

CABINET

THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2017

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 20 April 2017. 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 Victoria Wallace.

1. CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING WHITE PAPER - 'FIXING OUR BROKEN HOUSING MARKET'

Cabinet agreed

- (i) Endorsed the consultation response set out in Appendix A to the report from the Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development and Housing Director, subject to officers being given delegated powers to make minor amendments, as agreed; and
- (ii) that where an identical response has been agreed by both this Council and Cambridge City Council in response to individual questions that these are included in a joint consultation response.

Options Considered: With reference to the proposed consultation response Cabinet could:

- (i) Approve it;
- (ii) Reject it;
- (iii) Amend parts of it;
- (iv) Decide to submit a response to some or all of the questions from this authority only.

Reason For Decision: The planning and housing changes proposed in the Housing White Paper will affect South Cambridgeshire and consultation responses are proposed which seek to ensure the changes are appropriate for this district. Cambridge City Council has already agreed its response to the 38 questions in the consultation and officers consider that where a common response is appropriate for both Council's it would be helpful to Government to indicate this through the submission of a joint response. The emerging Local Plans of each authority together provide a spatial framework to guide future growth across the Greater Cambridge area as a whole. Where a common response is not appropriate a separate consultation response will be submitted. Appendix A identifies where a joint response is proposed and where is separate response is proposed.

2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PAPER - PLANNING AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR BUILD TO RENT

The Cabinet endorsed the consultation response set out in Appendix A to the report from the Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development and Housing Director, subject to officers being given delegated powers to make minor amendments, to include consideration for longer term tenancies than the three years proposed within the consultation paper.

Options Considered: Regarding the proposed consultation response Cabinet could:

- (v) Approve it;
- (vi) Reject it;
- (vii) Amend parts of it;

Reason For Decision: The introduction of Affordable Private Rent as a new model for affordable housing is being proposed as part of the Government's white paper. The intention is that this will become part of the Affordable Housing definition through the National Planning Policy Framework. The white paper also sets out the Government's intention to encourage institutional investors into housing through the private rented sector, known as Build to Rent, with Affordable Private Rent being the affordable element of such schemes. The response to these proposals is set out within the consultation response on the Housing White Paper which is also being considered at Cabinet on 20 April 2017. The response attached at Appendix A relating to the Planning and Affordable Housing for Build to Rent is therefore considered a subset of the white paper which goes into the detail of Build to Rent and the Affordable Private Rent.

3. A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET ROUTE OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Cabinet agreed the recommended response in principle but that delegated authority be given to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to make further technical comments in consultation with the Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder. The outcome of such delegation was that the following was submitted as South Cambridgeshire District Council's formal response:

1. Support the principle of upgrading the A428 between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet which will support the delivery of the national, regional and local growth agenda.
2. On the basis of the evidence provided up to this point in the process, the Council support the Orange Route Option, provided it includes grade separated junctions at Cambridge Road / B1428 and Caxton Gibbet / A1198. The Purple and Pink options would have significantly greater environmental disbenefits, and are therefore not supported. This is subject to any final alignment and confirmation that the existing A428 will be retained as a local road and that the new road will not sever existing minor roads connecting villages either side of the proposed alignment.
3. Support proposals for the Black Cat roundabout which enable free flowing traffic on all the strategic routes as well as providing all movements on the local road network (Options A and C).
4. Advise Highways England that the Council is seeking to ensure that future design for the Caxton Gibbet junction minimises impacts on nearby existing and planned developments, including Cambourne West. As the junction layout was not included in the route options consultation, the Council would like to engage in early discussions about the design and how it will enable free-flowing traffic and safe cycle / pedestrian crossing.
5. Advise Highways England that the scheme should not prejudice the delivery of any future strategic proposals, including the A1 improvement scheme and wider Oxford to Cambridge Expressway proposals.
6. Advise Highways England that the scheme should not prejudice Greater Cambridge City Deal proposals for the A428 corridor, including bus and cycle improvement measures, and where possible synergies should be sought.
7. The Council supports the intention to provide opportunities for improving access for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians and would urge Highways England to secure opportunities for the enhancement of existing and/or provision of new infrastructure to the highest standard. The scheme should also seek to redress severance caused by the existing road through the provision of crossings at appropriate points.

8. The Council would like to explore Legacy opportunities with Highways England.

Options Considered: Alternative options would be for the Council not to respond to the consultation, but given the importance to the district this is not recommended. The Council could make a different response, or add additional comments.

Reason For Decision: Improvements to the A428 are important for the delivery of the growth agenda, the economy, and to improve journey times and road safety for the travelling public. The road has an impact on the environment and economy of the district, therefore it is recommended that the Council responds to the consultation addressing potential route options.

4. **PROGRESS UPDATE ON SHARED PLANNING SERVICE** Cabinet

1. Noted progress to date on the implementation of the shared planning service.
2. Agreed the development of the multi-phase programme for delivery of the project (see **Appendix 1** of the report).
3. Approved the broad principles of the proposed management structure (**Appendix 2**) as the basis for the continued development of the organisational structure.
4. Agreed the allocation of additional resources to support the programme as set out in paragraph 21 – 24.
5. Agreed the early introduction of a “Greater Cambridge Planning Service” designation on signatures of emails from planning staff of both Councils
6. Noted the need for seamless ICT systems across Greater Cambridge and to note the commitment to early work (and costs) on the procurement of a common ICT system for planning.
7. Noted the high level objectives identified by the project team and invite them to consider adding to them the need to retain and support an understanding of Place in the way shared service was structured, delivered and managed.
8. Noted the competitive market for planning staff, and asked officers to explore measures that will strengthen the recruitment and retention of planning staff.

Options Considered: None specified

Reason For Decision: The main purposes of the Shared Planning Service are to provide improved services for customers while achieving efficiencies through joint working and increasing the resilience of the service.