

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee held on
Tuesday, 18 December 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Milnes – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:	Ruth Betson	Dr. Martin Cahn
	Sarah Cheung Johnson	Graham Cone
	Dr. Claire Daunton	Bill Handley
	Steve Hunt	Peter McDonald
	Judith Rippeth	Nigel Cathcart
	Sue Ellington	Geoff Harvey

Councillors Philippa Hart, Dr. Tumi Hawkins, Bridget Smith and Aidan Van de Weyer were in attendance, by invitation.

Officers:	Victoria Wallace	Democratic Services Officer
	Jonathan Dixon	Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport)
	Julie Fletcher	Head of Housing Strategy
	Mike Hill	Director of Housing and Environmental Services
	Bob Palmer	Interim Executive Director

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anna Bradnam, Grenville Chamberlain, Gavin Clayton and Douglas de Lacey. Councillor Geoff Harvey was present as a substitute for Councillor Bradnam, Councillor Sue Ellington was present as a substitute for Councillor Chamberlain, and Councillor Nigel Cathcart was present as a substitute for Councillor Clayton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2018, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

5. GREATER CAMBRIDGE HOUSING STRATEGY

The Head of Housing Strategy presented the draft Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy, which would be going out to consultation for six weeks from 18 December 2018. Approval of the final strategy was anticipated in April/March 2019. The draft strategy set out the strategic direction for housing activity in the area. Members were invited to comment on the draft strategy by completing the online survey or contacting the Head of Housing Strategy directly.

The committee was informed of the following:

- It was too early to say whether there would need to be a significant number of additional houses built in the district, however a new methodology would be undertaken with Planning colleagues in 2019 to assess this; this was a large piece of work that needed to be undertaken in preparation for the next Local Plan.
- Officers were working with Sheffield Hallam University on projections for housing need for older people. The services people wanted and what would be possible to provide for older people, would have to be reviewed. Cambridgeshire County Council would need to be worked with closely on this. New homes needed to be of a good quality of design, with the ability to be adapted.
- The potential for a retirement village would be looked at. The Netherlands model of living, would be looked at.
- The Council's policy was for 40% of new housing to be affordable of which 70% was affordable rent and 30% shared ownership.
- Mobile home parks had been added to the draft strategy.
- The draft strategy touched on specialist housing for disabled people, however having the evidence base for this need was a struggle.
- Ambition had been built into the strategy for people to have houses that they could afford to run rather than spending all their money on commuting and utility bills.
- The Local Plan included policies around renewable energy and environmentally friendly design could be encouraged in this.
- Under the National Planning Policy definition of travellers only included those that travelled. For those that no longer travelled, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment 2016 identified that there was a need to provide accommodation for this group. It was recognised that there was also a need for a transit/emergency site due to the increased number of unauthorised encampments.
- The Council had been discussing the provision of houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs), with Ermine Street Housing. Shire Homes Lettings was interested in managing HMO properties too.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Homes for people who cared for elderly people, were also needed. It was queried whether covenants on housing for these people, could be considered.
- Intergenerational flexible homes, that could be adapted to people's different needs, were needed.
- It was suggested that energy infrastructure be identified as a potential challenge for the rapid delivery of housing. It was pointed out that projects had been held up by lack of grid capacity.
- Developers should be encouraged to provide electric charging points.
- It was queried whether there was a KPI for the completion of affordable homes going forward.
- There needed to be a recognition of the importance of green spaces in villages, in the Local Plan.

6. CAMBRIDGE NORTHERN FRINGE AREA ACTION PLAN - ISSUES AND OPTIONS 2

The Planning Policy Manager presented the report alongside Consultant Matthew Patterson. The committee was informed of the following:

- The Northern Fringe was identified as an area with potential for significant regeneration.
- Options for development in the area were constrained by the water recycling centre.
- A Housing Infrastructure (HIF) bid to relocate the Water Recycling Centre off-site

was being considered by government.

- The AAP was an important part of unlocking and delivering the Northern Fringe site.
- The HIF funding was time limited. Moving the AAP forward was important to help secure a successful HIF bid to relocate the water treatment works.
- In identifying the timetable for consultation, officers were also mindful of the cycle of local elections; City Council elections were scheduled for 2019.
- More would be known about the HIF bid in early 2019.
- A framework for the regeneration of the area would need to be brought forward with or without the Water Recycling Centre.

The committee was informed of the changes that had happened since consultation had taken place in December 2014, such as the implementation of the guided busway link and the opening of the Cambridge North Railway Station and the completion of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Ely to Cambridge Transport Study. The significant issues with the location of the site were also highlighted:

- It was bordered by the railway and A14, which caused noise and air quality issues.
- The aggregates railway line was essential infrastructure, which could not be relocated.
- There were other waste uses which needed to remain on site.

