



Report to: Cabinet 11 July 2022

Lead Cabinet Members: Councillor Bill Handley (Lead Cabinet Member for Communities) and Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins (Lead Cabinet Member for Planning)

From: Councillor Stephen Drew, Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Councillor Graham Cone, Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Purpose

1. This report is to inform Cabinet about relevant discussion among members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at their meeting on 23 June 2022 and to make recommendations at paragraphs 2 and 11.

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme and Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals representations

Recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee

2. Having considered consultation responses in respect of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals and, in particular, issues surrounding water resources, relocation of the Waste Treatment Plant at North East Cambridge, and the relationship between housing and employment, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2022.

Comments

3. Councillor Anna Bradnam welcomed the wide-ranging nature of the Local Plan consultation exercise in terms of both the number of different methods used to obtain feedback and the breadth in the demographic of respondents. Councillor Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer said that it was more important to identify any issues that hadn't been the subject of consultation than to focus on the nature of those making representations.
4. Councillor Sue Ellington asked that, where possible, there should be some analysis of the type and quantity of responses originating from the Cambridge

City and South Cambridgeshire administrative areas. She was keen to make sure that the overall result would not be skewed against the rural way of life.

5. The pressure placed on the Uttons Drove Sewage Treatment Works by developments such as Northstowe and West Cambourne must not be underestimated.
6. Should the Water Treatment Plant be relocated away from North East Cambridge, Councillor Ellington said that the consequent time required to achieve that must be realistic and considered in assessing the reasonableness of the Local Plan's timescales.
7. Still on the topic of timescales, Councillor Peter Fane observed that this was a joint Local Plan between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. He recognised that there would be issues for the two Councils that were dependent on work being completed by third parties.
8. Councillor Dr. Martin Cahn noted that the majority of housing proposed in South Cambridgeshire was in the north of the district whereas major employment expansion was focussed on the south. He said it would be crucial to forge a relationship between the two.
9. Councillor Stephen Drew was keen that every effort should be made to increase involvement in the planning process by those aged between 19 and 39 as these people were the ones most likely to be affected in the long term by the outcome of Local Plan policies.
10. While noting the engagement with the water industry, Councillor Peter Fane emphasised the importance of South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council being satisfied that water supply was sufficient.

Delivery at Northstowe – Update and Recommendations

11. Having considered the detailed report, including costs, governance and quality of life considerations, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee supports the recommendations contained in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2022.

Comments

12. Councillor Helene Leeming emphasised the importance of securing value for money especially in view of current inflationary pressures.
13. Councillor Anna Bradnam said there must be no compromise in community facilities complying with South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'Green to our Core' aspirations.
14. Referring to South Cambridgeshire District Council's intention to buy 80 affordable homes on Phase 2B, Councillor Graham Cone applauded the fact

that, once the contract had been concluded these homes would be managed as Council property.

15. Councillor Graham Cone, while noting that community buildings were available for use by everyone, said the differing needs of Faith groups must be considered in the longer term.
16. Councillor Dr. Martin Cahn emphasised the importance of good architectural design for the community buildings in Northstowe. The governance of such buildings must be determined as soon as possible.
17. Councillor Peter Fane said that the economic strategy must champion clean technology as being of prime importance.
18. Councillor Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer welcomed the proposals as a step towards place-making and observed that facilities at Northstowe would be important for South Cambridgeshire as a whole. However, he cautioned against such expenditure being at the expense of some other demand on the District Council's finances. Councillor Stephen Drew clarified that place-making at Northstowe must enhance the quality of people's lives.
19. The Chair invited Councillor Heather Williams to speak. Councillor Williams hoped that 'landmark building' would not simply mean 'large building'. She continued by saying that Cabinet members might find it useful to have before them on 11 July some draft terms of reference for the Governance Board. Contingencies must be put in place to cope with unexpected challenges along the way.

Report Author:

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