

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee held on  
Wednesday, 1 July 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Dr. Douglas de Lacey – Chair  
Councillor Dr. Claire Daunton – Vice-Chair

Councillors: Henry Batchelor Dr. Martin Cahn  
Nigel Cathcart Mark Howell  
Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer Heather Williams

Officers: Rory McKenna Deputy Head of Legal Practice/Monitoring Officer  
Stephen Kelly Joint Director of Planning and Economic  
Development  
Victoria Wallace Scrutiny and Governance Adviser

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bridget Smith.

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

Regarding agenda item 4, the committee was informed of the following:

- Councillors Henry Batchelor and Mark Howell were both county councillors and as such they had been part of the County Council's decision making earlier in the year, regarding the JDCC.
- Councillor Douglas de Lacey was the Chair of the current Joint Development Control Committee.
- Councillor Claire Daunton was the Vice Chair of the current Joint Development Control Committee.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

### **4. GREATER CAMBRIDGE JOINT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development presented the report which sought agreement to the establishment of a new committee (the Greater Cambridge Joint Planning Committee) and set out the proposed terms of reference for the new joint committee to come into effect from 1 August 2020. The key changes to membership, scope and geography were explained. Approval of the formal dissolution of the existing JDCC from 1 August 2020 was also sought.

The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development informed the committee that Cambridge City Council's Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee had discussed the proposals and wished to make the following changes to the terms of the new joint committee. These resolutions would be discussed by Cambridge City Council's Civic Affairs Committee:

- The existing name of the committee be retained (Joint Development Control Committee).
- The appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair to alternate annually between

the two councils.

- County Councillors to be able to attend and address the committee.
- The number of members to be increased from three to six per council, which reflected the existing arrangements for the Joint Development Control Committee.

Civic Affairs Committee members discussed these proposals and indicated their support for them.

The following amendment to recommendation 4, was agreed by the committee (amendments are shown in bold text):

To authorise the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in **consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Development Control Committee**, to decide whether to refer any development control matters for determination by the new joint development control committee, where the boundary of the site concerned overlaps or is adjacent to the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The draft standing orders of the new committee were discussed by the committee. It was suggested that votes be recorded for the benefit of transparency. As it was for the new joint committee to agree the standing orders, this request would be conveyed to the new committee for consideration.

The Civic Affairs Committee recommended to Council that:

1. On the withdrawal of the Cambridgeshire County Council to dissolve the JDCC between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council as surviving members, pursuant to section 101 (5) Local Government Act 1972 and cease all delegations to the same with effect from 31 July 2020; and
2. To establish a new joint planning committee between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (to be called the Joint Development Control Committee) with the Terms of Reference as set in Appendix A subject to the number of members from each council to be increased from three to six, and to delegate functions to the joint committee and officers as set out therein, pursuant to section 101(5) and section 102 Local Government Act 1972 with effect from 1 August 2020.
3. To agree that ongoing planning matters or any other continuing action-which would otherwise fall to be determined by the JDCC will, after 31 July 2020, transfer to the new Joint Development Control Committee for determination.
4. To authorise the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development to decide, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the new joint development control committee, whether to refer any development control matters for determination by the Greater Cambridge Joint Planning Committee where the boundary of the site concerned overlaps or is adjacent to the boundary between Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.
5. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Council's constitution arising from the above decisions.
6. To agree the proposed draft standing orders for the Committee subject to:
  - a. The Chair and Vice Chair appointments alternating between the two

- councils, to take place annually.
- b. County Councillors to be permitted to attend and address the committee.

**5. UPDATE ON CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS**

The Monitoring Officer presented this report which invited the committee to note the progress made on outstanding Code of Conduct complaints and the conclusion of cases since the last meeting. He informed the committee that there had been an additional complaint against all members of Coton Parish Council and that following consultation with the independent person, the complaint relating to Linton would not be going forward.

The committee noted the report.

**6. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The committee noted that their next meeting would be held on Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 10am.

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**The Meeting ended at 10.50 a.m.**

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