

Council

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 23 March 2022. 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 Democratic Services.

Member Parental Leave Policy (Cabinet/22 March 2022)

Council

Agreed To adopt the Member Parental Leave Policy as set out in the appendix to the report.

Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan

Council **Agreed**

- A)** To Note that the referendum for the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan took place on 3 March 2022,
- B)** As it was a successful referendum, to 'make' (adopt) the Waterbeach Neighbourhood Plan (The made version of the plan is at Appendix 1 of the report)

Standing in the name of Councillor Heather Williams

Council **Agreed** the following motion:

This council will:

- Endorse the statement.
- Pledge to support all those seeking refuge as a result of this conflict.
- Work with Government but we need the Government to do more to establish accessible, swift and safe routes to the UK for all of those fleeing Ukraine and to assist local Councils in their work, welcoming and supporting refugees from Ukraine. This includes clarity on safeguarding measures, ongoing support once the initial period has passed and assistance for people seeking refuge to find work as soon as they wish after arrival.
- Continue to fly the Ukraine flag in solidarity with our local government colleagues and the people of Ukraine.

Standing in the name of Councillor Sue Ellington

Council **Agreed** the following motion:

This Council has a policy of being Green to its core. National Highways, in

the construction of the A14, have failed to adequately maintain and nurture the newly planted trees, shrubs and bushes. According to a 2020 survey, 94% of the trees planted had died. These were intended to replace thousands of established trees, bushes and hedgerows which were removed along the route which we were assured would be replaced twofold ([Environment – National Highways \(nationalhighways.co.uk\)](https://www.nationalhighways.co.uk)).

National Highways has therefore failed to deliver the large tree planting initiative that was intended to be an important part of the environmental legacy of the project. This Council notes the following statement from National Highways issued in the last few days, in response to a County Council motion adopted last week.

- A tree/land survey (conducted by specialists) is set to take place early to mid-April (weather dependant) to assess whether there are any underlying issues with tree planting in the area.
- The results will help it determine which species of tree are best suited to the ground conditions.
- The area will be maintained for the next 6 months before replanting takes place in early October.
- We'll be able to inform nearby residents of our plans once we have the results of the tree\land survey in the next 4-6 weeks.

This Council condemns the inadequate provision of replacement trees, shrubs and hedgerows along the A14 and will write to National Highways demanding replacement plants are provided, planted, watered and cared for until they are established, state that it will be monitoring the progress of these remedial actions, will hold them to account in order to deliver on the environmental legacy promised, and to ensure that the same problems do not arise on the similar and imminent A428 project.

Standing in the name of Councillor Alex Malyon

Council **Agreed** the following motion:

Council notes that in May this year we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the first residents moving into Northstowe. This new community will ultimately grow to be the largest new town in the UK in decades. Northstowe is an exemplar of high standards in community building and sustainability, and this council should be proud of the role it has played in bringing this complex development forward. Council recognizes the immense, hands-on effort and oversight that has been required to guide Northstowe to this point and drive community development which has seen Northstowe already grow into a strong and active community. This council is now taking a direct role in bringing forward vital community buildings, the Phase 1 enterprise zone, and Civic Hub, which will house the town's health centre. We are grateful to the many officers for their continuing hard work and dedication to delivering these projects and most especially our community development officers who have continued to represent the Council positively within the community throughout lockdown and COVID restrictions.

Council further notes that Northstowe is at a crucial stage, with permission recently granted for phases 3A and B, work underway on Phase 2 and more residents continuing to join the community in phase 1. While we celebrate reaching this point, there is still a long way to go on the journey for this new community in the heart of South Cambridgeshire.

Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to the success of Northstowe and its growing community, and further commits to continue to explore, in consultation with residents and the Town Council, ways in which facilities so vital to this community can be delivered most effectively. Recognizing the essential nature of these facilities, this Council commits to investigate contingencies for provision of GP services, community space, and a convenience store.

Northstowe Acquisition of Interim Community Facilities (Cabinet/22 March 2022)

Council

Agreed the recommendation in paragraph 8 of the confidential report.