

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor David McCraith – Chairman  
Councillor Brian Burling – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: David Bard, Val Barrett, Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Ruth Betson, Nigel Cathcart, Doug Cattermole, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Jose Hales, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Mark Howell, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, Cicely Murfitt, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Alex Riley, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Ingrid Tregoing, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Aidan Van de Weyer, John Williams, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright

Officers: Beverly Agass Chief Executive  
Rory McKenna Deputy Head of Legal Practice  
Kathrin John Democratic Service Team Leader

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anna Bradnam, Francis Burkitt, Tom Bygott, Caroline Hunt, Peter Johnson, Ben Shelton and David Whiteman-Downes.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were made as follows:

- Councillor Brian Burling declared an interest in agenda item 9(b), Community Governance Review for Willingham and Over, as a landowner. Councillor Burling had received a dispensation to participate in the debate but not vote.
- Councillor Ray Manning declared an interest in agenda item 9(b), Community Governance Review for Willingham and Over, as a landowner. Councillor Manning had received a dispensation to participate in the debate but not vote.
- Councillor Tim Wotherspoon declared an interest in item 9(b), Community Governance Review for Willingham and Over, as the County Councillor for Cottenham and Willingham Division, but had been advised that he could participate in the discussion and voting thereon.

### **3. REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman reminded Members that they needed to update the register of interests whenever their circumstances changed.

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and approved for signature by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

- The replacement of "Cicily" by "Cicely" in Minute No. 1 (Apologies); and

- The replacement of “Fraser” by “Turner” in the final sentence of the second bullet point in Minute No. 2 (Declarations of Interest).

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman of the Council announced that the new intranet would go live on Tuesday 30 January 2018. Sonia Constant would give a quick overview session on the new intranet and hand round a Members' information sheet on 29 January 2018 before the all Member briefing.

(Note: The all Member briefing was subsequently postponed)

Councillor Topping, the Leader of the Council:-

- Reported that he had spoken with Sir Oliver Letwin, who was leading the independent review into the gap between the number of planning permissions granted and homes built, and who had agreed to review sites in South Cambridgeshire as part of the evidence gathered.
- Announced that Councillor Neil Davies had been appointed as the Member Champion for Mental Wellbeing. Mental health and wellbeing was currently an issue high on the public agenda and the Leader anticipated that Councillor Davies would be able to provide invaluable support to the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing in this area.
- Reported on his expectation that Councillor Scott, in his capacity as the Member Champion for the Environment, would be able to advise on how best new settlements could be planned and designed with a view to protecting the natural environment. In that context, he noted that a workshop had been arranged on that subject to be led by Dr Paul Leinster of Cranfield University.
- Noted that a response would be made in respect of the proposals in the National Infrastructure Commission's report relating to the Oxford Cambridge Arc. In particular, there was a need to establish the route of the proposed east-west railway line east of Sandy and the timetable for the development of the Cambridge South railway station.
- Commented that Councillor Henry Batchelor was running in the Brighton Marathon to raise funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice and wished him good luck for the event.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Davies on his appointment as Member Champion for Mental Wellbeing. Councillor Davies thanked the Council for his appointment and addressed Members on the importance of mental wellbeing.

In response to a question from Councillor Kindersley, the Leader of the Council indicated that he had no comment to make at this time on the possible designation of the Council and that if the Council was designated, it would be dealt with at that point.

## 6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public had been received.

## 7. PETITIONS

No petitions for consideration by Council had been received.

## 8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The report of the Head of People and Organisational Development was submitted which, following the resignation of Councillor Simon Crocker, reported on the political composition of the Council; noted that this change was not sufficient to affect the political balance on committees and invited the Council to make appointments to fill vacancies upon committees.

It was noted that in accordance with Council Standing Order No 4.5, the Leader of the Conservative Group had appointed Councillor Bard to fill the vacancy on the Civic Affairs Committee until such time as the Council had confirmed an appointment. There was also a vacancy on the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and the Council was requested to fill that vacancy in accordance with the nomination from the Leader of the Conservative Group.

Councillor Fraser moved the recommendations, including, with reference to recommendation (c), the appointment of Councillor Graham Cone to fill the vacancy on the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. Councillor Chamberlain seconded the proposition.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposition was approved by affirmation.

The Council:

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To note the resignation of Councillor Crocker and that since the resignation is within six months of the 3 May 2018 elections, there will be no election to fill this vacancy.
- (2) To note the political composition of the Council as set out in paragraph 5 of the report but that no adjustments to the allocation of seats are required.
- (3) To appoint Councillor Cone to fill the current vacancy on the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
- (4) To confirm the appointment of Councillor Bard to serve on the Civic Affairs Committee.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

### 9 (a) **Localised Council Tax Support Scheme (Finance & Staffing Portfolio Holder, 21 November 2017)**

Councillor Edwards, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Staffing, proposed the recommendation from his Portfolio Holder's meeting held on 21 November 2017, which invited the Council to approve that the current Localised Council Tax Support (LCTS) Scheme be continued into 2018/19, with minor technical changes where necessary. He noted that the current scheme had been in operation since April 2013 and had remained almost unchanged since implementation. A maximum of 91.5% LCTS relief was available for those who were not in protected groups. Whilst the Council's scheme was relatively generous, it did not impact adversely on collection rates which, at 99.4% in the previous year, had been the equal highest collection rate in the Country. The continuation of the scheme, with some minor technical changes, would allow time to evaluate the administrative impact of the roll out of Universal Credit. It was acknowledged that the impact of Universal Credit was unpredictable and would need to

be carefully monitored.

Councillor Fraser seconded the proposition.

During discussion:

- Members congratulated the Benefits Team on the high level of service delivery.
- Councillor Williams referred to the potential implications of the implementation of Universal Credit and to delays experienced elsewhere which meant that residents were without any benefits for some considerable period of time. The need closely to monitor the impact and ensure that the most vulnerable residents in the District were supported was emphasised.
- In response to a question from Councillor Hazel Smith and with reference to paragraph 23 of the report, the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder confirmed that the Council had now received notification of the grant received towards the cost of administering housing benefit and which had been £3,000 less than anticipated.
- Following a question from Councillor Hawkins as to the level of contingency planning for the introduction of Universal Credit, the Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder indicated that it was difficult actively to plan until the impact of Universal Credit on LCTS administration had been assessed. A feature of the scheme was that those in protected groups received 100% relief and thus it was possible that the impact would be disproportionately felt by those of working age who were not in protected groups. The Council did have mechanisms in place to respond to short term issues but the need carefully to monitor the impact of Universal Credit was acknowledged.

