

## CABINET

THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2014

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 10 July 2014. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Graham Watts.

#### 1. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN & LONG TERM TRANSPORT STRATEGY: RESPONSE TO CONSULTATIONS

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) The response to Cambridgeshire County Council, as set out in paragraphs 20 – 23 and Appendix 1 of the report.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and New Communities to make further technical comments, including those put forward by Cabinet Members at the meeting, in consultation with the Strategic Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder.

**Other Options Considered:** An alternative option considered was to not put forward a response to the consultation, but given the importance to the district this was not recommended. The Council could have made a different response or added additional comments.

**Reason For Decision:** Transport improvements across the county are important for the delivery of the growth agenda, the economy, to improve quality of life and safety for local residents and the travelling public. Transport congestion, particularly around Cambridge, impacts on the potential for delivering the high levels of growth required, the environment and economy of the district. The Council has therefore responded to the consultation to ensure the interests of South Cambridgeshire are appropriately incorporated into these transport strategy documents.

#### 2. PRIORITIES FOR 'AGEING WELL', CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES', 'HEALTH & WELLBEING' AND 'COMMUNITIES & LOCALISM'

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) The outcomes and ambitions and outline action plans set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report as the South Cambridgeshire District Council priorities for 'Ageing Well', 'Children, Young People and Families', 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Communities and Locality Working', to be delivered as part of the 2014-19 Corporate Plan.

- (b) That the reorganisation of resources within the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team to support delivery of the recommendations in the report be delegated to the Director of Health and Environmental Services, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

**Other Options Considered:** Cabinet could have agreed, rejected or amended the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the report, including:

- (a) outcomes, ambitions and outline action plans included at Appendices 1 and 2;
- (b) the re-alignment of existing budgets to deliver these Corporate Plan commitments.

**Reason For Decision:** To support delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan commitments, support the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team working more commercially, develop more effective relationships with Parishes and ensure a corporate approach to the delivery of these priorities across the Council and in working with partners.

### 3. SHARED SERVICES

Cabinet:

- (a) **FORMED** a strategic shared services partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council, whilst continuing to work with the City Council on services where there was a business case and shared desire to work together.
- (b) **AGREED** to the setting up of a joint informal steering group with the Leaders and/or Portfolio Holders to oversee progress and report back to the respective Cabinets and decision-making bodies;
- (c) **ENDORSED** Phase 1 of a shared services programme incorporating Legal, ICT and Building Control;
- (d) **AGREED** to initial funding of up to £50,000 for project management costs from the Council Actions budget for 2014/15, noting that it should be possible to offset this investment either from external funding or efficiency savings.

**Other Options Considered:** The Council could have continued with an incremental approach to shared services with willing partners as opportunities arose, but would need to significantly step up momentum which could lead to fragmentation with services delivered with a wide variety of different partners.

Alternatively, the Council could have chosen to work with partners other than Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridge City Council, however, it was considered that this did not provide the best fit for either residents or businesses and would not facilitate the maximum possible efficiencies.

**Reason For Decision:** Reasons for the decision are set out in paragraphs 4 – 8 of the report.

#### 4. SHARED SERVICE: BUILDING CONTROL

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) To the development of a business case for a shared Local Authority Building Control Service with Huntingdonshire District Council.
- (b) For this business case to include a viability assessment of the IT solution developed by South Norfolk District Council.
- (c) For the Council to work with interested local authorities from Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire to develop a proposal for a Local Authority Building Control cluster to operate within a regional network supported by South Norfolk District Council;
- (d) For the Council to work with South Norfolk District Council and other interested local authorities to develop a proposal for an Eastern Region Approved Inspector Company that will interact with the Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire Local Authority Building Control cluster.

**Other Options Considered:** Other options considered are set out in paragraphs 18 – 35 of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** Reasons for this decision are set out in paragraphs 4 – 8 of the report.

