

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on
Tuesday, 15 November 2011 at 1.00 p.m.

Portfolio Holder: Tim Wotherspoon

Councillors in attendance:

Scrutiny and Overview Committee monitors: Mike Mason

Opposition spokesmen: Trisha Bear and Lynda Harford

Officers:

John Garnham	Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects)
Jane Green	Head of New Communities
John King	Community Technical Manager
Jo Mills	Corporate Manager, Planning and New Communities
Ian Senior	Democratic Services Officer

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder signed, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011.

22. SERVICE PLAN PRIORITIES 2012/13

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder considered a report setting out service priorities for Planning and New Communities for 2012-13, presented for Portfolio Holder approval as the basis for the development of the full service plan.

Service Priority (p) (Take forward sports programmes in the Olympic year) had been omitted from the report by mistake.

The Corporate Manager (Planning and New Communities) said that resources had been identified that would enable the establishment of the Joint Northstowe Team.

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder **agreed** the following priorities for his portfolio as the basis for the development of the overall Planning and New Communities Service Plan for 2012-13, noting the resource requirements, which would be addressed as part of the review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The eight priorities within the Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio were identified as:

- a. A Local Development Plan based on effective engagement with members and parishes, and reflecting corporate priorities
- b. Work with partners to deliver an effective collaborative approach to strategic planning
- c. Ensure that infrastructure to support developments is planned ahead of time, including adequate drainage, cycle paths and recreation facilities (in partnership with the Environment Agency, County Council, Parish Councils and others)
- d. Maximise benefits to the community from new developments, through

development of Community Infrastructure Levy and continued enhancement of our approach towards s106 agreements

- e. Ensure the effective delivery of Northstowe and other new communities (including establishment of new Joint Northstowe Team with the County Council)
- f. Develop a sustainable process to address the housing needs of gypsies and travellers (with Housing Services)
- g. Ensure the effective delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan and the development of the Youth Council (with Democratic Services)
- h. Take forward sports programmes in the Olympic year

23. SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2011/12: 2ND QUARTER

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder received and noted a report outlining progress made by the New Communities and Planning Policy teams during the second Quarter (July – September 2011), and the actual and committed revenue and capital expenditure for the Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio compared with the working budget for 2011-12.

The Portfolio Holder expressed enthusiasm for proposals to establish a joint strategic planning unit with Cambridgeshire County Council, which would be based at South Cambs Hall.

Those present noted the great success of the recent Bonfire Burn held in Histon and Impington.

In Appendix A (Progress on Council Actions), the progress shown as the first bullet point under Action B2/1 (Developer contributions to new sporting facilities), the figure should be £22,331.61p.

In response to questions from Members, the Principal Accountant (General Fund and Projects) outlined the process for accounting for Section 106 inputs and outputs in connection with major developments, and explained a number of elements contained within the financial statement, in particular the composition of central and departmental overheads recharges. Further to paragraph 35 of the report, he said that the amount to be transferred from the Community Development budget to the Community Chest within the Leader's portfolio was approximately £5,000.

24. RAMPTON DRIFT RETROFIT SCHEME - UPDATE

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder received and noted a report on progress made with the Rampton Drift Demonstrator Project.

The Community Technical Manager summarised the nature and extent of the remedial work carried out at 12 residential properties, and the new Exhibition Centre.

The Portfolio Holder asked officers to consider what lessons had been learnt and what opportunities the outcomes of the Rampton Drift project offered to the rest of South Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Lynda Harford, declaring a personal interest as Cottenham Parish Council Champion for the Sustainable Parish Energy Programme and as Acting Chairman of Sustainable Cottenham, said that the Rampton Drift exercise should help inform the Council as to best practice in the field of insulation.

25. FORWARD PLAN

The Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder noted the Portfolio Forward Plan attached to the agenda. He asked that regular updates on the Rampton Drift Retrofit Scheme be submitted to his Portfolio Holder meetings.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Those present noted that the next meeting would be on Thursday 24 November 2011 starting at 9.30am.

The Meeting ended at 2.15 p.m.