Upon being put to the vote, the proposal was approved by affirmation.

The Council accordingly:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme be continued into 2018/19 with minor technical changes where necessary.

**9 (b) Community Governance Review for Willingham and Over (Civic Affairs Committee, 4 January 2018)**

Councillor David McCraith, Chairman of the Civic Affairs Committee, presented a report which invited the Council to consider the recommendations of the Committee, at its meeting held on 4 January 2018, regarding the Community Governance Review for Willingham and Over.

In so doing, he reminded Members that the Council had received a petition signed by local residents and businesses to carry out a Community Governance Review of the Willingham and Over boundary. The terms of reference for the review had been published and public consultation undertaken. The Civic Affairs Committee had initially considered the options at its meeting held on 28 September 2017 and had agreed to recommend no change to the boundary for the reasons set out in the report before Council. Subsequently, as a result of a third party challenge and legal advice received, the decision had been taken by officers to refer the matter back to the Civic Affairs Committee for re-consideration. The Civic Affairs Committee, at its meeting held on 7 December 2017, had reconsidered the options in relation to the Community Governance

Review. The unanimous decision had been to defer consideration to allow the two parish councils time to discuss and resolve the matter locally. On reconvening on 4 January 2018, the Civic Affairs Committee had been advised that the two parish councils had been unable to reach agreement. Having considered all the options available and the need to secure that community governance in the area under review reflected “the identities and interests of the community in that area” and was “effective and convenient”, the Committee had agreed the recommendation as set out in item 9(b) of the agenda. The draft minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2018 had also been attached at Appendix M to that report.

Councillor McCraith accordingly moved the following recommendations of the Civic Affairs Committee:-

“That the Council agrees to

- (a) Agree the alternative boundary, as shown on the green line in the attached map (Appendix L), less the red cross hatched area, and
- (b) Make a request to the LG BCE to re-align the County Council boundary along the new parish boundary.”

Councillor Charles Nightingale seconded the proposition.

Councillor Peter Topping proposed an amendment as follows:-

“That recommendation (a) be amended to delete the words “in the attached map (Appendix L)” and to insert the following words after “area” “in the newly circulated map marked L1”; and so that (a) reads:

- (a) Agree the alternative boundary, as shown on the green line, less the red crossed hatched area, in the newly circulated map marked L1; and

Recommendation (b) to remain as set out in the original recommendation.”

Councillor Topping outlined his reasoning for proposing the amendment, noting that it was intended to tighten the boundary and reduce the amount of land which would move from Over to Willingham with the aim of achieving a fair compromise in respect of a subject which had been subject of much debate over the last year.

Councillor David Bard seconded the proposition. In so doing he expressed the view that the revised boundary was defensible given that it was clearly identifiable. With respect to arguments put forward that this was a 400 year old boundary, he noted that the Boundary Commission’s guidance was clear that community governance should reflect the interests of the existing community.

In response to a request by Members for greater clarity about the area proposed to be transferred, a copy of revised map L1 referred to in the amendment was displayed at the meeting and the Head of Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing explained the impact of the amendment, noting, in particular, that the dotted green line in the original map L had been moved up and the resultant red hatched area would remain in Over and not move to Willingham.

A point of order was raised by Councillor Kindersley which sought to establish whether the local Ward Members and parish councils had been reconsulted on the proposed revision to the boundary and whether it was lawful to proceed with a proposal that had not been subject to consultation. In response, the Deputy Head of Legal Practice drew

Members' attention to paragraph 42 of the report which explained the options Members could take with regard to the recommendation put forward by the Civic Affairs Committee, including at option (d), changing the boundary as per an alternative boundary agreed by the Council. He further explained that there was no requirement either in the Act or in the guidance to undertake further consultation. Given that the public had already been consulted on the first proposed new boundary and second proposed new boundary, as denoted by the green and blue lines respectively, it could be considered reasonable to proceed without further consultation if the Council was minded to approve the amendment at this meeting.

Councillor Roberts challenged the legality of proceeding with the proposal to amend the boundary without further public consultation, given that the terms of reference for the Community Governance Review had only provided for public consultation on the first and second proposed boundaries. In response, the Deputy Head of Legal Practice advised that the only requirement for the terms of reference under section 81 of Act was to specify the area under review. This had been done by provision of a plan showing two proposed boundaries for consideration. The Council had complete liberty to set the procedure for the Community Governance Review. At its conclusion the Council could decide to make no change, adopt one of the proposed suggestions or propose an alternative. There was no requirement in the Act or the guidance for further consultation if it took the latter course. In current circumstances, given that the alternative being recommended by the Civic Affairs Committee was a slight variation from the existing proposals, it was not considered that such a consultation would be either necessary or proportionate. It was not considered that this would represent either a breach of the terms of reference or render any final decision taken ultra vires.

As a further amendment, it was proposed by Councillor Kindersley and seconded by Councillor Bridget Smith:

“ that further consideration be deferred to allow public consultation upon the revised boundary.”

The Chairman indicated his intention to deal with the first amendment before proceeding to that put forward by Councillor Kindersley.

Members speaking in favour of the amendment put by Councillor Topping raised points including the following:

- Councillor Manning, a Ward Member, emphasised that it was important to remember that local people and businesses had raised the petition, not the Parish Council. He believed that residents and businesses in the area had greater affinity and connection with Willingham than Over. Moreover, the new boundary proposed in the revised plan was easily identifiable and therefore consistent with the requirements of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LBGCE) guidance. He also believed that Willingham Parish Council would be supportive of the revised boundary.
- Councillor Corney, a Ward Member, pointed out that both parishes were aware of the options and, noting that local businesses had been party to the petition, urged that the Council should now proceed to make a decision in the interests of local businesses. She further noted that the proposal to move the boundary had been subject to consideration and review for a considerable time and urged the Council not to delay making a decision any longer.
- Councillor Riley commented that the law was clear that the Council needed to take into account representation received in respect of the review. Out of 18 responses from affected persons, 14 (78%) had supported moving the parish

boundary. Of 244 responses from members of the public overall, 67% of respondents supported moving the boundary. He further observed that the red hatched area was unpopulated agricultural land and therefore no residents were affected.

