

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 15th November 2011

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

Present: Chairman: Councillor N Clarke

Councillors I Bates, D Brown, S Count, S Criswell, M Curtis, D Harty,
L W McGuire, T Orgee and M Shuter

Apologies: None

Present by invitation: Councillors B Brooks-Gordon, C Hutton, L Nethsingha, T Sadiq and
P Sales

476. MINUTES: 25th OCTOBER 2011

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 25th October 2011 were approved as a correct record.

477. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Orgee declared a prejudicial interest under Paragraph 10 of the Code of Conduct in item 5, Draft Consultation Response on University of Cambridge Outline Planning Application and Draft S106 Heads of Terms for Development at North West Cambridge, as a member of the Cambridge Fringes Joint Development Control Committee. He left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

Councillor Curtis declared a personal interest under Paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct in item 6, College of West Anglia's Engineering Skills Centre: Issuing Guarantee to Fenland District Council, as a member of Fenland District Council.

478. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

479. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no matters arising from Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**480. DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION AND DRAFT S106 HEADS OF TERMS FOR
DEVELOPMENT AT NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE**

Cabinet considered the Council's draft consultation response to the outline planning application from the University of Cambridge for development at Cambridge North West, an urban extension to the city to include living and research accommodation, public amenities and open space. The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning highlighted the intention to lodge two holding objections, one relating to education provision and one to transport assessment, pending further negotiation between the local authorities and the applicant.

Four non-Cabinet members spoke on this item:

- Councillor Brooks-Gordon spoke as the local member for Castle, highlighting concerns about bus services and routes; achieving low car ownership for the development; the impact of construction traffic and traffic from the new development on local roads; and the impact on existing residential properties. She emphasised the need for local residents as well as officers to be consulted at an early stage.
- Councillor Nethsingha spoke as the local member for Newnham, expressing concern about the impact of development on Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road. Highway design should encourage low vehicle speed. She welcomed the University's proposals to promote cycling but noted that these needed to extend beyond the development area, especially to address river crossings into the city centre.
- Councillor Sadiq spoke as the Labour Group Leader. He suggested that the new development could provide an opportunity to improve the Madingley Road Park and Ride. He expressed concern that reducing car parking did not necessarily reduce car ownership and that the impact of overflow parking could be significant. He also expressed concern that Guided Busway services were already at capacity and would need to be reviewed to serve the new development.
- Councillor Hutton spoke as one of the local members for St Neots, Eaton Socon and Eynesbury and asked Cabinet to take into account the views of residents of the wider area who regularly travelled into Cambridge along the A428. She called for the development to improve access to Cambridge from this direction, including the M11 junction and the access to the Park and Ride. She expressed concern that on the short term, construction traffic would add to existing travel delays.

In discussion, Cabinet members echoed many of the speakers' concerns and also made the following points:

- Asked for greater emphasis to be added for the need for a children's centre and base for locality working.
- Suggested that the emphasis should be on a substantial community hub, rather than separate premises for different services. Account should be taken of the needs of older people as well as of children and young people.

- Noted that the height of the primary school would depend on its exact location and context.
- Emphasised the importance of using the S106 agreement to ensure that facilities were provided as new residents moved in.
- Asked for the predicted increases to journey times on Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road to be double-checked.
- Emphasised the need to ensure that new roads were fit for adoption at an early stage.

It was resolved:

- a) To endorse the draft officer response as set out in Appendices A and B to the report, including agreeing to placing holding objections as described
- b) To endorse County S106 Heads of Terms as set out in Appendix C to the report
- c) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, in consultation with the Executive Director for Environment Services and Local Members, the authority to make any minor changes to the draft consultation response prior to its submission.

481. COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA'S ENGINEERING SKILLS CENTRE: ISSUING GUARANTEE TO FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members' approval was sought for action by the County Council to secure and protect investment by Fenland District Council in the College of West Anglia's engineering and manufacturing centre, which was to be developed on the College's Isle campus at Wisbech. This could be achieved by issuing a legally binding guarantee to Fenland District Council, accompanied by related Heads of Terms.

An updated version of the report was circulated at the meeting and had been published on the Council's website. Comments from Councillor Downes supporting the proposal were reported.

