

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee held on
Thursday, 23 June 2022 at 5.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Drew – Chair
Councillor Graham Cone – Vice-Chair

Councillors:	Anna Bradnam	Dr. Martin Cahn
	Sue Ellington	Sunita Hansraj
	Sally Ann Hart	James Hobro
	Helene Leeming	John Loveluck
	Dr Lisa Redrup (substitute)	Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer

Officers in attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Anne Ainsworth (Chief Operating Officer), Gareth Bell (Communications Manager), Peter Campbell (Head of Housing), Jonathan Dixon (Planning Policy Manager), Kirstin Donaldson (Service Manager - Acquisitions and Development), Adele Gritten (Head of Economic Development and Commercial Investments), Caroline Hunt (Strategy and Economy Manager), Stephen Kelly (Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development), Peter Maddock (Head of Finance), Jonathan Malton (Cabinet Support Officer), Rory McKenna (Monitoring Officer) and Ian Senior (Scrutiny and Governance Adviser)

Councillor Heather Williams (Leader of the Opposition), Bill Handley (Lead Cabinet Member for Communities), Dr. Tumi Hawkins (Lead Cabinet Member for Planning), Judith Rippeth (Deputy Leader) and Bridget Smith (Leader of the Council) were in attendance, by invitation.

Councillor Peter Fane was in attendance remotely.

1. Chair's announcements

The Chair made several brief housekeeping announcements.

2. Apologies for absence

Councillor Richard Stobart sent apologies. His substitute was Councillor Lisa Redrup.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest although Councillor Anna Bradnam noted the significance to all Members present of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee authorised the Chair to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2022 as a correct record subject to the following:

Minute 6 – Quarter 4 Performance Report

In the third paragraph from the end, replace the words ‘...waste sat community events...’ with the words “...waste at community events...” so that the paragraph reads as follows:

“Councillor Stephen Drew asked about C8 (Improve recycling and reduce waste at community events). Bode Esan. Head of Climate, Environment and Waste, referred to the toolkit aimed at addressing this issue.”

Attendance list

Councillor Heather Williams attended the meeting and was present in the Council Chamber.

5. Public Questions and Statements

There were no public questions.

Mr. Daniel Fulton (Fews Lane Consortium) withdrew his application to make a statement about the recent reorganisation of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service,

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

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered a draft Cabinet report detailing the results of the consultation relating to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals (Preferred Options) held in late 2021, and the representations received. The report also sought Cabinet approval of a revised timetable for future stages of the Local Plan, and of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, as set out in an update to the Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme.

Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins (Lead Cabinet Member for Planning), the Strategy and Economy Manager and the Planning Policy Manager introduced the two themes of the report. 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 important for the Local Plan to focus on issues but accepted that Members might in addition be interested in who had made representations. He suggested that any gaps in the feedback from different communities should be identified for the future.

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. Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins said that she would ask officers to carry out some analysis.

Councillor Ellington continued by saying that the pressure placed on the Uttons Drove Sewage Treatment Works by developments at Bourn Airfield, West Cambourne and Northstowe must not be underestimated. The Planning Policy Manager assured the Committee that officers were continuing to engage with partner organisations to make sure that appropriate infrastructure was in place.

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 considered in assessing the reasonableness of the Local Plan's 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. The Strategy and Economy Manager said that the Cabinet would be asked to revise the Local Development Scheme to make sure that there was a realistic correlation between those things under the control of South Cambridgeshire District Council (like the Local Plan) and matters relating to other organisations such as the Development Consent Order upon which the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan was dependent. She confirmed that the new Local Plan would make reasonable assumptions on delivery of development taking account of site-specific circumstances.

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. Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins pointed out that housing development was located near to existing transport corridors.

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. Councillor Dr. Tumi Hawkins said it was a resource issue and that the main challenge was to get people used to being involved. The Planning Policy Manager added that officers were constantly striving to achieve a greater impact.

Councillor Peter Fane emphasised the importance of South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council being satisfied that water supply was sufficient. Officers summarised the evidence base on which the two Councils were reliant.

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 **supported by affirmation** the recommendations that the Cabinet should

1. note the representations made to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals (Preferred Options) consultation and the report on the consultation at Appendix 1;
2. adopt the updated Local Development Scheme for Greater Cambridge included at Appendix 2 of the report, to take effect from Monday 1 August 2022; and
3. grant delegated authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the South Cambridgeshire District Council Lead Cabinet member for Planning and the Cambridge City Council Executive Councillor for Planning and Infrastructure (in consultation with chair and spokes), to make any minor editing changes and corrections identified to the updated Local Development Scheme for Greater Cambridge included at Appendix 1 of the report prior to publication.

7. Work Programme

The Chair updated Committee members about arrangements being made to develop the work programme. He also highlighted his aspirations for the scheduled Committee

meeting on 6 September 2022.

8. To Note the Date of the next meeting

Members noted that the next scheduled Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting was on Tuesday 26 July 2022 at 5.20pm.

9. Delivery at Northstowe

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered a report providing an update on a range of issues concerning Northstowe and making several recommendations related to the provision of community buildings; development of the Enterprise Zone and funding, including a funding shortfall in the Legal Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Councillor Helene Leeming emphasised the importance of securing value for money especially in view of current inflationary pressures. Officers outlined how they intended to achieve this, and the Leader commented that sometimes quality should be prioritised over cost in order to assure effective futureproofing. The Head of Economic Development and Investment was confident that the community facilities referred to in the report could be delivered within cost parameters outlined in the financial appendices.

In response to a question from Councillor Anna Bradnam, the Head of Finance clarified that Cabinet would be recommended to increase the Capital Programme allocation for Northstowe to £34.6 million. Councillor Bradnam said there must be no compromise in community facilities complying with South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'Green to our Core' aspirations.

Referring to South Cambridgeshire District Council's intention to buy 60 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.

While noting that community buildings were available for use by everyone, Councillor Stephen Drew said the differing needs of Faith groups must be considered in the longer term.

Councillor Dr. Martin Cahn emphasised the importance of good architectural design for the community buildings in Northstowe and the need to determine the future governance of such buildings. The Leader assured Councillor Cahn that discussions about governance were ongoing and the Head of Housing summarised briefly the different business plans being worked on for the different types of community buildings.

Councillor Peter Fane said that the economic strategy must champion clean technology as being of prime importance.

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.

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.

The Chair proposed, and the Committee affirmed, that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting at this stage so that Members could consider restricted information contained in appendices F, G and H to the report in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Upon returning to open session, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee **supported by affirmation** the recommendations contained in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2022 namely

1. that the Council invest more than £12 million in funding and move forward with its commitment to deliver high-quality community facilities for Northstowe residents. This would include the growing new town's Sports Pavilion and Community Centre on Phase 1, and Civic Hub and additional Sports Pavilion on Phase 2; and
2. that further development work on the Enterprise Zone be paused to allow time to focus on the community facilities; and a Member Governance Group be established to oversee progress on the buildings the Council is responsible for delivering.

The Meeting ended at 8.18 p.m.