- Councillor Topping commented that the amendment represented a fair compromise and it was important that the Council had regard to the fact that 91% of Willingham residents and 58% of Over residents responding to the consultation had supported moving the parish boundary. He further noted that no evidence had been presented to indicate that the public consultation was flawed.

Members speaking against the amendment raised points including the following:

- Councillor Kindersley suggested that there appeared to be some doubt as to whether the residents affected did support the boundary change, based on comments reported by Councillor Burling, a Ward Member, at the Civic Affairs Committee. He believed that the Council should reconsult with the public and parish councils on the revised boundary now proposed.
- Councillor Roberts argued that, notwithstanding the earlier legal advice, the Council should reconsult on the proposed boundary as this did not represent the proposals in the terms of reference.
- Councillor Hawkins commented that the difficulty experienced by businesses in receiving deliveries had been cited as a reason driving the request for the boundary review and yet similar boundary anomalies existed in other parishes, for example in Toft, and did not appear to impact on deliveries.
- Councillor Williams suggested that whilst councillors had argued that the area of land involved was small, he understood that it was outside the village envelope and green belt and expressed the view that if the boundary changed it would become a valuable piece of land with planning potential
- Councillor Bridget Smith was concerned at the apparently low rate of response to the public consultation and was of the view that there was a need for improved community consultation. She further commented that it was not likely that Over would accept the revised boundary and further consultation to obtain the views of both parishes and the public should therefore be undertaken
- Councillor Burling, a Ward Member, reminded the Council of the various steps in determining the Community Governance Review, highlighting that initially the Civic Affairs Committee had recommended no change to the boundary. He was concerned at the reasons which he believed may have influenced the change of decision which he explained at the meeting. Moreover he felt that Councillors should have due regard to the 400 year boundary and preserving the associated heritage.

Upon the amendment being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:

**In favour (28):**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Alex Riley, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Against (19)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Doug Cattermole, Andrew Fraser, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Ingrid Tregoing, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

### **Abstain (0)**

The amendment was declared carried.

(Note: Councillors Burling and Manning, having each declared an interest and a dispensation to participate in discussion but not voting, withdrew from the meeting during the above vote)

Councillor Sebastian Kindersley moved his further amendment, of which notice had been given earlier, as follows:

“That further consideration be deferred to allow public consultation upon the revised boundary”

In so doing, Councillor Kindersley expressed the view that just because there was not a legal requirement to reconsult, that did not mean the Council should not reconsult on the revised boundaries. Noting that an equivalent proposal had been rejected by the majority of Members of the Civic Affairs Committee, the reason for the change of position in relation to the proposed boundary was questioned.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Bridget Smith who argued in favour of reconsulting with the public and parishes upon the revised proposal. Whilst not legally required to do so, she considered that this represented best practice. She felt that the response rate to the public consultation had been extremely poor and suggested that perhaps a more a tailor made consultation should take place upon the revised boundary now proposed.

During the ensuing debate upon the amendment, those speaking in favour raised points including the following:

- Councillor Burling, a Ward Member, referred to his reservations about the validity of the survey results, noting, in particular, that more elderly residents might be less likely to engage in responses to email consultations. He therefore argued that the proposed revised boundary should be subject to a fresh round of public consultation. He also challenged the assertion that most of the residents affected wished to be part of Willingham and noted that this did not reflect his own conversations with residents.
- Councillor Roberts argued that It would be best practice and in the interests of transparency to consult on the proposed boundary. The results could then be reported back to the meeting of the Council in February.
- Councillor John Batchelor pointed out that there appeared to be confusion as to the voting numbers reflected in the minutes of the meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee since only 9 voting members were recorded as present at the meeting. In response, it was noted that Councillor Bard's name had been omitted from the list of those present.
- Councillor Hales sought confirmation that there was no legal restriction preventing the Council from reconsulting on the options. The Deputy Head of Legal Practice confirmed this to be the case but also restated that the Council was not legally required to do so.



Those speaking against the amendment raised points including the following:

- Councillor O'Brien suggested that residents supported the boundary change because of their sense of place and greater affinity with Willingham. The Council should have regard to the results of the public consultation.
- Councillor Manning, a Ward Member, repeated the view that the people in the area affected wished to be part of Willingham. If the Council agreed the boundary change at this meeting, the necessary amendments could be made in time for the May 2018 elections.
- Councillor Corney, a Ward Member, urged the Council to make a decision noting that the boundary review impacted on only a small number of people. The apparently low response to the public consultation appeared to indicate that there was not significant public opposition to the proposal from the residents of Over.
- Councillor Edwards observed that when an equivalent amendment had been proposed during the debate at the Civic Affairs Committee on 4 January 2018, it had not also been recommended that further public consultation should take place on the revised boundary proposed.
- Councillor Riley commented that the law did not require the Local Authority to obtain the consent of the parish councils but it must take into account the representations received in response to consultation.
- Councillor Topping pointed out that it had already been demonstrated that there was little likelihood that the parish councils would agree on a local resolution.

Upon the amendment being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:

**In favour (17):**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Doug Cattermole, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Ingrid Tregoing, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

**Against (29)**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Alex Riley, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Abstain (1)**

Councillor Tim Scott

The amendment was declared lost.

(Note: Councillors Burling and Manning, having each declared an interest and a dispensation to participate in discussion but not voting, withdrew from the meeting during the above vote)

The Council then proceeded to debate the substantive motion during which:

- Members opposing the motion made further representations in favour of

- consulting upon the revised boundary.
- Councillor Burling, a Ward Member, expressed the view that Over would not support the revised boundary and spoke in favour of preserving the status quo and leaving the parish boundary unaltered.
- Members supporting the motion argued that the Council should have regard to the results of the public consultation and should not further delay making a decision.

Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:

**In favour (29):**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Alex Riley, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Against (18)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Doug Cattermole, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Ingrid Tregoing, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

**Abstain (0)**

The substantive motion was declared carried.