In discussion, members noted the history of the development and events which had meant that it had been at risk of not proceeding without the County Council's intervention. Members noted the benefits the development would bring, improving educational, economic and social outcomes for Fenland and neighbouring areas, and enabling the County Council to build a new, public-facing office on the Isle campus site. Members also noted that the element of risk to the County Council in issuing the guarantee would reduce over time, ending completely after 25 years.

Members asked for:

- Page 1 of the Guarantee, paragraph 2.4 to be checked as to whether sub-sections (a) and (b) should end with 'and' rather than 'or'
- Page 5 of the Heads of Terms to be amended to require the College to attend Overview and Scrutiny meetings to discuss standards of teaching as well as the performance of the building.

Subject to these points, it was resolved to accept the updated report and:

- a) To issue a legally binding guarantee to Fenland District Council in relation to Fenland District Council's investment in the College of West Anglia's engineering and manufacturing centre to be developed on the College's Isle campus, Wisbech
- b) That Legal Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Learning and for Resources and Performance, be authorised to conclude the Heads of Terms (Annex B to the updated report) between the County Council, Fenland District Council and the College of West Anglia in order to bring the guarantee into effect; and
- c) To consider the terms of the guarantee (as set out in Annex A to the updated report) and agree that Legal Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Learning and for Resources and Performance, be authorised to conclude the guarantee and any amendments arising from the conclusion of the Heads of Terms.

482. JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT: PHASE 5

Cabinet considered Phase 5 of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Cambridgeshire. This focussed on prevention of ill health for adults of working age, and on adapting analysis of JSNA data to fit GP-led local commissioning group populations. In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Orgee, noted that data for Cambridgeshire was generally positive but that there were longstanding pockets of deprivation in some geographical areas, notably Fenland, and some population groups.

Councillor Sales spoke on this item as the Labour Community and Adult Services Spokesman. He highlighted the continuing and in some cases worsening disparity between Fenland and the rest of the County shown by the JSNA's indices of deprivation. He expressed concern that the County Council was not acting with sufficient urgency to address this situation.

In discussion, Cabinet members:

- Noted that in Table 2 on page 4 of the JSNA, Average Index of Multiple Deprivation Rank of Local Authorities in 2007 and 2010, the total number of authorities measured had reduced from 354 in 2007 to 326 in 2010. This meant that whilst South and East Cambridgeshire Districts' numerical ranking had

dropped, in percentage terms they had either remained the same (South Cambridgeshire) or improved (East Cambridgeshire). The ranking of the remaining three Districts had actually fallen. Members asked for this point to be made more clearly in subsequent versions of the document.

- Shared the concern expressed by Councillor Sales about Fenland but noted that the County Council was taking action, for example by improving Fenland school premises through the Building Schools for the Future programme. It took time to effect change but some improvements were already visible, for example to educational attainment.
- Noted that other, more prosperous parts of the County also had small pockets of genuine deprivation, for example Arbury and Kings Hedges in Cambridge City.
- Expressed concern that the rate of road deaths for all Cambridgeshire Districts except Cambridge City was significantly higher than the rate of road deaths for England as a whole.
- Emphasised the need to focus on self-help approaches, for example reducing smoking and drinking, as well as on delivered services.
- Noted that the emerging Health and Wellbeing Board would help to ensure that effective use was made of JSNA data by the health sector and especially the GP community. Members urged the Health and Wellbeing Board to adopt a holistic approach, considering wider determinants of health such as housing and employment.

It was resolved:

To comment as above on the findings of the Phase 5 JSNA, as set out at paragraph 2.2 of the report, which would also be used by the Cambridgeshire shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and Network to feed into development of the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

483. DRAFT CABINET AGENDA

Members noted the draft agenda for the Cabinet meeting to be held on 13th December 2011, including the following changes made since publication of the agenda for this meeting:

- Deletion of Cambridgeshire Sustainable Drainage Systems Design and Adoption Manual
- Deletion of Service Plan for Delivery of Informal Adult Community Learning

It was resolved:

To note the draft agenda for 13th December 2011, as updated.

Chairman 13th December 2011