

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Growth and Sustainable  
Communities / Planning Services Portfolio  
Holders' Joint Meeting held on Wednesday, 12  
March 2008 at 10.00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Dr DR Bard (Growth and Sustainable Communities Portfolio Holder) and NIC Wright (Planning Services Portfolio Holder), Portfolio Holders

**Councillors in attendance:** AG Orgee Scrutiny and Overview Committee Monitor (Growth and Sustainable Communities)  
MJ Mason Vice-Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee

**Officers:** Jonathan Dixon Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport)  
David Grech Principal Conservation Officer  
Gareth Jones Corporate Manager, Planning & Sustainable Communities  
Keith Miles Planning Policy Manager  
Ian Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Jane Thompson Cultural Services Manager

### **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Tony Orgee declared a personal interest as a member of Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **30. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities and Planning Services Portfolio Holder agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2008 were a correct record.

With reference to minute no. 23 (Draft Capital and Revenue Estimates), the Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) reiterated that the "viability study at Cambourne" related to the retention of consultants at a cost of £30,000.

With reference to Minute no. 24 (Dux ford Airfield Revised Conservation Area Appraisal), officers would be asking the Imperial War Museum to issue a formal invitation to the Cabinet to meet with them to explore a number of issues and concerns about the proposal.

### **31. OPEN SPACES**

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities considered a report seeking agreement to publish the draft Open Space in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for consultation. They noted the following minor changes, made by officers at the meeting, to Appendix 1:

#### **Paragraph 2.7**

Size of Dwelling	No. of occupants
1 Bedroom	1.34
2 Bedrooms	1.75
3 Bedrooms	2.42
4 Bedrooms or more	3.32

### Paragraph 2.8

Size of Dwelling	Formal Sport (m <sup>2</sup> )	Children's Play (m <sup>2</sup> )	Informal open space (m <sup>2</sup> )	Total
1 Bedroom	21.4	0 (no change)	5.4	26.8
2 Bedrooms	28	14	7	49
3 Bedrooms	38.7	19.4	9.7	67.8
4 Bedrooms or more	53.1	26.6	13.3	93

**Paragraph 2.24** – second line to read, “...provision of on-site or off-site facilities that directly meet the needs of the...”

**Paragraph 2.26** – to read, “...the Council will also require a Commuted Maintenance sum for 5 years for “pump priming” initial support for on-site and off-site provision where contributions are used to improve existing facilities or pooled (potentially with other sources of funding) to create new facilities. These facilities are provided partly to meet the direct needs of the new community but will also cater for wider demand from existing communities.”

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities welcomed the introduction of a clear formula for calculating commuted sums but acknowledged the difficulty in establishing a link between specific developments and the off-site provision of public open space.

Those present discussed

- the need to distinguish between commuted payments for additional facilities and those for the maintenance of existing ones
- suggested minimum distances between play areas and residential properties
- the suitable security of play areas such as to tackle anti-social behaviour
- clear definition of the age-range catered for at different play areas
- the consultation process
- distinctions between open space and balancing ponds
- provision in Section 106 Legal Agreements for the payment of parish councils' legal costs

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities

**APPROVED** for consultation: the following documents:

- Draft Open Space in New Developments Supplementary Planning Document

- Final Sustainability Appraisal Report
- Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Addendum

### **32. SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE**

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities noted consultation on improving surface water drainage, published by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

He endorsed the desirability that there be Member input on the subject but recognised the resource implications for officers. Acknowledging that the consultation related, in the main, to the Council as drainage authority, the Planning Policy Manager recognised its relevance in a planning context as well.

The Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities) undertook to establish an informal meeting between the Corporate Managers for Planning and Sustainable Communities and Health and Environmental Services, and the Portfolio Holders for Planning Services, Growth and Sustainable Communities and Housing and Environmental Services in order to agree the Council's formal response to DEFRA's consultation on improving surface water drainage, due for submission before 29 April 2008.

### **33. CYCLING DEMONSTRATION TOWNS**

The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities noted this request from Cambridgeshire County Council and, while supporting it in principle, said it should extend beyond the "necklace" villages immediately around Cambridge.

### **34. PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Planning Services Portfolio Holder and Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities received a report updating them about performance against the relevant service plans.

Those present discussed

- resource issues
- the need for Member involvement in Section 106 negotiations relating to Northstowe
- public art commitments

### **35. SERVICE PLAN**

The Planning Services Portfolio Holder and Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities assessed the effectiveness of the draft service plan for 2008-09 in meeting the Council's corporate objectives.

### **36. FORWARD PLAN**

The Planning Services Portfolio Holder and Portfolio Holder for Growth and Sustainable Communities noted their respective Forward Plans.

**37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next formal meeting would take place on Wednesday 14 May 2008. Prior to that meeting, the Planning Policy Manager undertook to establish an informal meeting to consider the Council's response to consultation from the National Air Traffic Service.

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**The meeting ended at 12.25 p.m.**

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