



**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

REPORT TO: Cabinet 2 October 2019
FROM: Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Councillor Brian Milnes, Vice Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Update from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman

Purpose

1. This report is to inform Cabinet of the discussions and recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting of 10 September 2019, which Cabinet may wish to take into account in its decision making.

Bourn Airfield New Village Supplementary Planning Document

2. The committee considered and commented upon the summary of representations made during the public consultation on the draft SPD, which the committee noted reflected the concerns it had raised during its consideration of the draft SPD in May 2019. The main points discussed were as follows.
3. A letter was received from Bourn Parish Council in advance of the meeting, raising concerns regarding lack of direct access to the A428, the transport modelling in the Local Plan and traffic volumes estimated by the developers.
4. Councillor Tumi Hawkins addressed the committee as the Local Member representing Caldecote. She set out concerns regarding:
 - The current problem with congestion in Caldecote.
 - The lack of direct access to the A428.
 - The treatment of the separation between the new village and Caldecote.
 - That the SPD should not allow any housing in the north east corner of the Major Development Site.
5. The committee expressed concerns that the lack of a junction to access the A428 would lead to rat running through villages and emphasised the need to protect the surrounding villages from this.
6. While there was still concern from committee members that proposals did not include direct access to the A428, the committee acknowledged that this was in line with the policy of the approved Local Plan and with which the SPD must be consistent.
7. Committee members acknowledged the Council's zero carbon policy and highlighted the need for public transport options to be available from the outset for new developments. The use of public transport needed to be made easy and appealing for residents in order for them to use it.

8. The Committee draws Cabinet's attention to the comments set out above.

Corporate Asset Plan

9. The committee considered and discussed the Corporate Asset Plan. Committee members were pleased to see the intention to manage and maintain property was reflected, and that there was a maintenance programme.
10. Committee members suggested that consideration should be given to how the Council's assets could be used to support SMEs and subject to the incorporation of this in the plan, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee supported the adoption of the Corporate Asset Plan.

Investment Strategy Update

11. The committee considered the refreshed Investment Strategy and raised the following:
 - Ethical investment needed to be ensured; the policies of the businesses that were the Council's tenants needed to be considered to ensure they were not involved in activities that the Council did not support.
 - Concern was raised regarding the assumption that the value of property would not go down, particularly given the current national political climate.
12. Subject to the incorporation of the committee's comments regarding ethical investment, the committee supported the adoption of the refreshed Investment Strategy and Cabinet's recommendation of this to Full Council.

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