

Cabinet

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 12 March 2024. 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 Pippa Turvey.

1. Update of the Four-Day Week Trial

Cabinet:

- a) Agreed to continue with four-day week working arrangements for desk-based colleagues (pro rata for part time colleagues) until: (i) information was provided by the Government regarding potential future financial levers they might impose on Councils using this working practice, as announced in their Local Government Financial Settlement consultation in December 2023, and (ii) a subsequent consultation was carried out by the Council, analysed, and all trial data was presented to Full Council for a final decision.
- b) Agreed to continue with four-day week working arrangements for the Waste service operational colleagues (the crews) (pro rata for part time colleagues) until: (i) information was provided by the Government regarding potential future financial levers they might impose on Councils using this working practice, as announced in their Local Government Financial Settlement consultation in December 2023, and (ii) a subsequent consultation was carried out by the Council, analysed, and all trial data was presented to Full Council for a final decision, noting that with a seasonal service, ideally a full year's data was required.
- c) Agreed to undertake a consultation on the four-day week, once the financial implications of the Government's Local Government Financial Settlement consultation were confirmed and all implications of considering adoption of a four-day week permanently were understood.
- d) Agreed that, for all colleagues working a four-day week (desk-based and waste operations), the hours were harmonised at 32 hours per week (pro rata for part time colleagues) at 86.5% of contracted hours from 1 April 2024.
- e) Noted that the proposal to approve a continuation of a four-day week (pro rata for part time) working model for waste and desk-based colleagues post the end of March 2024, would also be brought to the Strategy and

Resources Committee at Cambridge City Council on 25 March 2024, and that both Councils were required to support the decision for the services which were shared (Waste and Planning).

- f) Agreed that an update report to Employment & Staffing Committee, Cabinet and Full Council and Cambridge City council committees, no later than the end of July 2024, would provide data on the trial periods (desk-based and waste), up until the end of March 2024, and information about the ongoing effectiveness, including recruitment and retention, costs and savings of a four-day week working model.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

2. 2023-24 Quarter Three Performance Report

Cabinet:

- a) Noted the KPI results and comments at Appendix A to the report and progress against Business Plan actions at the draft Appendix B to the report.

Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason for Decision: The decision was required to enable management and members to understand the organisation's performance. The information included within performance reports contributed to the evidence base for the ongoing review of priorities and enables, where appropriate, redirection of resources to reflect emerging priorities and address areas of concern.

3. Lifeline Service (Dispersed Scheme) and the Financial Impact of the Digital Changeover

Cabinet:

1. Approved the recommendation that the Council bring the Dispersed Lifeline service to an end.
2. Agreed that the proposed increase to the fees for 2024/25, as agreed in the Cabinet report from 5th December 2023, are not activated so that colleagues could focus on assisting customers to find an alternative supplier.
3. Agreed a three-month notice period for bringing the service to an end, so that the Council's customers had sufficient time to find another service and the Council could offer help and assistance where needed.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

4. Homelessness Strategy

Cabinet:

1. Approved the new Homelessness Strategy 2023-2028.
2. Authorised the Lead Member for Housing to approve minor changes to this policy to correct errors, to provide more clarity and to reflect future changes in legislation, guidance or case law.

Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason for Decision: The draft Homelessness Strategy included a homelessness review of the district identifying the main issues leading to housing need. From these, priorities for the next five-year strategy were outlined.

5. Amendments to the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Criteria

Cabinet approved the proposed amendments to the guidance, to come into effect for the 2024-2025 grant cycle.

Options Considered: To reject the proposed amendments to the guidance, or to propose alternative or supplementary amendments to the guidance.

Reason for Decision: The clarifications had been proposed in response to the annual review of the officer panel scoring process, and comments made by the Grants Advisory Committee at the presentation of the 2023-2024 applications at the July 2023 committee.

The Climate and Environment Advisory Committee had the opportunity to review the proposed changes and support them.

The Grants Advisory Committee had the opportunity to review the proposed changes and recommended to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources that these changes were approved.

6. Increasing protections for High Street ATM's (Automated Teller Machines)

Cabinet agreed:

- a) To progress work, from 1 April 2024, to protect the ATM identified at the Co-op in School Lane, Cambourne.
- b) To delegate to the Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Communities, decisions to proceed with increasing protection to ATM following assessment of additional sites within the approved £100,000 budget, ensuring local district councillors and parish/town councils have been engaged.

- **Options Considered:** Agree to progress the recommended Co-op site in Cambourne identified in the first tranche of 14 vulnerable ATMs.
- Delay a decision on the recommended Co-op site in Cambourne and ask officers for more information before making a decision.
- Agree to delegate to the Head of Transformation, HR and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Communities, decisions to proceed with ATM target hardening work following assessment of additional sites within the approved £100,000 budget.
- Decide to end the project at the investigation phase and return the entire £100,000 to the South Cambridgeshire District Council's SPF funding co-ordinator for use on other programme projects.

Reason for Decision: The research, site assessments and consultation with elected members, businesses and parish/town councils about this project had already been extensive. Many of the original 14 sites were not suitable for the installation of heavy-duty planters for a range of reasons (including available space, land ownership, business preference) but it was hoped that delivery at the Cambourne location may help others in the second tranche of sites assess whether the installation of planters would be a good option for their ATM.

The list of potential sites would be kept under review to ensure as many locations as possible were assessed and progressed during the 2024-25 period. If necessary, any unallocated funds would be returned to the District Council's SPF programme coordinator for use on other projects in South Cambridgeshire.

