

REPORT TO: Cabinet

31 December 2019

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Tumi Hawkins

LEAD OFFICER: Stephen Kelly Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Response to Anglian Water Section 47 Planning Act (2008) Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Consultation with Local Planning Authorities

Executive Summary

1. On 18th December the Council (and Cambridge City Council) received communications from Anglian Water outlining their proposed arrangements for public consultation in respect of the project to relocate the Cambridge Waste Water Treatment works. The project plays an important part in the Council's Joint Area Action Plan for North East Cambridge which sees the area become a major area for change. The proposed Statement of Community Consultation (attached as an exempt appendix 1) has been the subject of informal engagement with Anglian Water's team prior to its submission. The Council has a period of 28 days to reply with its view on the proposed consultation. This report seeks approval for the Council's response – enclosed as Appendix 2.

Key Decision

2. No – whilst the proposed development is likely to have local effects on communities within 2 or more wards within the district this consultation is not, considered to give rise to direct impacts.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
 - a) Notes the details of the proposed statement of community consultation
 - b) Delegates to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development the submission of the Council's response to the proposed statement of community consultation set out in Appendix 2

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that the Council responds to the formal consultation submitted within the timeline provided for.

Details

4. The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 (and Cambridge City Local Plan) identify the area at North East Cambridge as an area of significant change (Policy SS/4). The land is accordingly allocated for mixed use employment led development. The Council is in the process of preparing an Area Action Plan DPD which seeks to respond to a successful bid under the Housing Infrastructure Fund that would provide for the relocation of the Cambridge Water Treatment Works. This would serve to unlock significant new opportunities (beyond SS/6) including new residential development which, because of the odour profile around the existing site, would not otherwise be achievable.
5. Anglian Water have begun the process of securing consent for a new Water Treatment Works. The project has been determined to be a “Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.” Planning permission for the new facility would accordingly not be via the County Council (as the Local Planning Authority for waste) but instead would be via a “Development Consent Order” (DCO). The DCO process is defined by regulations and overseen/administered by the Planning Inspectorate.
6. SCDC and Cambridge City Council have, along with the County Council been consulted formally under that process on the proposed community consultation process which Anglian Water will follow as they prepare to submit the application for Development Consent in 2021. The proposed phase 1 consultation (attached as Exempt Appendix 1) is scheduled to begin in January in line with a programme that would comprise three stages – two “non statutory” consultations ahead of a pre-submission statutory consultation phase next year.
7. Officers within the Council have reviewed the proposed statement of community consultation and have previously provided comprehensive comments on an earlier, draft. Those comments have been incorporated into the revised statement and for this reason, the Council’s proposed comments on the draft submitted formally are limited (Appendix 2).
8. The submission of the Draft Statement was made on 18th December with comments due by 15th January 2020. In the absence of delegated authority for the Joint Director of Planning to respond formally on behalf of the Council, the proposals are accordingly presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Options

- i. Cabinet could agree the comments as set out in Appendix 2.
- ii. Alternatively, the Cabinet could offer additional/further comments on the submission.
- iii. Cabinet could decline to submit any comments on the Statement of Community Consultation.

Implications

9. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, there are considered to be no significant implications at this stage. The formal DCO process will require participation by the District Council. Officer will be preparing a report setting out the implications for the Council in the New year.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

10. The release of the North East Cambridge site allocation from the constraints of the existing Water treatment Works will allow comprehensive mixed use development of the area and contribute towards business growth, the creation of new homes and development that will help contribute to lower carbon living in the future. The new location for the Water Treatment Works has yet to be established – that will arise through the DSCO process. The impact of that new WTW on Local Businesses, Communities and the Environment will be subject to detailed examination as the project progresses.

Background Papers

North East Cambridge Area Action Plan – Issues and Options report 2019

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Statement of Community Consultation

Appendix 2: SCDC response to Draft Statement of Community Consultation

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