

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 3 APRIL 2019

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 3 April 2019. Decisions made by the Cabinet will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made 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 Ian Senior.

- 1. REQUEST TO ASSIST WITH THE RESETTLEMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES**
Cabinet made a joint pledge with Cambridge City Council to resettle between three and five Syrian refugee families.

Other Options Considered: None specified

Reason For Decision: The Council has publicly expressed its intention to provide a humanitarian response to people who are displaced from their home country; the recent consultation on the Council's 2019-2024 Business Plan stated the intention to work with national, regional and local partners to support the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. No negative responses were received in relation to this commitment. This paper sets out a proposal for the Council to take forward its commitment by entering into a joint pledge with Cambridge City to assist in resettling Refugees through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and The Resettlement of Vulnerable Children Scheme (this scheme is for vulnerable children who are accompanied by parents or carers) which may include people from Syria, Iran or Sudan. The proposal is supported by the Local Government Association's Strategic Migration Partnership in conjunction with the Home Office who have asked that the Council commits to resettling a minimum of three families via the two schemes.

- 2. HOMELESS STRATEGY**
Cabinet approved the Homelessness Strategy 2018-23.

Other Options Considered: To approve the draft South Cambridgeshire Homelessness Strategy 2018-23. This includes work that the Council will need to do to meet its statutory obligations, and reduce the risk of an increase in demand for temporary accommodation. It also continues the good work already underway, for example, through the Trailblazer project.

To reject the current draft and recommend alternative priorities which may incur additional expenditure, as a significant proportion of the current draft is work that the Council will need to undertake to meet its statutory obligations and minimise the potential increase in expensive temporary accommodation such as B&B accommodation.

Reason For Decision: The priorities in the Homelessness Strategy come from the findings and key issues emerging from the Homelessness Review. Many of the actions relate to new statutory responsibilities, initiatives to prevent homelessness and continuation of existing work with partner agencies.

3. GREATER CAMBRIDGE HOUSING STRATEGY

Cabinet approved the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and associated annexes attached as Appendices A and B to the report from the Head of Housing strategy.

Other Options Considered:

Option A – To approve the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and associated annexes (Appendix A and B).
Reasons for Approval – Having an up to date Housing Strategy will ensure that the Council can demonstrate its vision, objectives and priorities for housing in the area.

Option B – To reject the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy
Reasons for Refusal: Without an up to date Housing Strategy the Council may be criticised for not being clear on its housing vision and key aims. A delay in approval would impact on the development of the Housing Supplementary Planning Document and the Joint Local Plan.

Reason For Decision: Having an up to date Housing Strategy will ensure that the Council can demonstrate its vision, objectives and priorities for housing in the area. This Strategy provides a significant shift in terms of its ambitions to provide housing for essential local workers to reduce commuting travel and ensure business growth is sustainable in the future. It also provides a clear direction based on evidence for different types of homes required to build for an ageing population.

The Strategy will also provide a strong platform to support the existing Local Plan in terms of the housing requirements and will provide direction in the development of both the Housing Supplementary Planning document and the Joint Local Plan.

4. HOUSING ADAPTATIONS AND REPAIRS POLICY

Cabinet

1. approved the Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptations & Repairs Policy. (Appendix A to the report from the Head of Housing Strategy); and
2. noted the budget arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants.

Other Options Considered:

Option A – To approve the Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptations & Repairs Policy (Appendix A)
Reasons for Approval – This proposal is in line with the aims and aspirations of the Better Care Fund.
A Joint Policy will provide consistency across the districts and the flexibility to enhance services where funding is available

Option B – To reject the Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptations & Repairs Policy
Reasons for Refusal: This would not be in the spirit of the wider remit of the Better Care Fund. The Council's existing policies are outdated and no longer fit for purpose given the increased DFG allocation and the flexibilities provided in the scope of the Regulatory Reform Order.

Option C – To note the budget arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to Disabled Facilities Grants.
The funding arrangements of top slicing the DFG allocation ensures that there is enough revenue funding for the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency to be financially viable and sustainable.

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Reason For Decision: The Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptations & Repairs Policy has been prepared as part of the overall countywide review of the use of Disabled Facilities Grants and is in line with the aims and aspirations of the Better Care Fund (a joint budget to help health and social care services to work more closely together on delivering health priorities). The Policy seeks to provide greater flexibility in terms of the interventions that the Council can fund through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital allocation and aims to provide a consistent approach across the county.