The second tranche of sites would be assessed using the same criteria as the original 14 sites identified as higher priority by the police before a decision by the Head of Service in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member.

7. **Mobile Warden Schemes - Additional Grant Funding to Support Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Schemes for 2024-25**

Cabinet agreed a supplementary estimate of £100,000 to fund Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to provide continuity of service to the 11 South Cambridgeshire Mobile and Community Warden Schemes during 2024-25.

- **Options Considered:** Agree to fund Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with an additional £99,965 to provide continuity of service to the 11 South Cambridgeshire Mobile and Community Warden Schemes in 2024-25.
- Agree to allow Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to use the Council's previously approved £64,435 grant for 2024-25 to continue to deliver Mobile and Community Warden services to the areas they assess as most viable.
- Agree an alternative additional grant amount to Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, giving reasons, to provide continuity of service to named South Cambridgeshire Mobile and Community Warden Schemes in the 2024-25 period.

- Defer a decision ask officers for further specific information. This option would result in a likely disruption to services and potential staffing difficulties as Wardens have been placed at risk of redundancy.

Reason for Decision: MCWS offer a lifeline to older residents in South Cambridgeshire and to their families and carers. It was well-known that there were benefits to keeping older people living independently in their own homes in the communities they know. MCWSs offered a relatively low-cost opportunity for some older people to maintain their independence; offering an opportunity for social contact, falls prevention, medication assessment, respite and relief for carers and families and, in some cases, the opportunity to expedite discharge from hospital which reduces bed-blocking. This resulted in improved health and wellbeing for residents and was likely to save greater costs in other parts of the health system. The review being carried out by Rose Regeneration was expected to provide more data to demonstrate the value-for-money of the schemes and make recommendations for how schemes can become more self-sustaining.

8. Greater Cambridge Plan-making Timetable

Cabinet agreed that:

- a) The Local Plan Timetable Update at Appendix 1 be added as an Addendum to the Greater Cambridge Development Scheme 2022 and published on the Greater Cambridge Planning website.
- b) the Lead Member for Planning at South Cambridgeshire District Council would write to DLUHC, together with the Executive Councillor for Planning, Building Control and Infrastructure at Cambridge City Council, providing an update on the plan making timetable for Greater Cambridge reflecting the contents of this report.
- c) the Greater Cambridge local planning authorities should explore further with Government the opportunity to be a 'front-runner' pilot for the new plan-making process.
- d) a further report with a proposed specific timetable for both plans be brought to Members when there was clarity on the external dependencies of water, transport the WWTP DCO and the new plan-making system.

Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason for Decision: Given the remaining uncertainties regarding key determinants for GCLP and NECAAP, it was only possible to confirm an indicative timetable for the GCLP process.

9. Statement of Community Involvement

Cabinet:

- a) Noted the main issues raised in the public consultation, agreed responses to the representations received and agreed proposed changes to the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the Statement of

- Consultation (Appendix 1 to the report);
- b) Subject to (a), agreed to adopt the amended Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 2 to the report); and
 - c) Delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning, the authority to make any necessary editing changes to the SCI prior to publication.
- **Options Considered:** Agree the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 2 to the report without making any further amendments;
 - Agree the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and supporting documents, making further amendments; or
 - Not agree the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 2 to the report and supporting documents.

Reason for Decision: The report presented the reviewed SCI for adoption following the conclusion of a six week period of public consultation. Whilst there was no mandatory requirement for consultation on a draft SCI, the Cabinet agreed at the meeting of 28 September 2023 that the draft SCI should be consulted on for a six week period to ensure that the needs and aspirations of our communities, partners and stakeholders were considered and taken into account in finalising the document. The public consultation on the draft reviewed SCI commenced on Wednesday 18 October 2023 and concluded on Wednesday 29 November 2023.

There were a total of 53 representations received during the consultation period from a total of 24 separate individuals or organisations. This was more than the representations received from the previous SCI consultation and was typical of a document of this nature. There was general support for the aims and approach of the draft SCI. The Statement of Consultation detailed the comments received, and provided a summary of the main issues raised and how they had been taken into account.

10. 2023/2024 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (Quarter 3)

Cabinet:

- (a) Noted the 2023/24 revenue position against the approved revenue budget to date shown in Appendix B to the report, the projected major variances with reasons for these variances at Appendices C1 to C7 to the report, and the action being taken to address the underlying issues.
- (b) Noted the latest Capital Programme 2023/24 position [and variances, if any] as shown in Appendix D to the report.

Options Considered: The report provided monitoring information to ensure awareness of budget trends and emerging budget issues.

Reason for Decision: For Cabinet to be advised of the latest monitoring information in respect of the 2023/24 revenue and capital budgets and emerging budget issues, for the third quarter period to 31 December 2023. The

comparison in the various appendices was against the revised estimate.

11. Review of the Ermine Street Housing Business Plan 2023-2024 to 2032-2033

Cabinet received, in their capacity as shareholder, the Ermine Street Business Plan for the period 2023/2024 to 2032/2033.

Options Considered: No other options were considered.

Reason for Decision: The Council, as owner of the Company and sole shareholder, had an interest in reviewing the Business Plan to ensure that: (i) the Company was on target to achieve its objectives, (ii) to consider the past year's performance, and (iii) acknowledge the changes in the financial assumptions and the financial return to the Council resulting from the business activity.