

## CABINET

MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2020

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 29 June 2020. 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 Jonathan Malton.

#### 1. NORTH EAST CAMBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

Cabinet:

- (a) **Agreed** the name of the Area Action Plan (AAP) be formally changed to the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan;
- (b) **Agreed** the draft North East Cambridge Area Action Plan (Appendix A); the draft North East Cambridge Policies Map (including amended boundary) (Appendix B) and Topic Papers (Appendix C) for a ten-week period of public consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and that this consultation will also include the evidence documents (listed in the draft AAP with relevant policy and published on the shared planning service website);
- (c) **Agreed** the Statement of Consultation (Appendix D) including responses to comments received to the Issues & Options (February 2019);
- (d) **Noted** the findings of the updated Joint Equalities Impact Assessment, Draft Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment; and Duty to Cooperate Statement (Appendices E, F, G and H respectively);
- (e) **Delegated** authority to the Deputy Leader (Statutory) of South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Cambridge Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces to agree the further Topic Papers as set out at paragraph 4.17 ahead of public consultation.
- (f) **Delegated** authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in liaison with the Deputy Leader (Statutory) of South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Cambridge Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces, to make editorial changes to the Draft NEC AAP consultation report (including graphics) and supporting documents (prior to the commencement of the consultation period) to comprise minor amendments and factual updates and clarifications.
- (g) **Noted** the update on the Fen Road access issues at paragraphs 4.19 and 4.20 in the report. A separate report will be provided on this matter in due course.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Agreed to approve the draft NEC AAP and supporting documents for public consultation;
- b) Agreed to approve the draft NEC AAP and supporting documents for public consultation with amendments; or
- c) Not agreed to approve the draft NEC AAP and supporting documents for public consultation.

**Reason for Decision:** To confirm the name of the NEC AAP for the purposes of the Local Development Scheme and next stage of work and to reflect that the AAP boundary has been amended to better reflect the areas subject to future development.

To progress the NEC AAP through the various stages of informal and formal consultation on its way to adoption as part of the development plan for Greater Cambridge.

The current stage represents the last informal consultation on the AAP, inviting comment on all aspects of the plan, including the vision and strategic objectives, the emerging spatial framework and proposed development management policies, as well as the supporting evidence base studies, topic papers, and the council's response to previous comments received.

## 2. **GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN: ISSUES AND OPTIONS FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS**

Cabinet:

- (a) **Noted** the report on Initial Feedback from the First Conversation consultation included at Appendix 1;
- (b) **Agreed** additional informal member and stakeholder engagement and Preferred Options stages be added to the Local Plan making process;
- (c) **Agreed** the approach to addressing the Duty to Cooperate included as Appendix 3 to the report, subject to any material changes necessary as a result of consultation with Duty to Cooperate bodies.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Agreed to the changes proposed to the plan making stages, and revisions to the timetable, and /or the approach to the Duty to Cooperate, without any amendments; or
- b) Agreed to changes proposed to the plan making stages, and revisions to the timetable, and /or the approach to the Duty to Cooperate, incorporating amendments; or
- c) Not agreed to changes proposed to the plan making stages, and revisions to the timetable, and / or the approach to the Duty to Cooperate.

**Reason for Decision:** Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are preparing a joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Having considered early results of the Issues & Options consultation and a range of other considerations as set out in the report, it is proposed that a revised process to preparing the Local Plan is necessary and appropriate to enable evidence to be fully developed and to ensure positive and effective engagement with stakeholders and communities as the preferred approach to the new Local Plan is developed.

Cabinet was invited to note the initial findings of the Issues and Options consultation, and to comment on the recommended changes to the stages of plan making and implications for the timetable.

### 3. UPDATE OF GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Cabinet:

(a) **Agreed** to adopt the updated Local Development Scheme for Greater Cambridge included at Appendix 1 of the report, to take effect from 13 July 2020.

(b) **Agreed** to grant delegated authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in liaison with the South Cambridgeshire Lead Cabinet member for Planning and the Cambridge City Council Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Open Spaces, to make any minor editing changes and corrections identified prior to publication.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

a) Agreed the adoption of the updated Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme, without any amendments; or

b) Agreed the adoption of the updated Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme, incorporating amendments; or

c) Not agreed the adoption of the updated greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Scheme

**Reason for Decision:** The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that Local Planning Authorities must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The current LDS was adopted in 2018, and there have been a number of changes in circumstance affecting both plans which now require an update to the LDS. The changes to the plan making timetable proposed reflect both the opportunities and the complexity of issues being addressed by the plans, the desire to have an inclusive and engaging plan making process, and the relationship with other processes such as the Development Consent Order for the relocation of the Milton Water Recycling Centre.

### 4. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

Cabinet:

(a) **Approved** and **adopted** this Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

(a) Formally approved and adopted the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan as presented;

(b) Formally approved and adopted the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan, subject to amendments, providing details;

(c) Asked for further work to be carried out before reconsidering and adopting a Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan.

**Reason for Decision:** Approving and adopting the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan will give clear direction for the work of the Council in continuing to promote and support the wellbeing needs – both physical and mental - of the residents of South Cambridgeshire.

## 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL LIAISON MEETINGS

Cabinet:

**Approved** the introduction of 5 new liaison meetings in Barrington, Caldecote, Hardwick, Swavesey and Sawston, bringing the total number of concurrent active liaison meetings to 6.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) approved the introduction of 5 new liaison meetings in Barrington, Caldecote, Hardwick, Swavesey and Sawston bringing the total number of active liaison meetings to 6.
- b) approved their own combination of liaison meetings using the data and information provided in this report.
- c) Alternatively, if Cabinet had wished to consider more than 6 concurrent liaison meetings, further work would have been required before a formal decision could be taken. This would have ensured sufficient staff resources could be put in place.

