

Cabinet

Thursday, 28 September 2023

Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 28 September 2023. 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. Young People in South Cambridgeshire

Cabinet:

- a) endorsed this report; and
- b) recommended that Full Council:
 - asks officers to share the general feedback received from young people during the Task & Finish Group's work with local authorities and educational providers so they can take this into account when providing their services.
 - asks officers to write to village colleges in South Cambridgeshire to offer the opportunity to present to them on the elections process and ask if we can further support their curriculum.
 - notes the successful youth engagement programme currently run by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and supports the provision of appropriate coaching to enable officers in other priority areas such as housing and local business to find ways of similarly involving young people.
 - Asks officers to investigate the feasibility of holding, within the next 12 months, a scheduled meeting of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee at a local educational establishment, to which students and other young people should be invited.
 - Asks The Leader to write a letter to the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority highlighting the feedback from young people on the limitations of public transport and urging him to take into account their views when developing proposals for bus franchising.
 - invites young people, including from the groups approached as part of the Task & Finish exercise (**Appendix 1**), to contribute evidence to officers involved in developing a new Equality Policy embracing generational

differences.

- encourages all Members of South Cambridgeshire District Council to commit to engaging with young people and representative organisations in their wards by establishing regular visits to local schools, colleges, youth clubs and other locations as appropriate.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

2. Modern Slavery Statement 2023-24

Cabinet:

- a) Reviewed and approved the Modern Slavery Statement contained at **Appendix A** to the report.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

3 Mutual Exchange Policy

1. Cabinet considered the report and approved the officer recommendations listed below:

	Issue	Current Policy	Officer Recommendation	Tenant Proposal
1	Under-occupation	There is no under-occupation permitted from an exchange	That under-occupation is permitted, but this is limited to one bedroom.	Mutual Exchanges should be permitted where the under-occupancy rate is not worsened in SCDC properties overall (including like for like swaps)
2	Overcrowding	No overcrowding is permitted.	That overcrowding is only permitted in very specific cases linked to the lack of larger accommodation (i.e. where a tenant has a 4 bedroom requirement and wishes to swap to a 3 bedroom property where that property has an additional room that can be used as a bedroom)	Overcrowding by 1 bedroom should be permitted across all property sizes

3	Staffing	Mutual exchanges are dealt with by generic housing officers (note: this is practice not policy)	Mutual exchanges are dealt with by generic housing officers (but the situation is monitored)	That an additional officer is appointed for mutual exchanges (full time or part time)
4	Incentives to downsize	Incentives are offered to transfer tenants who are in receipt of housing benefit and are subject to the 'bedroom tax'.	Incentives are offered to all people who downsize through mutual exchange. This will be linked to the number of bedrooms freed up as an incentive to downsize fully.	Agreed with Officer Recommendation. Any incentive should also cover removal costs.
5	Mutual Exchange Service	Applicants have access to mutual exchange service (Exchange Locata) free of charge to find suitable matches	Subscription to additional mutual exchange service (HomeSwapper) to provide improved access to greater number of potential matches free of cost to tenants.	Agreed with Officer Recommendation

2. Cabinet approved the final version of the mutual exchange policy at Appendix A to the report, and gave the Lead Member for Housing authority to make minor amendments and any subsequent changes relating to the value of the financial incentive.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

4. Response to Consultation on Plan-making reforms Implementation

Cabinet:

- a. Agreed the joint response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities' Consultation on Plan-making reforms: Implementation included in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b. Agreed that any subsequent material amendments be delegated to the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning in consultation with the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development.
- c. Agreed that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that did not materially affect the content be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

5. Review of the Statement of Community Involvement (Draft for Consultation)

Cabinet:

- a) Agreed the draft Statement of Community Involvement 2023 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) and accompanying Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) (Appendix 2 to the report) be subject to public consultation;
- b) Agreed that the preparation of materials and the running of the consultation be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development
- c) Agreed that any subsequent material amendments prior to consultation be made by the Lead Member for Planning, Policy and Development Management, and that any subsequent minor amendments and editing changes that did not materially affect the content prior to consultation be delegated to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in consultation with the Lead Member for Planning, Policy and Development Management.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

6. 2023/2024 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (Quarter 1)

Cabinet considered the report and:

- (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 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: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

7. Local Heritage List

Cabinet:

- a) noted the progress made on the County-wide Local Heritage List Project (LHLP)
- b) agreed that consultation was now carried out with owners of the buildings identified for inclusion within the Local List of Buildings within South Cambridgeshire District

- c) Delegated to the Joint Director of Planning decisions to include and/or make changes the Local List following the consideration of responses received during the consultation period.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

8. 2023-24 Quarter One Performance Report

Cabinet:

- a) Reviewed the KPI results and comments at **Appendix A to the report** and the progress in delivery of 2023-24 Business Plan outputs at **Appendix B to the report.**

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

9. Strategic Risk Report

Cabinet:

- a) Reviewed the current Strategic Risk Register at **Appendix A** to the report.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

10. Homes for Ukraine – Landlord Incentive Scheme

Cabinet approved the proposed policy to increase the number of private rented homes accessible to Homes for Ukraine guests who were moving on from being hosted.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

11. Northstowe - Acquisition of Western Park Sports Pitches, governance arrangements for the Western Park facility and procurement of an external operator

Cabinet noted the following:

- i. The acceptance of the freehold land transfer of the Sports Pitches within the Western Park through a Decision taken by the Chief Executive, having considered the valuation report and assessment of resultant liabilities.

- ii. The procurement of an external specialist operator for the unified Western Park sports facility has progressed and an operator has been identified; the contract has been awarded subject to satisfactory references and is conditional upon successful land transfer.
- iii. The establishment of a Governance mechanism by which Northstowe Town Council and the local community can partner with SCDC to ensure local accountability and oversight of the management and maintenance of the Phase 1 Sports Facility, i.e. the creation of a management board through a memorandum of understanding.

Options Considered: As set out in the report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the report.

12. Northstowe Enterprise Zone - Option Agreement on Parcel 5

Cabinet:

- a) Approved as specified in paragraph 8 of the exempt report.

Options Considered: As set out in the exempt report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the exempt report.

13. Affordable Housing Acquisition – 33no. New Homes, Fulbourn

Cabinet:

- a) Approved as specified in paragraphs 6-7 of the exempt report.

Options Considered: As set out in the exempt report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the exempt report.

14. Affordable Housing Acquisition – 43no. New Homes, Northstowe

Cabinet:

- b) Approved as specified in paragraphs 6-7 of the exempt report.

Options Considered: As set out in the exempt report.

Reason for Decision: As set out in the exempt report.