

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Northstowe Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Wednesday, 13 April 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Tim Wotherspoon

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Bunty Waters

Also in attendance: Lynda Harford and Alex Riley

Officers:

Patrick Adams	Accounts Assistant
Edward Durrant	Senior Planning Officer
John Garnham	Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects)
Tracy Mann	Development Officer
Jo Mills	Corporate Manager, Planning and New Communities

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

31. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- In the first sentence of Minute 24, the date was amended to 16 December 2010.
- In the first sentence of Minute 25, the last word "Holder" was removed.
- In the first sentence of the second paragraph of Minute 27 the phrase "three by three group" was amended to "three plus three group".
- In the first sentence under the heading "Uttons Drove drainage works" the words "Councillor Mason" were amended to read "A Councillor, other than the Portfolio Holder,".

The comments from Councillor Mason that had been circulated before the meeting regarding Uttons Drove were noted.

32. SERVICE PLANS 2011/12: FINAL

Councillor Wotherspoon stated that he had no concerns regarding the Northstowe elements of the two Service Plans.

Councillor Wotherspoon endorsed the Communications section of the Community & Customer Services Service Plan 2011/12 and the Northstowe element of the Planning and New Communities Service Plan.

33. STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER QUARTERLY REPORTS 2010/11: END OF YEAR

The Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects) presented this report which invited the Northstowe Portfolio Holder to review and approve the Strategic Risk Register. It was noted that the Register was reviewed quarterly and this report had been due to go to the previous Portfolio Holder meeting in March which was cancelled. The Principal

Accountant (General Fund and Projects) explained that amendments made by the Executive Management Team in February were highlighted in the report.

Lack of development progress

It was noted that this authority was partly reliant on the County Council to provide some controls / assurances; liaison would continue with the County Council on this issue.

Welfare reform

It was recognised that this risk might have to be re-evaluated once the effects of the Government's reforms became apparent.

Alternative scoring matrix

Councillor Alex Riley suggested an alternative scoring system to the matrix shown in Appendix B of the report, where instead of both impact and likelihood being scored 1-5, likelihood could be expressed as a percentage and impact scored in thousands of pounds. Councillor Wotherspoon welcomed discussion on an alternative scoring system but concluded that the current system was fit for the purpose of deciding which risks were above the tolerance line and so merited special attention. Nevertheless he instructed officers to consider the merits of an alternative matrix on the basis proposed by Councillor Riley.

The Northstowe Portfolio Holder

AGREED The Strategic Risk Register and Matrix.

34. NORTHSTOWE UPDATE

The Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities) introduced this report which updated the Portfolio Holder on progress being made with the Northstowe Joint Promoters, on improvements to the A14 and on the proposed demolition of former airfield buildings.

Demolition of airfield buildings

There had been no complaints regarding the proposed phased removal of a number of the former RAF Oakington buildings and structures. It was noted that English Heritage had recommended that none of the buildings on site should be listed.

A14 Improvements

Concerns were raised regarding the adequacy of the plans to increase the capacity of the A14 with variable speed limits and traffic lights on slip roads following the Government's decision not to fund the proposed substantial improvements. Councillor Riley expressed concern on how the 1,500 homes that could be constructed without the A14 upgrade would be delivered and in which developments.

Plan for Phase 1

Concerns were expressed that construction planned in Phase 1 could be agreed to without any guarantee that the promised infrastructure improvements would also be delivered. It was hoped that a secondary school would be constructed as part of Phase 1.

Consultation with local members

It was suggested that local councillors be invited to attend meetings with partners on Northstowe as observers, as these were currently only attended by the Council's executive members. This would improve communication as local Councillors would be able to inform their residents with first-hand knowledge, instead of having to rely on a secondary source. If necessary the Chairman of these meetings would be able to draw on

the local knowledge of the observers present. It was noted that there was broad agreement amongst executive and non-executive Councillors on how Northstowe should be developed. Councillor Wotherspoon explained that such an arrangement would need the agreement of the Council's partners and he agreed to explore this option further.

Consultation with developers

The Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities) stated that there had been little progress on Northstowe for the last two years and this explained why the Council had not pressed for a response from the developers to correspondence from Peter Studdert. She added that it had been agreed jointly that the Partnering Agreement between Gallagher and HCA should be extended to include the District and County Council.

It was noted that the location of Northstowe town centre had not yet been agreed.

Councillor Wotherspoon **NOTED** the report.

35. RAMPTON DRIFT RETROFIT SCHEME

The Development Officer presented this report, which updated the Northstowe Portfolio Holder on the progress being made on the project.

It was noted that 13 homeowners were participating in the project and a facebook page had been set up to allow residents to comment on the process. A formal launch event had been scheduled for 25 June and thermal images would be taken, with the agreement of the homeowners, before the work took place.

Councillor Wotherspoon expressed his pride in the project and **NOTED** the report.

36. SUPPLY CHAIN RISKS

The Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects) presented this report summarising the main points raised in the risk management briefing given to Councillors on 28 March by Tilden Watson of Zurich Risk Engineering. It was noted that Cabinet and Corporate Governance Committee members had attended the briefing.

Councillor Wotherspoon **NOTED** the report.

37. FORWARD PLAN

Councillor Wotherspoon **NOTED** that there was no Forward Plan for 2011/12.

38. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26 May at 10am.

The Meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.
