

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 29 June 2020

**LEAD MEMBER:** Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee and Councillor Brian Milnes, Vice Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee

---

## **Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

### **Purpose**

1. This report is to inform Cabinet of the discussions and recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meetings which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, which Cabinet may wish to consider in its decision making.

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

2. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered and commented on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy at its 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 committee meeting.
3. Committee members commented on the importance of infrastructure and communications allowing people to live where they wanted. Committee members were pleased to see activities for children included and that awareness of physical and mental health was embedded in this. The importance of avoiding duplication between organisations was highlighted and committee members suggested the County Council should be proactively engaged with on transport, particularly in relation to safe cycling.
4. Committee members suggested that a priority be added to the strategy for the Council to proactively engage with other authorities to deliver schemes, such as sustainable clubs, in existing communities as well as new communities.
5. Committee members highlighted the importance of recognising the health and wellbeing needs of those with learning disabilities and that more mention needed to be made of these needs in future versions of the strategy.
6. The committee suggested a section on self-help and support be included in the strategy and that this could do more to address the issues that were leading to young people self-harm.

7. Committee members thanked officers for their work on this strategy which the committee welcomed.

### **New Build Council Housing Strategy**

8. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered the Council's New Build Council Housing Strategy at its 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 meeting.
9. Committee members welcomed the commitment in the strategy to improving the energy efficiency of housing stock and was pleased that the strategy recognised the need for homes for those down-sizing.
10. The committee highlighted the importance of the quality of building design, particularly in villages. The Council had the opportunity to demonstrate this to developers through the quality of design in its new build affordable homes.
11. The committee welcomed this strategy and thanked officers for their work on it.

### **Resident Involvement Strategy**

12. The committee considered the Council's Resident Involvement Strategy at its 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 meeting.
13. The committee discussed the process for electing tenant representatives to the Housing Board. Members suggested cross party representation of the three councillors on the Housing Board.
14. The committee suggested an additional simplified version of the strategy was produced for tenants and leaseholders.
15. The committee welcomed the strategy and suggested a review of this took place after 12 months.

### **North East Cambridge Area Action Plan**

16. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee discussed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan in detail at its 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 meeting.
17. Committee members considered there was much to be proud of in the AAP and had a wide range of comments to make. Some areas of concern and importance raised were:
  - Concern about the use of shared use paths was raised. This was due to the potential conflict between users, particularly given the increased use of electric bikes and electric scooters, the use of which was anticipated to be legalised in future.

- The potential impact of the development on existing neighbouring green spaces such as Milton Country Park was raised. Committee members highlighted the need to ensure enough green space was provided within the development.
  - Concern was raised regarding the impact of the development on achieving zero carbon targets. Committee members pointed out that the development needed to be carbon zero or carbon negative if these targets were to be met.
  - Concerns over sustainability of the water supply was raised.
  - Members noted that the site would actively discourage car use and less car parking would be provided. Committee members highlighted the potential issue of parking displacement with the reduced provision of on plot parking. The need for parking enforcement was highlighted in order to prevent on street parking
  - Members emphasised the need to maintain access to Cambridge North Station from the surrounding villages, along with the need to maintain parking on site.
  - Members highlighted the need to create a sense of place and to create a place where older people also felt comfortable living.
- Considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on working patterns and the potential future increase of home working, committee members highlighted the need for office space to be provided in new houses.

18. Subject to their comments being considered, the committee recommended that Cabinet approves the Draft NECAAP and its supporting documents for a 10-week public consultation.

## **Quarter 4 Performance Report**

19. The committee considered the Council's Quarter 4 Performance Report at its 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 meeting. Concern was expressed at the increasing spend on bed and breakfast accommodation, however committee members recognised that this had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

20. The committee requested a report on the impact of home working on the Council, for its July 2020 committee meeting. Committee members are particularly interested in the impact of this on emissions, productivity, and staff wellbeing.

## **Report Author:**

Victoria Wallace – Scrutiny and Governance Adviser 01954 713026