However, the committee was informed that due to the strategic and brownfield nature of the site, there was a broad range of things that it could be used for. Consultation responses and evidence would guide this. The AAP set out a new vision for the area, which focussed on innovation and creating a walkable and low carbon development. Achieving higher levels of travel by sustainable modes would be looked at. The right type and range of housing needed to be looked at for this site which had the advantage of being situated near strong employment centres such as the Science Park and St John's Innovation Park. Retail and leisure provision was also being looked at that would allow people to meet their needs on site. A broad concept plan had been prepared to test ideas with consultees. Both Local Plans allocated this area for regeneration and making best use of the brownfield site was very important.

There was the potential to look at the Science Park acquiring housing on this site for their employees.

Regarding comments in relation to the poor quality of maps provided in the report, it was pointed out that this was a draft document and the maps would be made clear in the final consultation version.

The committee discussed the report:

- Access to adjoining places via cycling and walking, was very important.
- It was pointed out that the capacity of Cambridge Station was limited and the role of the area around Cambridge North Station was an important factor.
- In response to a query regarding responsibility for upgrading roads in the area and how Section 106 money would be split, members were informed that officers had started talking to landowners and developers regarding the S106 regime for a full suite of infrastructure upgrades. An equitable split across the developers to provide what was needed, was being looked at. S106 money would be treated collectively rather than splitting it between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils.
- It was pointed out that Cambridge North Station did not provide rail connections with the East (Newmarket), where much traffic came from on the A14.

- An amendment to the question regarding low carbon was requested, to reflect the Council's ambition for zero carbon. In particular in reviewing sustainability standards it should refer to local as well as national policy changes.
- It was highlighted that Northstowe residents, who had moved to Northstowe with the intention of only using public transport, had been buying cars due to the poor bus service that was only operated by Stagecoach, which did not enable residents to get to work on time. The service offered by Stagecoach was not sufficient to encourage the modal shift to public transport.
- It was suggested that the Council may want to consider the provision of pod housing on this site.
- It was pointed out that Milton Road Park and Ride was under-utilised, yet the Science Park was gridlocked with traffic.
- The glossary of the issues and options document was important, and items should be added.

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet:

- a) Approves the Cambridge Northern Fringe Issues and Options 2 for Regulation 18 public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period of six weeks jointly with Cambridge City Council;
- b) Approves the Statement of Consultation;
- c) Notes the findings of the Interim Sustainability Appraisal and Equalities Impact Assessment;
- d) Delegates authority to the Deputy Leader to consider and agree, as is consistent with this Council's Corporate Objectives, any changes proposed by Cambridge City Council;
- e) Delegates authority to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development in liaison with the Deputy Leader, to make editorial changes to the Issues and Options report and supporting documents prior to the commencement of the consultation period (to comprise minor amendments and factual updates and clarifications).

7. UPDATE ON ICT ISSUES

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee's Vice-Chairman provided a verbal update on the recent ICT outage that had been experienced by the Council. He provided an overview of the existing and ongoing ICT issues that had been experienced and the technical reasons for the recent ICT outage.

The following were requested:

- The 3C ICT Security Policy
- Business continuity plans
- The Disaster Recovery Plan
- the Backup Policy

The following questions and issues were identified:

- Service Level Agreements with providers and whether they were being met, needed to be looked at.
- Why had the Business Continuity Plan failed and when had it last been tested?
- The risk assessment was requested as well as information regarding the downtime and recovery time that was acceptable.
- What were the 10 key learnings from the IT outage?
- When was an external IT Health Check last carried out?

The Lead Cabinet Member for Customer Service and Business Improvement suggested that a joint scrutiny committee could perhaps look at the ICT shared service. She would suggest this to the Digital Board. She praised staff for the innovative solutions that had been identified to ensure that the Council had still been able to provide key services during the ICT outage.

The committee was informed that the Interim Head of ICT would be providing a report on the ICT outage and would attend a subsequent Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting.

It was agreed that:

- The Vice Chairman would summarise his findings and provide these to the relevant directors; and
- A sub-group (Councillor Brian Milnes and Sarah Cheung Johnson) would look into the ICT issues in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was **NOTED**.

9. MONITORING THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Sue Ellington raised concern that no Lead Cabinet Member meetings were taking place. This meant here was no forum for discussion of issues with local Members. She warned that there was discontent amongst parish councils regarding delegated powers for Planning decisions by officers. In response to this it was pointed out that the Lead Cabinet Members had made themselves available for discussions with local Members, on request.

10. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE 5 OF THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018: CAMBRIDGE ICE ARENA: LOAN TO CAMBRIDGE LEISURE AND ICE CENTRE (CLIC) - CONFIDENTIAL

The minute was agreed as a correct record.

11. TO NOTE THE DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The committee noted that the next place would take place on Tuesday 22nd January 2019, at 6pm.

The Meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

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