(Note: Councillors Burling and Manning, having each declared an interest and a dispensation to participate in discussion but not voting, withdrew from the meeting during the above vote)

The Chairman then moved recommendation 2(b), which was duly seconded, as follows:

“That Council make a request to the Local Boundary Commission for England to re-align the County Council boundary along the new parish boundary.”

Upon being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:

**In favour (31):**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Pippa Corney, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Simon Edwards, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Alex Riley, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Bunty Waters, Tim Wotherspoon, Nick Wright.

**Against (15)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Doug Cattermole, Jose Hales, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Tim Scott, Bridget Smith, Ingrid Tregoing, Aidan Van de Weyer, John Williams.

**Abstain (1)**

Councillor Hazel Smith

The motion was declared carried.

(Note: Councillors Burling and Manning, having each declared an interest and a dispensation to participate in discussion but not voting, withdrew from the meeting during the above vote)

It was accordingly:

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council:-

1. Agree the alternative boundary, as shown on the green line, less the red cross hatched area, in the newly circulated map marked L1; and
2. Make a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to re-align the County Council boundary along the new parish boundary.

(Note: The map marked L1 is appended to these minutes)

**9 (c) Pay Policy Statement (Employment Committee, 11 January 2018)**

Councillor Ray Manning, Chairman of the Employment Committee, proposed the recommendation of the Employment Committee that the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19 be approved. In so doing, he drew particular attention to the mean gender pay gap of – 4.99% in favour of females as indicated in paragraph 17.2 of the Policy.

Councillor Val Barrett seconded the proposal.

During discussion:

- Councillor Williams, whilst welcoming the indication in the Policy Statement that the Council would have regard to the Living Wage Foundation rate when agreeing annual pay awards for staff each year, suggested that it would be preferable for the Council to commit to honouring that rate.
- Councillor de Lacey expressed disappointment that the Council did not have a policy that discouraged a wide disparity between the Council's lowest and highest paid employees and that annual pay increases were not shared amongst all employees at the same rate.
- Councillor Hazel Smith referred to paragraph 17.6 of the Policy Statement which seemed to indicate that the reason the gender pay gap reporting appeared healthy was that the Council's workforce in the bottom quartile was mainly male as the Council directly employed the refuse operatives. Councillor Smith suggested that perhaps an alternative methodology for reporting on shared services should be considered.

On being put to the vote, the proposal was approved by affirmation.

The Council:

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.

**10. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The Council noted reports prepared by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority summarising the work of the Authority in November and December 2017.

The Council's representatives on the Combined Authority were invited to comment on the reports, as summarised below:-

- Councillor Topping, the Council's representative on the Combined Authority Board commented on:
  - the proposal for the Combined Authority to undertake a strategic review of bus services;
  - the position with the development of the Cambridge Mass Rapid Transit Options Appraisal which was due to be considered by the Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership;
  - the independent Economic Commission being led by Dame Kate Barker which was undertaking a review of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economy; and
  - recent Parliamentary scrutiny of the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which had now been brought under the auspices of Combined Authority.
- Councillor Fraser, a member of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, noted that the Mayor had been invited to attend the meeting of the Committee on 18 December 2017. As indicated in the decision summary the Committee had highlighted the need for risks around the Mayor operating without appropriate arrangements in place or in the absence of the Section 151 Officer to be reflected in the risk audit carried out by the external auditor.
- Councillor John Batchelor, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reported that the Committee had been concerned to understand the potential implications of the decision with regard to the LEP for the way in which the Combined Authority ran its business, in particular with regard to officer structures going forward. He also commented that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering the mass rapid transit plans at its meeting on 29 January 2018.

During general discussion:-

- The Leader noted and took on board concerns raised by Councillor Bridget Smith about the need to maintain the positive work of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Skills Working Group, which had been chaired by the previous Chair of the LEP, in order to ensure that there was no adverse impact on skills accessibility in South Cambridgeshire.
- Councillor Van de Weyer observed that the report on Mass Rapid Transit Options had not been published with the agenda for the meeting of the Combined Authority Board.
- With reference to the Decision Summary for Audit and Governance Committee

(page 203), Councillor Bridget Smith drew attention to concerns expressed that the Code of Conduct for the Combined Authority appeared “lightweight” in comparison to that of other local authorities. She suggested that a suitably robust Code of Conduct should be in place for the Mayor and Combined Authority. In response, Councillor Fraser noted that the Committee had also highlighted these concerns but that he could flag them again.

- Councillor Cathcart expressed reservations about the proposal to establish the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Land Commission and suggested that the activities of the Commission should be kept closely under review.
- In response to a question from Councillor Kindersley, Councillor Riley confirmed that substitutes were appointed for members of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 11. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

### 11 (a) Question from Councillor Grenville Chamberlain

*There are many unused agricultural buildings which could be used for the development of rural businesses but without access to high speed broadband they will remain unused for the foreseeable future. Can the Leader explain what is being done to ensure the delivery of high speed broadband across South Cambridgeshire?*

Councillor Nick Wright, the Business and Customer Services Portfolio Holder, responded that the Council had supported the work of Connecting Cambridgeshire to improve broadband service across the District. As a result, 96.4% of South Cambs properties now had access to superfast broadband with speeds greater than 24Mb per second. This was better than the County average of 95.8%.

The recent Let's Talk consultation with South Cambs residents and the successful Member-led Task & Finish Group on supporting the development of rural small and medium-sized businesses had both highlighted that access to broadband remained a key issue for residents and businesses.

South Cambridgeshire District Council officers were now working with Connecting Cambridgeshire to bid for over £4 million of Rural Development Programme for England Growth Programme Rural Broadband Infrastructure funding to cover the harder to reach rural premises (especially businesses, including farms). This would, alongside a potential European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) application, form Phase 4 of the rollout. With South Cambridgeshire District Council officer input, Connecting Cambridgeshire was about to start procurement for this phase with work beginning around Autumn 2018.

Councillor Chamberlain noted that the lack of broadband was just one impediment to the use of agricultural buildings for business and commercial purposes, another was rural crime. As a supplementary question he asked what steps could be taken by the Council to encourage the Police to take a more active role in preventing rural crime.

