

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Review Committee held on
Friday, 27 March 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ben Shelton – Chairman
Councillor James Hockney – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: David Bard
Roger Hall
Neil Scarr
Andrew Fraser
Tony Orgee

Councillors Kevin Cuffley and Ray Manning were in attendance, by invitation.

Officers: Jean Hunter
Victoria Wallace
Graham Watts
Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services Team Leader

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jose Hales and Janet Lockwood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2015, were **AGREED** as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions from the public had been received.

5. GREATER CAMBRIDGE CITY DEAL

The Leaders of the three City Deal partner Councils; Councillors Steve Count, Cambridge City Council, Councillor Lewis Herbert, Cambridgeshire County Council and Councillor Ray Manning, South Cambridgeshire District Council were in attendance for this item. They updated Members on the Greater Cambridge City Deal, with the following points emphasised:

- Linkage of transport with the Local Plan was at the heart of the City Deal, which focussed on three threads; transport, affordable housing and skills.
- The skills thread would provide 420 apprenticeships and focussed on the need to fill the gap between courses that students were studying and what skills business and industry needed.
- The Leaders emphasised that the full benefits of the City Deal would not be realised by 2019, which was the next trigger point for funding.
- The transport thread focussed on long term transport solutions in and around Cambridge City, with a list of projects having been prioritised.
- While transport was a large focus, other important elements to the City Deal were broadband and encouraging business in Cambridge, in order to continue to

- make Cambridgeshire a place where people wanted to live.
- Members were informed that there was no inflation link with the City Deal investment.

Discussion and questions ensued:

Transport:

- The issue of congestion in and around Cambridge City was raised and the Leaders were asked how the City Deal would help reverse this. In response, Members were informed that the City Deal recognised that the areas around Cambridge had to be looked at as a priority, with a focus on getting people out of their cars and onto buses. The City Deal recognised that the bus provider Stagecoach would not invest in more buses and residents would not use buses, if buses could not navigate the city centre in a timely way.
- Members were informed that Milton, Histon and Madingley roads were a focus for the City Deal to tackle by 2019.
- Campaigns continued for funding from other sources to tackle transport infrastructure issues that were outside the City Deal, such as improvements to the A10.
- Members were informed that the Science Park railway station was a focus, as this was a very congested part of Cambridge.
- The City Deal would work with the bus provider Stagecoach to encourage more people out of their cars and onto buses to access the city centre, but recognised that the provider would not invest in more buses and residents would not use buses if buses could not navigate the city centre in a timely way.
- Car parking charges in the city centre were questioned. Members were informed that this was a means of dissuading people from driving and parking in the city centre all day, and encouraging them to use public transport instead.
- Congestion charging was queried, with Members informed that the Leaders did not believe this would be the right route to resolve the congestion issues in Cambridge, however all options needed to be considered.
- The Leaders were asked to bear in mind that as Cambridge developed, research institutes and other businesses would look to locate their offices in outlying areas such as at Sawston Business Park, and that access to these sites should be kept in mind.
- Whilst the proposal to move some Park and Ride sites further out of the City centre was congratulated, the Leaders were asked to urge the bus provider to utilise existing resource in providing bus services.
- Members commented that the bus service provided by Stagecoach to villages outside Cambridge was regarded as poor and as such, contributed to the congestion in Cambridge as village residents had to use their cars to get into Cambridge. The need to look at rural bus services was recognised.
- The A1307 was highlighted by Members as a particular problem, which was recognised by the Council Leaders.

Skills:

- Members were informed that the skills project would benefit all skill sets. Better liaison between business and educational establishments was a focus, to ensure educational establishments were producing students with the skills that business and industry needed, and who were ready for work at the end of their courses.
- The importance of engaging with small businesses to ensure their needs were heard was emphasised, as it was felt that large businesses were already being engaged with. It was pointed out that many small businesses could not afford to offer apprenticeship schemes.
- A challenge identified was getting educational establishments to take risks in

designing courses that were more appropriate and gauged towards the needs of business and industry, rather than running courses that they could guarantee to fill easily, but that would not produce the skills needed by businesses and industry. The Local Enterprise Partnership and the three Council Leaders were working together to address this.

- Members expressed concern that 'old' more traditional skills such as metal and wood working needed to be maintained either through technical colleges, or existing colleges should be encouraged to provide more of these skills.
- Concern was expressed regarding the potential loss of European funding to Cambridge bio-science organisations if there was a European referendum
- The Leaders were made aware of the significant concerns the community in Waterbeach had regarding the potential dualling of the A10. Assurance was sought from the Leaders that softer measures would be looked amongst the options for the A10. The Leaders assured Members that influencing changes in behaviour and pursuing softer measures with schools and employers for instance was preferred, rather than pursuing big build projects in order to solve problems.

Affordable Homes:

- A City Deal New Homes Bonus revenue report was circulated, as a proposed mechanism for monitoring the New Homes Bonus. The Leaders recognised that this mechanism was no different to what the City Deal Executive Board would want to see reported, however names of individuals should not be included.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the broad strategic approach that was being taken by the City Deal.

6. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES.

The committee **NOTED** the update reports that had been received from members appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies.

Councillor Roger Hall provided a verbal update on the County Archives and informed Members of the relocation of the Cambridgeshire Collection from the top floor of Sawston Library to Ely. Concern was expressed regarding this as this was a well used resource by Sawston residents. Councillor Hall would feed this concern back to the Cambridgeshire Collection.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The June 2015 meeting of the committee would focus on policing issues, with the Commissioner and Chief Constable being invited to attend the meeting to discuss neighbourhood and local policing.

Future meeting dates would be set at the June 2015 meeting. Members agreed that following the June meeting, representatives from Stagecoach and the County Council should be invited to attend, to discuss bus services in the District.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Tuesday 9 June at 2pm.

The Meeting ended at 11.20 a.m.