The development of a county-wide policy was commissioned by the Integrated Commissioning Board.

The budget arrangements for the DFG allocation with Cambridgeshire County Council will ensure that the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency remains financially sustainable and supports the principles of the Adaptations & Repairs Policy to support wider partnership projects or other services where it can be clearly demonstrated that they would help to meet the Policy's objectives.

5. VILLAGE DESIGN GUIDES (STATEMENTS)

Cabinet

- a) Approved the consultation draft Caldecote Village Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;
- b) Approved the consultation draft Fulbourn Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;
- c) Approved the consultation draft Gamlingay Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;
- d) Approved the consultation draft Over Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;
- e) Approved the consultation draft Papworth Everard Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)

Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;

- f) Approved the consultation draft Sawston Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD;
- g) Approved the consultation draft Swavesey Village Design Guide SPD, for Regulation 13 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks and in accordance with the consultation arrangements set out in the Consultation Statement accompanying the SPD; and
- h) Delegated authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, to make editorial changes to the draft Village Design Guides SPDs and supporting documents prior to the commencement of the consultation period (to comprise minor amendments and factual updates and clarifications).

Other Options Considered: Members may decide to:

- Approve all the draft Village SPDs and consultation statements for public consultation, without amendments;
- Approve selected draft Village Design Guide SPDs and consultation statements, for public consultation, without amendments.
- Approve all of the SPDs and consultation statements for public consultation, with amendments;
- Approve selected draft SPDs and consultation statements for public consultation, with amendments;
- Not agree to publish any of the SPDs for public consultation

Reason For Decision: The purpose of the Village Design Guide SPDs is to amplify and build on the requirements in the adopted Local Plan 2018, to deliver high quality design for all new developments, to sustain and enhance the distinctive physical character and identity of South Cambridgeshire's villages, and to ensure that the design of new development and growth is guided by the priorities of village communities. This is aligned with Council priorities.

6 PARKING ISSUES

Cabinet

- a) noted the problems caused by illegal parking reported by parish councils
- b) noted that the extension by Cambridgeshire County Council of its Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) operation in Cambridge into South Cambridgeshire would be a possible solution to these problems, but that there would be significant costs, both to set up and to operate in South Cambridgeshire

- c) noted that the Council would be acting against statutory guidance if it were to offer to fund an operational deficit for CPE using local tax receipts.
- d) Asked officers to write to Cambridgeshire County Council noting the problems caused by lack of parking enforcement, both now and anticipated in relation to new development, urging the County Council, notwithstanding its financial constraints, to explore possibilities for extending CPE into South Cambridgeshire using 'existing funding' as per the statutory guidance .
- e) Asked officers to write to Cambridgeshire Constabulary formally requesting an exploration of options available to the police to improve parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire including the option of employing additional staff with external funding (potentially from individual parish councils most affected).

Other Options Considered: Cabinet could follow all, some or none of the recommendations, namely,

- a) note the problems caused by illegal parking reported by parish councils
- b) note that Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) by Cambridgeshire County Council is a potential solution to these problems, and that
 - i. there would be significant costs both to set up and to operate CPE in South Cambridgeshire
 - ii. Statutory guidance to local authorities on the civil enforcement of parking contraventions says that 'if their scheme is not self-financing, then they (authorities) will need to be certain that they can afford to pay for it from within existing funds. The Secretary of State will not expect either national or local taxpayers to meet the deficit.' We understand 'existing funding' to be surpluses from other CPE operations eg those in Cambridge and Peterborough.
 - iii. set up costs might be met by the Combined Authority
- c) make a formal request through appropriate channels to Cambridgeshire County Council to move forwards with a business case study for CPE in South Cambridgeshire including exploring existing funding options for meeting any operational deficit.
- d) Given that CPE would take time to set up, also make a formal request to Cambridgeshire Constabulary to investigate options for increased parking enforcement including the possibility of employing additional staff with external funding (potentially from individual parish councils most affected).

1. **Reason For Decision:** Problems caused by illegal parking in Great Shelford and Sawston have been reported to the Council, as can be seen in Appendix 1.
2. Although no systematic investigation has been carried out into parking problems in other parishes, a number of hands at the Cabinet and Parish Councils Liaison Meeting on 27 November 2018 indicated widespread concerns.
3. No up-to-date feasibility study for CPE in South Cambridgeshire has been undertaken. However, financial modelling for CPE in South Cambs from 2006, and a feasibility study for Huntingdonshire District Council from 2017 provide evidence supporting the conclusion that it is not likely that CPE in South Cambridgeshire would be self-financing. The model shows set up costs of £91,730, a year 1 deficit of £36,808, and

thereafter an annual deficit of £25,252.