In response, the Business and Customer Services Portfolio Holder reported on a meeting which had taken place between the Leader and the Police Superintendent responsible for the Rural Crime unit to discuss rural crime and when, amongst other issues, the opportunity had been taken to discuss the problems associated with illegal hare coursing.

**11 (b) Question From Councillor Kevin Cuffley**

*With the changes and improvements being made to the Councils refuse service and collections, can the Leader explain the impact of the benefits and savings these will have for this Council?*

Councillor Mark Howell, the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder, started by thanking his predecessors Councillor Martin and Councillor Ellington for the work they had undertaken to improve the refuse collection service. He reported that the Shared Waste service was currently undertaking a number of changes and improvements to the Council's refuse service which were delivering a range of benefits and savings for this Council. The service was well on its way to delivering the planned savings of £700,000 over 3 years.

Improvements in collection rounds so far this year had helped to save the service over 15,000 litres of fuel, which in turn would mean that the Council was doing fewer miles and reducing the effect on air quality and saving money, so far over £13,000. It was envisaged that with the move to fully co-mingle recycling collections it should be possible to improve cross service recycling collection rounds, building on this saving further.

The Council was investing in 14 new collection vehicles – these vehicles would be EURO 6 standard which was better for the environment in terms of emissions and would generate further fuel efficiencies and help to provide an even more effective service for residents allowing the Council to increase the number of successful, on-time collections from the current extremely high levels of 99.5% even further.

The Council's move to fully co-mingled dry recycling collections in December 2017, made it easier for residents to recycle, which would hopefully lead to recycling more. Even with the excellent record of South Cambridgeshire's residents on recycling, sampling demonstrated that there was still a lot of recyclate in the black bin. For those who only generated additional recycling occasionally they could present this in a clear plastic bag next to their bin.

The Council was working with developers to deliver innovative ways of recycling and waste collection, such as the underground systems at the North West Cambridge Development with straddled the City / South Cambs border. Residents in this development were currently recycling nearly double the amount of recycling compared to other areas in the district.

The service was working with other Council departments and external partners to develop new end to end systems, supported by a new ICT system, that would support residents to interact with the service more easily. The new systems should enable residents to easily enter and track service requests and enable the service to monitor, manage and report in more detail, thus making the service more transparent and efficient.

The service, with the support of communication team and others, had recently developed a number of successful communication programmes such the move to the fully co-mingled service and Christmas day changes. The service would be launching a new service wide campaign called "Metal Matters" shortly focused on asking residents to recycle more metals from all around the household. The Council had secured external funding for three quarters of the cost of the campaign. The "Metal Matters" campaign, which included delivering of leaflets twice to every household and vehicles banners, had been successful in other areas. For a similar sized authority last year this campaign had resulted in an increased annual capture of over 400 tonnes of aluminium and steel

packaging from the kerbside, an increase of more than 30 per cent and generating about £50,000 additional income for the Council.

In response to a supplementary question, the Environmental Services Portfolio Holder explained the circumstance that had given rise to the opportunities to improve the refuse collection service and secure the savings as outlined.

**11 (c) Question from Councillor Ruth Betson**

*Can the Leader give us examples of communities that have benefitted from the Community Chest and the positive impact it has had?*

The Leader of the Council reported that 63 local community projects had been supported by the Community Chest in 2016/17 and £78,977 had been distributed. 89 local community projects had so far been supported in 2017/18. £77,634 had been distributed and there was £5,586 remaining in the pot, some of which would be allocated during January.

The Leader referred to a number of individual projects supported by the Community Chest, which highlighted the positive impact the funding had on local communities. In particular, he drew the Council's attention to the following projects funded by the Community Chest:-

- Green Minds Therapeutic Garden, Landbeach - £890 had been awarded to purchase new equipment to help participants recover from a range of health problems.
- The Arthur's Shed Gardening Project in Great Shelford had received £900 to purchase equipment, which was enabling local residents to share their gardening knowledge and skills, and get to know each other.
- The Avenelles Way elderly people's group in Gamlingay had been able to purchase a chest freezer for its lunch club to enable them to cook meals in advance and bulk purchase ingredients when they were on offer.

The Leader also commented on a proposal to introduce a green energy fund in the next financial year which would give communities the opportunity to apply for grants to support sustainable schemes.

Noting that certain parishes were larger than others, Councillor Betson asked, by way of a supplementary question, what the Council's position would be if a larger parish was to make a request for an increased grant amount. In response the Leader indicated that he was conscious that some of the larger parishes had significant needs, but also had significant precepts. It was a matter of fact and degree and each case would need to be looked at on its merits.

**11 (d) Question from Councillor Bunty Waters**

*Loneliness has been shown to affect physical and mental health and therefore the quality of life for some elderly, infirm, and isolated residents.*

*What is the Council doing to help Parish Councils and local groups to address this issue?*

The Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder responded by referring to the Member Task and Finish Group which had met during 2016 and 2017 and had come up with a number of recommendations to tackle social isolation.

She noted that based on estimates in the Campaign to End Loneliness toolkit, it was estimated that between 1,700 and 3,840 people aged 65+ were lonely in South Cambridgeshire. The prevalence of social isolation amongst older people was estimated to be similar to that of loneliness.

Whilst social isolation was more commonly associated with older age, it could occur at all life stages and some individuals would be more vulnerable to social isolation than others.

The recommendations that would specifically help parish councils and local groups to address the issue were:

- Developing a parish toolkit on reducing social isolation.
- Supporting the set up of two new timebanks in the District.
- Continuing to promote community transport and community car schemes through the South Cambridgeshire transport directory, and working with parishes and partners to ensure greater community transport provision for the north villages.
- Continuing to facilitate meetings between parishes to help them to work together where it made sense for them to do so.
- Encouraging the use of communal rooms, for wider community use, in sheltered housing complexes where there was a lack of other community space in villages. A review of the communal rooms was currently under way.
- Piloting a social prescribing project with the Granta Medical Practice at Sawston. This would link patients in primary care with sources of support within the community and help to build social connections.

