



REPORT TO: Cabinet 18 January 2021

LEAD MEMBER: Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee
Councillor Judith Rippeth, Vice Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee

Purpose

1. This report is to inform Cabinet of the discussions and any recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting which took place on 17th December 2020, which Cabinet may wish to consider in its decision making.

Update on policing matters

2. The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary attended the meeting and provided detailed answers to questions from Scrutiny and Overview Committee members. Questions related to the impact of the recently announced cuts to funding and reduction in PCSO numbers, the relocation of the police station from central Cambridge to Milton, parking enforcement, speeding and the Rural Crime Action Team. The committee was very grateful for the Chief Constable's attendance at the meeting and the detailed answers he provided to their questions. The committee will invite the Chief Constable to attend the Scrutiny and Overview Committee once a year.

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Update

3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee considered an update on the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. The report provided an update on the delivery part of the Shared Planning Service comprising the three Development Management teams and Strategic Sites, the Technical Support Team, Planning Enforcement and the S106 Team.
4. Committee members welcomed the report and noted an improvement in performance of the service. Members provided positive feedback from parishes who had found weekly Planning updates useful.

5. Committee members queried some issues such as recruitment in order to fill vacancies in the service and the use of extensions of time in the planning application process. The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development offered to bring a further report to the committee regarding extensions of time. Issues with the planning portal were discussed as some committee members had received complaints from their parishes who had been unable to access documents on the portal. Members requested a message be sent to parishes when planned maintenance was due to take place on the portal, to ensure they were aware of this in advance.
6. The committee noted the report and supported the establishment of a joint member/officer Planning Improvement Group on a 'task and finish' model, to oversee the implementation of the Planning Advisory Service recommendations arising from its Planning Committee Review report. The committee nominated 3 members to participate in this group.

Report Author:

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