

NORTHSTOWE AND NEW COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2011

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Thursday, 23 June 2011. Decisions made by the Portfolio Holder will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Cabinet or 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 Holly Adams.

1. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PPS PLANNING FOR TRAVELLER SITES

The Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to respond to the government consultation on the draft new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) "Planning for Travellers" with the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following amendments, the wording of which to be finalised by officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder:

- A summary of this Council's enforcement and appeals experiences under the heading "Other Matters";
- Recognition that, as in the settled community, the travelling community was comprised of different groups, often with different needs, for which a single target might not be appropriate;
- To seek clarity whether the relationship between the number of pitches and plots and the size and density of the surrounding population (Policy B paragraph 9f) was positive or inverse; and
- To address minor typographical errors before submission.

Other Options Considered: The Council has the option not to respond, but given the importance of the issue to South Cambridgeshire this is not recommended. The response proposed takes account of the Council's position on planning for travellers gained over many years of experience on both dealing with planning applications and plan making.

Reason For Decision: This is an important consultation as the new PPS will set out the Government's Gypsy and Traveller planning policies, which will affect planning for Gypsy and Traveller sites in South Cambridgeshire, both in terms of the emerging Development Plan Document and decisions on planning applications.

2. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON RELAXATION OF PLANNING RULES FOR CHANGE OF USE FROM COMMERCIAL TO RESIDENTIAL

The Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to respond to the government consultation on proposals regarding relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial (B use classes) to residential (C3 use classes) with the comments set out in Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following amendments, the wording of which to be finalised by officers in consultation with the Portfolio Holder:

- When responding to Question E about whether or not the full range of possible issues has been identified, to include specific reference to the impact of the proposals on the Green Belt and on conservation areas; and
- To elaborate further on the impact on nearby commercial users of the presence of residential users.

Other Options Considered: Alternative options would be for the Council not to respond, but given the potential impact of the proposals this is not recommended. A further alternative would be to support the proposals, but given the potential issues that have been identified this is also not recommended.

Reason For Decision: This is an important consultation, as the proposed changes will affect planning in South Cambridgeshire for commercial and residential development, and the control the Council has over changes of use, which could have significant implications for the district.

3. PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2011-12

The Northstowe & New Communities Portfolio Holder **AGREED** in principle the proposed performance measurements identified in paragraphs 8-12 of the report and **NOTED** that these measurements could be revised mid-year as the programme evolved.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: The performance measures contained in paragraphs 8 - 12 reflect the outcome of a review of performance measures led by the Corporate Manager, and include priorities from the Service Plan and Corporate Plan.