#### **11 (e) Question from Councillor David Bard**

*We welcome the news that Sawston has been selected as one of the first three sites for a rural travel hub. We note, however, that the current Stagecoach CITI7 return bus fare from Sawston to Cambridge is charged at the Dayrider Plus rate (£6.70) whereas that from Stapleford to Cambridge is charged at the Dayrider rate (£4.30). Since the proposed Sawston rural travel hub lies between these two villages, will the portfolio holder be negotiating with the bus operator to have the new rural hub included within the Dayrider zone?"*

Prior to making his response, the Strategic Partnership and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder clarified that the decision on the rural travel hubs was due to be made by the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board at its meeting to be held on 8 February 2018.

The Strategic Partnership and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder noted that concerns about the cost of bus fares was not limited to Sawston and that residents of Northstowe and Cambourne were also aggrieved that they fell within the Dayrider Plus rate.

He commented that there had been discussions with Stagecoach for many years with a view to introducing a middle band and the bus operator had advised that it would consider doing so as part of the work all partners were undertaking to try to achieve the free flow of buses in to and out of the centre of Cambridge.

Following a further question from Councillor Bard, the Strategic Partnership and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder indicated that the GCP Executive Board, at its meeting to be held on 8 February 2018, would be invited to approve three pilot rural travel hub sites to progress to phase two of the project.



**11 (f) Question from Councillor Anna Bradnam**

*In July 2017 China and Hong Kong announced a clampdown on 'foreign garbage', that is, they have imposed very tight contamination standards on 24 categories of imported waste, especially paper and plastic. As the UK has exported more than 2.7 million tonnes of waste plastic to China and Hong Kong since 2012, please let us know:*

- *What effect will the loss of the market for waste paper and plastic have on the finances of the Shared Waste Service; and*
- *What practical changes might this necessitate in the service in future?*

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded that in July 2017 China and Hong Kong had announced a clampdown on 'foreign garbage' and had imposed very tight contamination standards on 24 categories of imported waste, especially paper and plastic. The UK had exported more than 2.7 million tonnes of waste plastic to China and Hong Kong since 2012.

Regular reports from Amey, who operated the Materials Recycling Facility at Waterbeach, showed that very little of South Cambs recycling was going to China at the moment and they were not flagging significant concerns at this stage due to having a range of end user outlets.

Plastic and paper collected in the blue bins was going to a variety of UK brokers and reproprocessors. The destinations that the material went to varied each month subject to market fluctuations. The Council would continue to monitor the situation with Amey as it was their responsibility to find suitable outlets.

Practically, the Shared Waste Service needed to continue to educate resident to recycle and use their bins correctly to ensure the delivery of a high standard of recycling. It was also important to make full use of national recycling campaigns such as the "Metal Matters" Campaign which would be launched at the end of January to boost the collection of high value material. There was additionally a need to work with residents to reduce levels of contamination in the blue recycling bin.

**11 (g) Question from Councillor Ben Shelton**

*What happens to the plastic waste that goes into the blue recycling bins?*

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder explained that the plastic collected in the blue bins went to a variety of UK brokers and reproprocessors, the destination that the material went to varied each month subject to market fluctuations, however the Council worked closely with its contractor to understand what happened to all recycling.

Recycled plastic could be used in almost as many applications and products as prime plastic - for example packaging, construction and automotive products. Recycled Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (Pop Bottles) and High-density polyethylene (HDPE) (Milk Bottles) was increasingly used in primary packaging by retailers and branded manufacturers for bottles and trays.

Recycled plastic was widely used in mainstream construction and landscaping products such as damp proof membrane, drainage pipes, ducting, flooring, walkways, jetties, pontoons, bridges, fences and signs. Polyester fleece clothing and polyester filling for duvets, coats etc was frequently made from recycled PET bottles (e. g. soft drink and water bottles). Polyester fibre was the largest single market for recycled PET bottles

worldwide.

Plastic film from sources such as pallet wrap, carrier bags, and agricultural film were made into new film products such as bin liners, carrier bags and refuse sacks on a large scale.

It was important to remind residents that they could recycle plastic bottles from all about the house such as bleach and screen washes for example, provided they were rinsed and squashed before placing in the bin.

The Portfolio Holder concluded by indicating that across the 125,000 households in City and South Cambs, around 60,000 tonnes of black bin waste were collected each year to be processed at the County Council/Amey Cespa Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant at Waterbeach.

**11 (h) Question from Councillor John Batchelor**

*Could we have an update on progress with the 'Bus Survey' that Council allocated £50k to contribute towards?*

The Strategic Partnership and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder responded that access to public transport remained an important issue for South Cambridgeshire residents, which was why in September 2017 this Council had agreed to commit up to £50k to the County Council's review of bus services.

The Portfolio Holder was pleased to report that since then, the Combined Authority had agreed to allocate £150k to fund this bus review. As a result, South Cambridgeshire District Council would save the £50k previously agreed and would not duplicate the Mayor's spending plans. He provided further detailed background on the terms of reference for the Combined Authority's bus review.

In response to a supplementary question as to what the Council would do with the £50k allocated for the bus survey, it was confirmed that the money remained within the Council's reserves.

**11 (i) Expiry of Question Time**

The Chairman declared that the thirty minutes allowed for questions had expired and therefore there would be insufficient time to answer the questions from Councillors Deborah Roberts, John Williams, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins and Janet Lockwood.

In response to a request, the Chairman indicated that it should be possible to provide written responses to those questions within a reasonable timeframe.

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**12 (a) Motion from Councillor Bridget Smith**

Councillor Bridget Smith moved the following motion as set out on the agenda:-

"This Council believes that collaboration between the local government bodies of Cambridgeshire must be built on mutual trust and confidence that we are working together in the interests of all residents.

This Council expresses its disappointment that, in December, the Mayor of

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough chose to prematurely release to the press a preliminary report on mass public transport options in advance of its publication and long before it was shown to members of its co-commissioners, the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

The Council therefore requests that the Leader write to the Mayor to express its disquiet and its hope that he will act in future in a manner that helps to restore confidence.”

In moving her motion, Councillor Smith noted that the mass public transport study had been jointly commissioned by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and the Combined Authority and was therefore concerned that the Mayor appeared to have prematurely released information about the report to the press before it had been shared with GCP partners and questioned whether this represented a breach of the Code of Conduct. She further commented that the GCP had also issued a press release in advance of consideration by the GCP Joint Assembly and that the Joint Assembly had not even received the report, just a presentation upon it. She therefore called upon the Leader to raise these concerns with the Mayor.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer.

