

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

14 April 2011

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ABOLITION OF CAMBRIDGE CITY FRINGES JOINT COMMITTEE (S29)

Purpose

1. To seek Council agreement to abolish the Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

2. That Council resolve to Council is recommended to accept the recommendation from the Joint Committee and to request the Secretary of State to abolish the Section 29 Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The reasons for the decision are set out in the report to the Committee attached as **Appendix 1** but in summary are:
 - (a) The Joint Committee was never necessary as the City and District Councils had long been co-operating on plan-making, including joint plan-making
 - (b) The Joint Committee needed and was provided with a budget from the Growth Area Fund which was terminated by the new government
 - (c) Without a budget, the Joint Committee is a drain on the three Council's diminishing resources
 - (d) Savings in the region of £200,000 - £250,000 in plan-making costs can be achieved by incorporating the areas covered by the Joint Committee in each Council's Development Plans
 - (e) The City and District Council have agreed timetables for new plans for the whole of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire which, relying on the new 'duty to co-operate' included in the Localism Bill, can in effect be prepared jointly.

Background

4. The Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee was set up in July 2009 at the request of the last Government to be the local planning authority for plan-making for three areas on the edge of Cambridge. The Committee comprises of members of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The three areas within its sole jurisdiction for plan-making are:
 - (a) The University land between Huntingdon Road and Madingley Road (North West Cambridge)
 - (b) Cambridge Airport, land north of Newmarket Road and land north of Cherry Hinton (Cambridge East)
 - (c) Land bounded by the A14, Kings Lynn railway, former St Ives railway line and A10 / Cowley Road (old A10) (Cambridge Northern Fringe East).

5. The Committee was established by Parliamentary Order under the provisions of Section 29 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Considerations

6. Joint Plans for North West Cambridge and Cambridge East had already been prepared and adopted by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council before the Joint Committee was established only leaving a plan for Cambridge Northern Fringe East to be prepared. The Committee has met only twice and at its second meeting on 23rd March 2011 resolved by 6 votes to 0 (unanimously) that:
 - (a) The future co-ordination and policy development for Cambridge Northern Fringe East is incorporated within each Council's separate Development Plans.
 - (b) The Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee is no longer required and is abolished.
 - (c) The abolition of the Cambridge City Fringes Joint Committee is recommend to each of the three Councils for approval
 - (d) A joint letter from the three Councils is sent to the Secretary of State setting out the request to abolish the Committee and the reasons for it. This would be drafted by the City Council and circulated to all members for approval.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Reports to Council 31 January and 27 November 2008

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