

PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

TUESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2015

RECOMMENDATION, DECISIONS AND CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Tuesday, 3 February 2015. Decisions made by the Portfolio Holder will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Cabinet or 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 Ian Senior.

1. PRE-APPLICATION ADVICE SERVICE

The Planning Portfolio Holder approved

1. the introduction of a one-off meeting service in addition to the existing service;
2. cessation of the existing free written permitted development advice service with the retention of the Planning Duty Officer service to provide up to 15 minutes of free verbal advice; and
3. Implementation of the above changes from 1 April 2015.

The Planning Portfolio Holder endorsed the increase in fees and **recommends** that Cabinet approves the increase in fees at its next meeting on 12 February 2015 to be introduced on 1 April 2015 as the new fees are likely to generate an annual increase in income of more than £50,000.

Options Considered:

To continue with the existing level and types of pre-application advice and schedule of charges;

To introduce a new one-off or single meeting;

To implement the new fee schedule as set out in appendix 2. It is suggested these increases are applied on or after 1 April 2015 to ensure the ongoing improvements to the service are maintained;

To consult on and/or introduce a "premium" or fast-track service for pre-application advice once the ongoing of changes have been made. – As above, this proposal should be brought back to the Portfolio Holder in a future report. As such it is not recommended as an option at present.

Reason For Decision: The delivery of a reliable, well-regarded value for money and cost-effective pre-application advice service is important to help support and facilitate the timely delivery of acceptable and appropriate development.

The Council has reviewed its charges against those of comparable authorities and the schemes adopted by both Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council. Both these Councils carried out an assessment of cost and benchmarked against other authorities.

The existing charging structure is set out in Appendix 1. The proposed charging

structure is set out in Appendix 2. This is considered to generate a level of income that reflects the cost of the service, and will help to provide the service with necessary resources.

2. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS: GAMLINGAY AREA DESIGNATION**

The Planning Portfolio Holder approved the designation of the Gamlingay Neighbourhood Area.

Options Considered:

Approve the area designation for Gamlingay Parish.

Decide to amend the boundary of the area to exclude the four fields identified in the objection by Hatley Parish Council.

Decide not to designate the neighbourhood area.

Reason For Decision: Gamlingay Parish Council wants to prepare a neighbourhood plan for their area and in order to do this a neighbourhood area must be designated. A public consultation must be carried out on the proposed boundary of this area by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the relevant local planning authority. After taking into account comments received during this consultation a decision must be made by the District Council on whether it is appropriate to designate the proposed neighbourhood area.

3. **RESPONSE TO UTTLESFORD GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

The Planning Portfolio Holder endorsed the following response:

“South Cambridgeshire District Council has no objections to the proposals in the Issues and Options Consultation. Uttlesford District Council are commended for planning to meet the needs of travellers. However, further clarification is needed as to how wider needs identified in the Essex GTAA, such as for transit provision, will be met in Essex, if this is not in Uttlesford.

The South Cambridgeshire Submission Local Plan, submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2014, identifies a target of 85 Gypsy and Traveller pitches between 2011 and 2031. This reflects the Cambridge SubRegion GTANA 2011 (as amended 2012). The Council has granted planning permissions which meet this figure, such that no allocations are proposed in the Local Plan, although it indicates that opportunities will be sought to deliver sites through new communities. The Local Plan has been subject to objections which consider that the target should be higher, and this will be tested at the Examination. Several planning application appeal inspectors have also indicated that they consider there remains an outstanding need.

Under the Duty to Cooperate, should needs arise in the future that cannot be met appropriately in South Cambridgeshire, the Council may seek collaboration with surrounding areas, as indicated in the NPPF, Planning for Travellers and the Duty to Cooperate.’

Options Considered:

Alternative approaches would be not to respond, or to respond differently

Reason For Decision: Councils have a Duty to cooperate when plan making. The

proposed response reflects the situation which currently applies in South Cambridgeshire.