During discussion:-

- Councillor Kindersley expressed the view that the motion raised an important point of principle with regard to respecting confidentiality and not inappropriately disclosing information.
- Councillor Cuffley referred to earlier discussions during the meeting about the need for transparency and public engagement and commented that the statement had been positive in that it had showed that the Mayor supported the GCP and had provided information about a matter of public interest.
- Councillor Topping spoke against the motion.
- Councillor Manning referred more generally to information being made available in the public domain on matters of public interest.
- Councillor de Lacey felt that the release of the information was regrettable and supported the motion.
- Councillor Van de Weyer spoke in support of the motion and noted that despite the press release having been made 7 weeks ago, the report in question still had not been released.

Following further discussion both in support and against the motion and upon being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:-

#### **In favour (15)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Neil Davies, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

#### **Against (24)**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Grenville Chamberlain, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Ray Manning, Mick Martin, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Des O'Brien, Tony Orgee, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner,

Bunty Waters, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Abstain (1)**

Councillor Brian Burling

The motion was therefore declared lost.

**12 (b) Motion from Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer**

Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer moved the following motion as set out on the agenda:-

“This Council allocates the sum of £10,000 towards the cost of commissioning, in collaboration with other councils and interested bodies, an analysis of the impact of leaving the European Union on the economy of Cambridgeshire in order to support residents and businesses in planning for Brexit.”

In moving his motion, Councillor Van de Weyer elaborated on the perceived benefits of commissioning a study to review the impact of Brexit on the local economy and indicated that it would be advantageous to develop objective data to inform future planning.

Councillor Douglas de Lacey seconded the motion.

During discussion:-

- Councillor Topping referred to the Economic Commission being led by Dame Kate Barker which it was believed would cover such research as part of its work and suggested that there was no point in duplicating that effort. Councillor Topping further argued that it was not an appropriate time to carry out such a review as, given the uncertainty around whether there would be a “hard” or “soft” Brexit, there were too many variables to enable a meaningful review to be undertaken. He noted that the European Commission was due to meet at the end of June and the Committee on Migration was due to report in early September and thereafter there would be a much clearer picture on which to do some modelling.
- Councillor Wright shared the view that such a review would form part of the Economic Commission’s work and that £10,000 could therefore be put to better use for South Cambridgeshire’s residents.
- Councillor Cathcart expressed concern at the impact of the uncertainty caused by Brexit on the local economy and argued that £10,000 was a small price to pay in order to try to provide data to support businesses in their future planning.
- Councillor Kindersley was mindful that the Economic Commission would not necessarily deliver the evidence base required and suggested that the motion presented an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate leadership in supporting businesses and residents in planning for the challenges of Brexit.
- Councillor Hawkins was concerned that there was currently no evidence to support businesses in South Cambridgeshire in preparing for Brexit.
- Councillor O’Brien referred to the desirability of establishing reliable base data on the current level of business with Europe in South Cambridgeshire.
- Councillor Van de Weyer did not agree that it was not the appropriate time to carry out a survey, noting that the UK was scheduled to leave the European Union on 29 March 2019 meaning that there was little time for businesses to plan for the impact of Brexit.

Upon being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows:-

**In favour (17)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Neil Davies, Roger Hall, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Des O'Brien, Deborah Roberts, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

**Against (20)**

Councillors David Bard, Val Barrett, Ruth Betson, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Ray Manning, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Charles Nightingale, Tony Orgee, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Abstain (1)**

Councillor Brian Burling

The motion was therefore declared lost.

**12 (c) Motion from Councillor Tumi Hawkins**

Councillor Tumi Hawkins moved the following motion as set out on the agenda:-

“This Council recognises that a significant part of South Cambridgeshire’s economy is dependent on frictionless trade with the EU, both in goods and services.

This Council therefore requests that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU and to the Prime Minister to request that during the withdrawal negotiations, the government seeks to remain part of the single market and customs union.”

In moving her motion, Councillor Hawkins spoke strongly in support of maintaining the single market and customs union which she believed would be in the best interests of businesses and the local economy. She was concerned that without free access to trade with Europe, and given the anticipated higher staffing costs and reduced capacity, South Cambridgeshire’s current thriving economy would lose its cutting edge. Noting that 60% of South Cambridgeshire residents had voted to remain in the EU, Councillor Hawkins believed that the Council should write to the Secretary of State urging that the UK remain part of the single market and customs union.

Councillor John Williams seconded the motion. In so doing he commented on the current frictionless trade enjoyed with the EU and was concerned at the additional red tape and costs that he believed would arise if the UK no longer benefited from the single market and the customs union.

Councillor Cathcart spoke in support of the motion. He argued that margins were very tight and markets competitive and that any additional friction in trade would increase cost and delay. Referring to the important part business played in the District, he agreed that the Council should use its influence by requesting the Government to seek to remain in the single market and customs union and accordingly urged all Members to vote for the motion.

Councillor Hall expressed the view that the UK had the strength to be a counterweight to French and German influence in the European Union. With regard to the motion, he suggested that the correct protocol would be for the Council to write to the MPs, rather than the Prime Minister and Secretary of State. He felt that membership of the single market and customs union would mean accepting the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and spoke on the opportunities for developing trading opportunities with worldwide markets.

It was moved by Councillor Ray Manning and seconded by Councillor Sue Ellington:

“That the question be now put”.

Upon being put to the vote, votes were cast as follows on the procedural motion:-

**In favour (28):**

Councillors David Bard, Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Ruth Betson, Nigel Cathcart, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Neil Davies, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Mark Howell, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Ray Manning, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Tony Orgee, Bridget Smith, Edd Stonham, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, John Williams and Tim Wotherspoon.

**Against (7)**

Councillors Brian Burling, Sebastian Kindersley, Cicely Murfitt, Deborah Roberts, Hazel Smith, Aidan Van de Weyer and Nick Wright.

**Abstain (0)**

The procedural motion was accordingly declared carried.

Prior to putting the original motion to the vote, the Chairman gave Councillor Hawkins the opportunity to sum up and she urged all Councillors to vote in support of her motion.