4. Updating the data for the feasibility costings by the relevant consultant would cost approximately £5,000 according to the County Council.
5. Statutory Guidance states that local authority parking enforcement should be self-financing as soon as possible and where it is not self-financing, it needs to be paid from within 'existing funding', and not from national or local taxpayers, see Section 2.9 in https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604147/statutory-guidance-local-authorities-enforcement-parking-contraventions.pdf.
6. At a South Cambs Policing Issues meeting on 24 January 2019 in Swavesey, the Police and Crime Commissioner reported that the mayor had been asked at a recent Combined Authority meeting, whether the Combined Authority could fund set up costs for CPE across the county. We have asked for clarification on this and are waiting for a response.
7. Unless and until CPE is brought in, parking enforcement remains the responsibility of Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Comments from Supt Laura Hunt to a discussion paper on parking issues (see para 10) indicate a willingness to explore options to increase parking enforcement.

7. ELITE ATHLETES GRANT SCHEME

Cabinet approved

- (a) Discontinuation of the Elite Athlete Award Scheme;
- (b) The addition of signposting information to the website; and
- (c) use of the funding for 2019-20 onwards to increase other existing grant funds, in line with the new Business Plan priorities, to be advised by Grants Advisory Committee.

Other Options Considered: Cabinet could:

- (d) discontinue the Elite Athlete Award Scheme, or
- (e) continue the Elite Athlete Award Scheme under the same terms and conditions as the existing scheme, or
- (f) continue the Elite Athlete Award Scheme, with amendments (to be specified) to the existing scheme.

If the scheme is discontinued, Cabinet could agree to

- (g) use the funding for 2019/20 onwards to increase other existing grant funds, in line with the new Business Plan priorities, to be advised by Grants Advisory Committee, or
- (h) reallocate the 2019/20 funding to the General Fund, or
- (i) reallocate the 2019/20 funding for another purpose (to be specified).

Reason For Decision: The Grants Advisory Committee's role is to consider and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member responsible for grants, or Cabinet as appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- (j) Review of the Council's grants schemes to ensure they reflect Council priorities.
- (k) Design of any new or revised grants schemes, including consideration of criteria and guidance applicable in respect of each scheme.
- (l) Consideration of applications made under the Council's grants schemes.

The Elite Athlete Award Scheme was reviewed by the Grants Advisory Committee. Whilst beneficial for the individuals that receive it, is not reflective of the Council's priorities for 2019 to 2024.

There is £10,000 set aside in the 2019/20 budget towards the scheme, which could be reallocated if a decision is made to discontinue with the scheme. Grants Advisory Committee recommends that these funds are reallocated within existing grant funding schemes, to be advised by the Committee.

8. SHARED SERVICES BUSINESS PLANS

Cabinet

- 1) Commented on and approved the business plans for the Legal, ICT, Internal Audit, Waste and Planning Shared Services attached at Appendix 1 to the report from the Interim Executive Director; and
- 2) delegated authority to the Shared Service Management Board to agree final amendments to the business plans in line with comments received from all three partner Councils.

Other Options Considered: An option could be not to support the documents or to recommend amendments. Any major amendments would be required to be considered and agreed by each of the partner Councils.

Reason For Decision: The Shared Service business plans provide direction and set out how each service will meet agreed business case targets and contribute to delivery of the SCDC Business Plan 2019-2024. However, given that 3 Councils are commenting on these shared plans, a mechanism must be put in place to incorporate those comments. Delegating authority to the Shared Service Management Board will enable final amendments to be made to the business plans in line with comments received from all three partner Councils.

9. SHARED SERVICES BUSINESS PLANS - BUILDING CONTROL

Cabinet approved the restricted Business Plan for 3C Building Control.

Other Options Considered: An option could be not to support the documents or to recommend amendments. Any major amendments would be required to be considered and agreed by each of the partner Councils.

Reason For Decision: The Shared Service business plans provide direction and set out how each service will meet agreed business case targets and contribute to delivery of the SCDC Business Plan 2019-2024. However, given that 3 Councils are commenting on these shared plans, a mechanism must be put in place to incorporate those comments. Delegating authority to the Shared Service Management Board will enable final amendments to be made to the business plans in line with comments received from all three partner Councils.

