



Report To: Planning Portfolio Holder
Lead Officer: Director of Planning & New Communities

17 November 2015

Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee

Purpose

1. To consider the future function of the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee.
2. This is not a key decision because it does not have any significant financial or community impacts, but has been brought to the attention of the Portfolio Holder as it affects the Council's joint working and partnership arrangements.

Recommendation

3. That the Planning Portfolio Holder recommends to Full Council that the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee be wound up and requests further consideration of committee arrangements for the new settlements when there is more clarity about the timing of the relevant strategic decisions.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. To recognise that the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee has determined the strategic applications for Phases 1 and 2 and that the forthcoming applications for Northstowe do not require a dedicated committee.

Background

5. The Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (NJDCC) was set up in 2007 to enable District and County Council members to come together to consider and decide upon planning applications for the new town. At that time, the authorities had a Director of Joint Planning.

Considerations

6. The NJDCC has provided a robust sounding board and decision-making body to enable approval of a Development Framework Document for the whole of Northstowe, and Outline Consents for Northstowe Phase 1 and 2, which include the town centre and secondary school. These decisions set the strategic direction and core requirements for the new town. It has been extremely useful in bringing the two authorities together to develop a shared vision for Northstowe and a single point of contact for developers and the public. Over the coming years there will be Reserved Matters Applications that will address detailed aspects of Northstowe Phase 1 and Phase 2, and in time, discussions will start for the development of Northstowe Phase 3 but these are not expected to commence until 2017. The next strategic matter to be considered will be the design code for Phase 2 which is expected to be submitted in July 2016, and presented to Committee in October 2016 at the earliest. The

submissions that are expected for Phase 1 before then are for items that on any other development would be dealt with by the District Council Planning Committee.

Options

7. As the Local Plan progresses and the intentions of the promoters for the new settlements at Waterbeach and Bourn becoming clearer, it will be sensible to review the approach to all the New Communities in South Cambridgeshire next year. In view of this, and also the weight of demands currently facing members and officers of both authorities, such as devolution, City Deal and shared services, it is considered appropriate for the NJDCC to be wound up and, for the time being, planning decisions at Northstowe will revert to the SCDC Planning Committee.

Implications

8. There are no significant implications arising from this report, other than for partnership working. The proposal to wind up the NJDCC is also being considered by the County Council.

Background Papers

None

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