed closure of the Abbots Activity Centre has raised many concerns. The Council recognises the efforts of the Cabinet in bringing forward alternative options for continuing to provide services for older people and the wider community from this building. The Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to ensure the decision, when taken, protects a level of service for older people at the Abbots Centre.”

## B Petition

Lead Petitioner: Iris Thompson

A petition in the following terms, with approximately 3784 signatures, was received at the Council's offices on 21 September 2011:

"We the undersigned urgently request that Colchester Borough Council withdraw their plans to close Abbotts Activity Centre."

In view of the similarity of the subject matter, it has been determined that consideration of this petition should be added to the agenda for this Extraordinary Meeting.

In accordance with Petition Procedure Rule 16, as this is an issue on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, Council may decide to make recommendations to inform that decision.

## C Have Your Say!

The Mayor to invite contributions from members of the public who wish to address the Council on these matters (A period of up to 15 minutes is available, subject to the discretion of the Mayor to extend or limit the total time. Each individual speaker to speak for a maximum of three minutes).

A detailed procedure note is enclosed.

## 5. Exclusion of the Public

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).



## **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING: 19 OCTOBER 2011**

### **Procedure note**

The procedure for the debate on the motion and petition on Abbotts Activity Centre will be as set out below. Please note that this procedure may be subject to change should an amendment to the Motion be received, in which case the normal rules of debate will apply.

- Councillor Lewis will be invited to move the following Motion, but not speak to the Motion at this stage:-

Motion that:

“This Council resolves to inform Cabinet that its proposed closure of the Abbotts Activity Centre is ill-judged and contrary to the wishes of the people of Colchester. The Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to set up an all party Task and Finish Group to look into this decision and protect services for older people at Abbotts Centre and it report back to Cabinet before any final decision is taken.”

- The Lead Petitioner, Iris Thompson, to be invited to speak in support of the petition (wording below) for a period of up to three minutes.

“We the undersigned urgently request that Colchester Borough Council withdraw their plans to close Abbotts Activity Centre.”

- Have Your Say speakers to address the Council on the matters raised by the motion and petition. (A period of up to 15 minutes is available, subject to the discretion of the Mayor to extend or limit the total time. Each individual speaker to speak for a maximum of three minutes);
- Councillor Lewis to speak to the Motion (up to 10 minutes).
- As the issue is one on which the Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Petition Procedure Rules provide for Council to decide whether to make recommendations to inform the Cabinet’s decision. In the circumstances of this Extraordinary Meeting, any such recommendation to Cabinet would be in the form of the Motion moved by Councillor Lewis or an amendment to that Motion submitted before the meeting (a Main Amendment) or proposed without notice by a councillor during the course of the debate (a Secondary Amendment).
- Council to debate the motion and petition (up to five minutes per Councillor).

# Review of older people's services Briefing

## Context

There are approximately 58,000 residents aged 50 or more living in the borough. At present, our Activity Centres for people aged 50+ attract less than 2% of this population.

Both the council's Activity Centres require a subsidy to operate. The Lion Walk centre made a loss of £63,000 in the last financial year; the Abbots centre lost £76,000.

Membership of the Lion Walk centre has remained strong, with many people finding its town centre location convenient. Membership as at July 2011 stood at 721. Despite having a small car park of its own, the Abbots centre has not proved as popular, with its membership currently at 277. The actual number of people regularly using the centre is lower than this.

The subsidy required by these centres makes it difficult to invest further monies to provide activities that will serve more older-people, and in particular those who find getting to either centre difficult.

## Review timeline

- May: The review commences with an initial proposal to cease operating Abbots Activity Centre; to increase the capacity of Lion Walk Activity Centre to serve more people by investing in it £15,000 of the saving from this proposal; and to give more older people the chance to access volunteer-led social clubs by investing £20,000 of the saving from this proposal to create new clubs around the borough.
- July: Staff and Members of both centres were informed of the initial proposal and plans for the consultation.
- July – September: The consultation with members and users takes place via letters, questionnaire, and workshops.
- September: As a result of initial feedback from the consultation, the initial proposal was modified and expressions of interest were sought to manage the Abbots Centre.
- October: Consultation and Expressions of Interest processes close. Feedback to the consultation is analysed to assess the impact of the proposal.

## Abbots Activity Centre

Early feedback to the consultation indicated some users of Abbots Activity Centre felt they would find it difficult to re-locate to alternative venues. Therefore the initial proposal was changed. On 31 August an advertisement was placed in the local press inviting expressions of interest from organisations that would be interested in leasing and managing the Abbots building. This advert ran for two weeks. On 15 September a workshop for those interested in responding to the invitation was held. This gave an opportunity to find out more about entering into a lease with the Council.

The deadline for completed expressions of interest was 30 September by which time 5 applications had been received. Organisations were asked to demonstrate:

- the uses planned for the building and the levels of usage envisaged
- the benefits to older people, and to the local and wider community
- how this facility would contribute to the Council's Strategic objectives
- their experience in leasing and managing buildings



