

## Notice of Private Meeting

In exceptional circumstances, the Council may, by law, exclude members of the public from all, or part of, an executive decision making meeting. The Council should give notice of its intention to do so, and members of the public may make representations as to why consideration of specific items should be considered in public.

The item below is considered as exempt under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Expected Date of Meeting	Meeting of:	Key Decision?	Subject	Short Description	Reason for exemption
7 November 2017	Cabinet	Yes	SCC Adult Learning Services Options	<p>Following significant change by the ESFA to the funding regulations for Adult Education, Cabinet are asked to consider future options for the delivery of SCC Adult Learning Services.</p> <p>In addition, the paper will also take into consideration the pending current sub-contract extension end date (31<sup>st</sup> July 2018).</p>	Exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

To make a representation, please contact the Monitoring Officer [tim.ryder@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:tim.ryder@suffolk.gov.uk) in writing or by phone on 01473 264246 at least 6 working days before the expected meeting date. The Council is required to make a statement in response to any representations made for an exempt report to be considered in public. This page will be updated to include reference to representations made for an exempt report to be considered in public together with the Council's response to any representations made.

Representations made for an exempt report to be considered in public	<p><i>Representation from Mel Cassedy, Chair of the Board of Realise Futures:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Adult Learning services are funded by the SFA and not by SCC. It is public money and should be subject to an open debate.</i></li> <li><i>2. Depending on what the options recommended are and which is chosen by Cabinet as the way forward could have a significant impact on adult learners in Suffolk, the many staff we employ to deliver adult learning in Suffolk and possibly the future viability of our company. Surely a public debate is essential in these circumstances.</i></li> </ol>
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	<p>3. <i>We would be interested in understanding more about the reference to "significant change by the Education SFA to the funding regulations " included in the short description of the report within the notice of private meeting. Our national sources were unable to shed any light on this.</i></p> <p>4. <i>I understand that this is the first part 2 item that Cabinet has been asked to consider in over a year which is an excellent record. It just begs the question as to why this report is so exceptional and different from the many significant reports that have been considered by Cabinet during that period.</i></p> <p>5. <i>The reason for exemption lacks any detail as to which person or organisation might be affected by the publication of their financial or business affairs. Surely to exclude such detail does not help to justify why the report cannot be considered in public. Realise Futures would have no objection in principle for information about its financial or business affairs to be made public but we have not been consulted and we don't know what the report says about us. I cannot imagine the Education SFA having any objections either.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Reports about the use of public money being kept from public scrutiny and decisions made by Cabinet behind closed doors does not create trust and does not promote accountability.</i></p> <p><i>As Chair of the Board of RF I would ask SCC to move this report into the public part of the Cabinet meeting. Whatever is being recommended and whatever decisions are made, we need to know and to plan accordingly. It is a real shame that there has been no consultation on the options set out in the report with us or indeed anybody presumably?</i></p>
<p>The Council's response to any representations made</p>	<p><i>Response from Tim Ryder, Monitoring Officer:</i></p> <p><i>I have considered whether the recommendation to Cabinet that the paper is discussed in private should be revised. Just to clarify, it is Cabinet that will decide if the item is discussed in private when they reach that point on the Agenda. It is not an officer decision, although the recommendation is clear. Cabinet will have had the opportunity to read the report in full before deciding whether the press and public should be excluded from that part of the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>I am satisfied that the report contains information that relates to the financial and/or business affairs of the County Council and other organisations. I have not addressed the individual points within your representation as it is difficult to be too specific about what is contained and what the implications might be, without revealing the information that is being protected. I fully accept that there is an expectation of transparency, but on occasions the public interest is best</i></p>

*served by the Council being able to have such discussions in private, not just for this decision but also the implications for any future decisions. That is why the legislation allows this to happen. However, the final judgement must be made by Cabinet based on the information before them.*

*The Regulations require that the Council publishes your representation and my response, and this will appear on the website. I will also ensure that Cabinet are aware of your representation prior to their decision making.*