**Reason for Decision:** The Council puts community engagement at the heart of planning and developing new and existing communities. Community forums already take place in major strategic areas of growth, such as the new town of Northstowe, new town at Waterbeach, and large sites on the edge of Cambridge. Councillors have agreed in the 2020-25 business plan to build on this by creating liaison meetings in villages where a higher proportion of new homes are already planned when compared to the size of the existing village.

A trial in Cottenham has provided insight as to the value these meetings have for villages experiencing more growth. They have provided regular and easy access to discuss issues with developers and other key stakeholders. This supports good engagement and active methods of community integration.

The villages suggested for new liaison meetings have been identified as they meet one, or a combination of, the following criteria:

- (i) Over 20% growth planned within the village,
- (ii) Multiple developers on site throughout developments,
- (iii) House building taking place over at least a 3-year period,
- (iv) At least 50 new homes being planned within the village.

## 6. ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT SCHEME

Cabinet:

(a) **Approved** the changes to the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme, as outlined in paragraph 11, which will result in a more focussed scheme providing funding to projects under three themes:

- Cycling
- Community buildings
- Tree-planting and other nature-based solutions

(b) **Delegated** to the Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment the authority to make minor changes to the scheme documents in Appendices A and B (Information for Applicants for applications from questions) as necessary for clarity.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Not approved the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme as proposed, with or without changes.
- b) Not delegated to the Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment the authority to make minor changes to scheme documents in Appendices A and B (Information for Applicants and application form questions) as necessary for clarity.

**Reason for Decision:** The Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme is a pioneering scheme to support community action on climate change. When it was set up it was envisaged that changes would be made to the scheme based on learning from the first year of operation. This learning has been captured and incorporated in the proposed changes. Authority to approve policies and criteria for the approval of grant schemes under which awards above Level 1 (£5,000) may be made lies with Cabinet after consultation with the Grants Advisory Committee. Recommendations from the Grants Advisory Committee in relation to the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme were published following their meeting on 26 June 2020.

## 7. **RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY**

Cabinet:

**Approved** the Draft Resident Involvement Strategy 2020-2023 (Appendix 1) to go out to wider tenant consultation. Cabinet also **agreed** to delegate authority to the Lead Member for Housing to approve the final Strategy subject to any minor amendments arising from this consultation, from any new guidance issued by the Regulator for Social Housing or from guidance issued by Government if/when the issues within the Green Paper become law.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Approved the Draft Resident Involvement Strategy 2020-2023 to go out to wider tenant consultation (Appendix 1) and delegated authority to the Lead Member for Housing to approve the final Strategy subject to any minor amendments arising from this consultation, from any new guidance issued by the Regulator for Social Housing or from guidance issued by Government if/when the issues within the Green Paper become law.
- b) Rejected the draft Resident Involvement Strategy 2020-23 and the proposals set out in the Strategy for a new scrutiny and governance framework, including the establishment of the Housing Engagement Board.

**Reason for Decision:** This Strategy sets out how the Council will engage with its tenants and leaseholders and includes a new tenant engagement framework and the establishment of a Housing Engagement Board to ensure that our tenants have the opportunity to be involved in its management and hold the Council to account. The Strategy has been developed in accordance with the Regulatory Framework for Social Housing relating to the Consumer Standard and in particular the Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard.

The Strategy through the new framework and communication channels also fulfils the recommendations outlined in the Social Housing Green Paper following the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

**8. NEW BUILD HOUSING STRATEGY 2020 - 2025**

Cabinet:

**Approved** the New Build Council Housing Strategy, and **recommended** that it proceed to full Council for adoption.

Please note that recommendations to Council are not subject to call in.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Approved the Strategy and recommended its adoption by Council;
- b) Not approved the Strategy.

**Reason for Decision:** To give Cabinet the opportunity to consider the report before it is presented to Council.

**9. QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Cabinet:

**Reviewed** and **noted** the Operational Key Performance Indicator (OKPI) results and comments in the report at Appendix A.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Recommended any action required to address issues identified within this report and its appendices;
- b) Requested clarification from performance indicator owners on any aspects relating to performance indicators, results and comments contained within this report and its appendices.
- c) Commissioned more detailed performance reports from performance indicator owners that drill-down into specific areas relating to the one or more of the performance indicators, results and comments contained within this report and its appendices.

**Reason for Decision:** These recommendations are required to enable senior management and members to understand the organisation's performance. The information included within performance reports contributes to the evidence base for the ongoing review of priorities and enables, where appropriate, redirection of resources to reflect emerging priorities and address areas of concern.

**10. REVIEW OF BARRIERS TO COUNCIL PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

Cabinet:

**Reviewed** and **noted** the actions that have been undertaken over the past 12 months to reduce the barriers to council procurement for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) prior to the report going to Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

**Options Considered:** None

**Reason for Decision:** When they approved the recommendations from the Barriers to Council Procurement for SMEs Member Task and Finish Group in March 2019, Cabinet requested that progress against the agreed recommendations be reviewed in 12 months.

**11. POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Cabinet:

**Approved** the investment detailed in the exempt report of the Head of Finance as a single-let commercial investment in accordance with the approved Investment Strategy.

**Options Considered:** As specified in paragraphs 13 – 14 of the exempt report.

**Reason for Decision:** As specified in paragraphs 4 – 6 of the exempt report.

**12. POTENTIAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT**

Cabinet:

**Approved** the investment detailed in the exempt report of the Head of Finance as a multi-let commercial investment in accordance with the approved Investment Strategy.

**Options Considered:** As specified in paragraphs 13 – 15 of the exempt report.

**Reason for Decision:** As specified in paragraphs 4 – 6 of the exempt report.