

REPORT TO: Climate & Environment Advisory Committee 25 March 2019
LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Aidan Van de Weyer
LEAD OFFICER: Stephen Kelly – Joint Director of Planning and New Communities

New Village at Bourn Airfield

1. The District Council have received a planning application for the redevelopment of Bourn Airfield. This proposal seeks permission for approximately 3,500 dwellings, business, retail, community, leisure and sports uses; new primary and secondary schools; public open spaces including parks and ecological areas; points of access; associated drainage and other infrastructure, groundworks, landscaping and highway works.
2. The proposal is for the strategic allocation for Bourn new village as set out in Policy SS/7 of the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is currently being prepared to provide further guidance and detail on the implementation of Policy SS/7.
3. Policy SS/7 paragraph 3 requires that the new village will deliver an example of excellence in sustainable development and healthier living, making a significant contribution to the long term development needs of the Cambridge area.
4. Policy SS/7 paragraph 9 requires the new village to incorporate and deliver opportunities to exceed sustainable design and construction standards established by the Local Plan. These standards are set out in the following planning policies:-

CC/1 Mitigation and Adaption to Climate Change
CC/3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Developments
CC/4 Water Efficiency
5. The site is a former WW2 airfield, and is currently used for a combination of uses, including grazing, open storage, and with some existing employment uses. There is also still some occasional light aircraft use. The site also includes Bucket Hill Plantation.
6. The site is broadly flat on the northern part of the site, and then gently falls towards the south, with a shallow valley on the south eastern edge close to the plantation, and overall is situated between 54m and 74m above sea level.
7. There are no major watercourses within the site, but there are various small natural and man made ditches that generally flow south towards the Bourn Brook, and these

would historically have accepted the natural drainage from the fields and run off from the runways.

8. The planning application is accompanied by a sustainability and energy statement.
9. This report is accompanied by an infographic provided by the applicant, setting out their broad approach to sustainable design and meeting the challenge of climate change.
10. The applicant will be presenting their ideas in more detail at the Committee meeting.

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