The Chairman therefore proceeded to put the original motion to the vote and votes were cast as follows:-

**In favour (14)**

Councillors Henry Batchelor, John Batchelor, Nigel Cathcart, Neil Davies, Tumi Hawkins, Sebastian Kindersley, Douglas de Lacey, Janet Lockwood, Cicely Murfitt, Bridget Smith, Hazel Smith, Edd Stonham, Aidan Van de Weyer and John Williams.

**Against (20)**

Councillors David Bard, Ruth Betson, Graham Cone, Christopher Cross, Kevin Cuffley, Sue Ellington, Andrew Fraser, Roger Hall, Lynda Harford, Mark Howell, Ray Manning, Raymond Matthews, David McCraith, Tony Orgee, Deborah Roberts, Peter Topping, Richard Turner, Robert Turner, Tim Wotherspoon and Nick Wright.

**Abstain (1)**

Councillor Brian Burling.

The motion was therefore declared lost.

### **13. URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISION**

The Council received an information report from the Monitoring Officer on a decision taken as a matter of urgency and which had been exempted from call-in under Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules 12.18 – 12.20. Rule 12.19 provided that decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council.

The report advised that an urgent decision had been taken by the Planning Portfolio Holder on 24 November 2017 to approve the South Cambridgeshire housing data and commentary text from the 2017 Annual Monitoring Report as set out in the appendices to the decision, a link to which was contained in the report before Council.

The reason for urgency had been to allow the earliest possible date for when public consultation on proposed modifications for the Local Plan could begin and to minimise the length of the period before receipt of the Inspector's Report and when the Council could consider adoption of the Local Plan.

### **14. CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS**

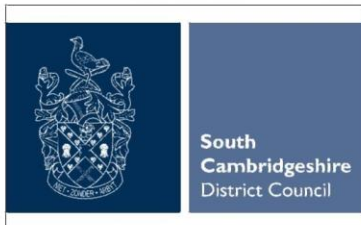
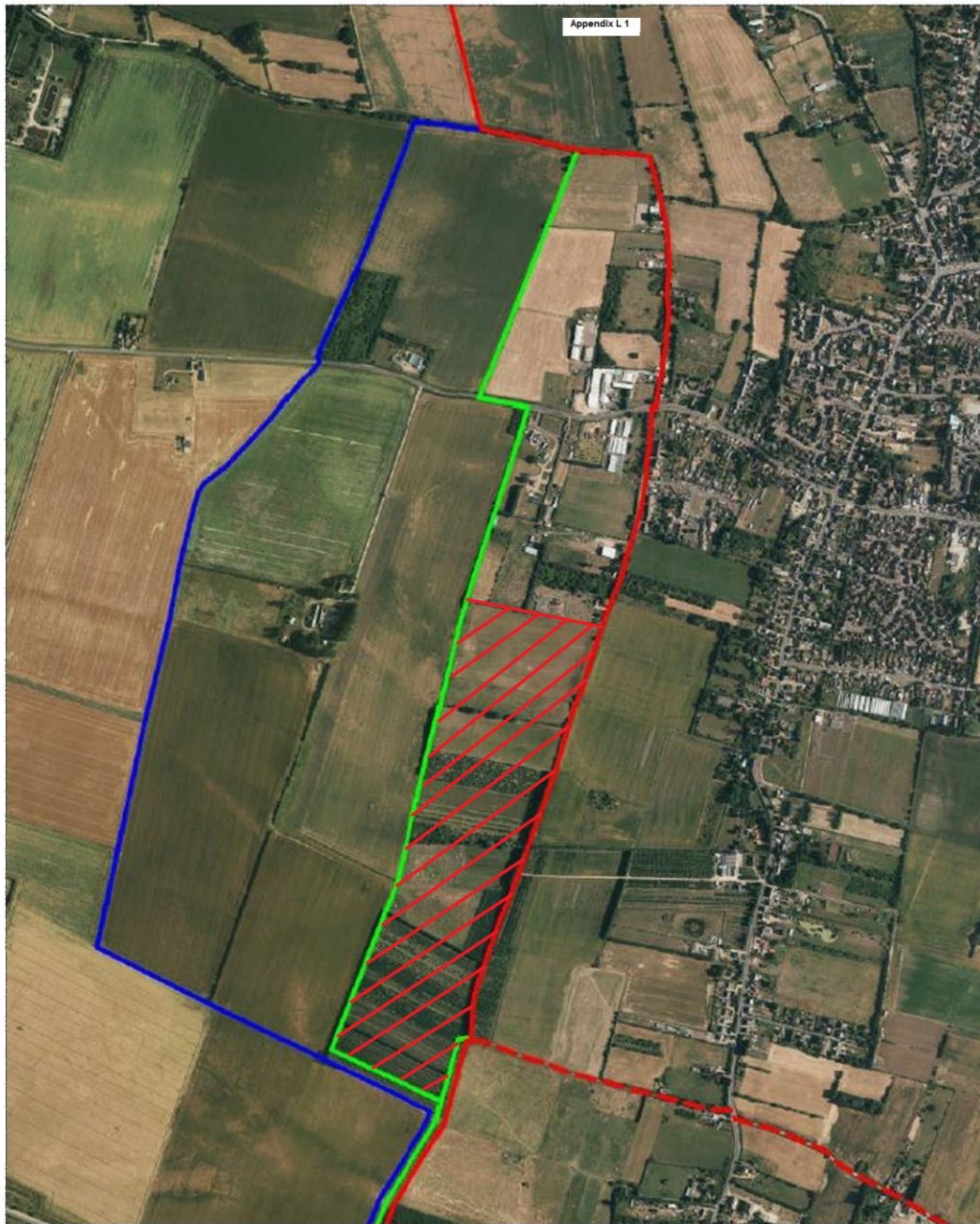
The Council noted those engagements attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last meeting.

---

**The Meeting ended at 5.53 p.m.**

---

**Appendix to Minute 9(b)**



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

**Over and Willingham  
Boundary Proposals**



Scale: 1:10,000

Over and Willingham current boundary

Willingham and Longstanton boundary

First Proposed New Boundary

Second Proposed New Boundary