#### 5. CAMBRIDGE CITY & SOUTH CAMBS JOINT WASTE WORKING

Cabinet **AGREED**:

- (a) To work with officers at the City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to prepare a final business case for co-location of current services and the creation of a Single Shared Waste Service based at Waterbeach and that this be reported back to both authorities for a final decision in October 2014.
- (b) That the organisational model to be explored in the final business case for the Single Shared Waste Service is a single management structure, employed by one single Council, with staff on separate terms and conditions linked to either the City Council or South Cambridgeshire District Council, leading to a single organisation wholly run and managed by the two Councils.

**Other Options Considered:** Other options considered are set out in paragraphs 24 – 26 of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** Work to develop a final business case for a possible single shared waste service is well underway and this is an opportunity for Cabinet to help shape work over the summer to complete a full business case. The organisational model proposed for inclusion in the final business case is best suited to ensuring the proposed single, shared service is truly owned by both Councils and staff and provides the greatest scope to expand or scale up a shared service if the opportunity arises with other members of the RECAP Waste Partnership.

## 6. NORTHSTOWE: INVESTMENT AND DELIVERY

Cabinet:

- (a) **APPROVED** the development of detailed proposals and a business case for the proposed Northstowe Joint Delivery Vehicle, subject to the decision of the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Board at its meeting on 10 July 2014, and the Cambridgeshire County Council General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 1 July 2014.
- (b) **NOTED** the delivery and disposal options for Northstowe that will be presented to the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Board on 10 July 2014.
- (c) **ENDORSED** work to develop options for the design and delivery of services in Northstowe town centre, to be the subject of a further report in January 2015;
- (d) **APPROVED** the use of shared branding for Northstowe, subject to the guidelines set out in paragraph 31(a) of the report.

**Other Options Considered:** Other options considered are set out in paragraphs 27 – 31 of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** To ensure that Cabinet can consider any corporate and financial implications arising from the proposals for a Joint Venture with Cambridgeshire County Council and the Homes and Communities Agency, the design of public services for the town centre and the use of shared branding.

## 7. SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S BONDS AGENCY

Cabinet:

- (a) **APPROVED** the investment of up to £50,000 in shares in the Local Government Association's Bonds Agency;
- (b) **DELEGATED** the final decision on investment to the Executive Director (Corporate Services) in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

**Other Options Considered:** The Council could have decided not to participate at this stage but subscribe later at the working capital fund-raising stage once the agency has been established, or not at all.

**Reason For Decision:** It is anticipated that the creation of a Bonds Agency, controlled and owned by local authorities, will reduce the debt financing costs for its borrowing members and provide a collective investment vehicle that would secure good returns for its investing members whilst minimising risk.

The new agency will require funds in the initial stage to cover set up costs and subsequently to provide adequate working capital once in operation. The fund-raising will be carried out through the issue of shares offered to all local authorities. It is anticipated that, once in operation, the agency will be able to pay a dividend to its shareholders commensurate with the level of risk and financial commitment.

## 8. POSITION STATEMENT: FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE 2013/14 - Q4

Cabinet:

- (a) **NOTED** the provisional 2013-14 outturn position statement, together with performance information.
- (b) **APPROVED** the capital and revenue budget rollovers totalling £1,020,110, as listed in Appendix C of the report, to be carried forward into the 2014-15 financial year.

**Other Options Considered:** Other options considered were set out in the main body of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** Rolling over the revenue and capital budgets, as set out in the report, will allow the re-phasing of specific expenditure on particular projects beyond the end of the 2013-14 financial year.

## 9. CORPORATE FORWARD LOOK AND STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Cabinet:

- (a) **NOTED** the policy and financial context for the annual refresh of the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- (b) **ENDORSED** the provisional priority areas identified in paragraph 21 of the report.
- (c) **AGREED** the corporate cycle as referred to in paragraphs 22 – 27 and Appendix F of the report.
- (d) **APPROVED** the Strategic Risk Register and Matrix set out in Appendices D and E of the report.

**Other Options Considered:** Other options considered are set out in the body of the report.

**Reason For Decision:** To provide an overview of the evidence base for the annual refresh of its key strategies and enable improvements to service plan preparation as part of the corporate cycle.

The Strategic Risk Register and Matrix form the record of corporate risks the Council currently faces in the delivery of services and the achievement of strategic aims, together with control measures to address sources of assurance over the risks.