

## Cabinet

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

### Decisions

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 19 October 2021. 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. Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update

Cabinet:

**Noted** the contents of the report and the delivery of activities and services which promote physical and mental health and wellbeing.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

Requested amendments to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan in Appendix A.

**Reason for Decision:** It was agreed when the first 6 month update report was presented to Cabinet in January 2021 that a follow up should be presented later in the year. It will then be reviewed after 3 years unless requested otherwise.

#### 2. Cambridgeshire Council Tax Compliance and Counter-Fraud Initiative

Cabinet:

- a) **Approved** the business case shown in Appendix A, providing agreement to proceed with the project.
- b) **Delegated** authority for signing any required agreements as part of this project to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

- a) Declined to participate in the project further, and continue to monitor and detect fraud and compliance issues under existing arrangements
- b) Agreed to participate in the project as detailed in the business case in Appendix A. If this option was agreed, Cabinet were also asked to delegate authority for the signing of any agreements required as part of this project to the Chief Financial Officer, in conjunction with the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

**Reason for Decision:** Council Tax discounts, exemptions, and reductions in South Cambridgeshire total over £17m pa and exceed £90m across the county

area. Whilst all billing authorities carry out checks to ensure that any reductions are correct based on the information available, invariably there will be a proportion that are claimed incorrectly or for longer than applicable. This initiative seeks to enhance the processes already in place to ensure a more robust and uniform council tax compliance and counter-fraud strategy across the county-wide area.

**3. North East Cambridge "In Principle" Commitment to Delivery of AAP**  
Cabinet:

- a) **Noted** that the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan is contingent upon the separate Development Control Order being undertaken by Anglian Water for the relocation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant being approved;
- b) **Agreed** that the Council is committed to the delivery of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan, including land disposal or assembly, and subject to formal adoption of the Area Action Plan in due course, to use its Compulsory Purchase Orders powers if required.

**Options Considered:** Cabinet could have:

The option of not providing an 'in principle' commitment to delivery of the AAP is not considered to be appropriate. In jointly preparing the AAP, the Council is setting out an ambitious vision for how it sees North East Cambridge coming forward in the future which requires a comprehensive approach being taken to the sites development and delivery. It has consulted on these proposals with residents, businesses and stakeholders, and must have confidence that its planning strategy for the future of this area is deliverable.

This option of not providing an 'in principle' commitment to delivery of the AAP is not considered to be appropriate. At this time, it is not possible to be certain if barriers to delivery will arise and what these may be. However, given the role of the Local Authority is to secure the proper planning of its area, the Council must be willing to intervene, where necessary and justified to secure this

**Reason for Decision:** To demonstrate the Council's commitment to the delivery of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan.