

**NORTHSTOWE JOINT DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

- To:** Constitution and Ethics Committee
- Meeting Date:** 22nd September 2016
- From:** LGSS Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
- Electoral division(s):** Papworth and Swavesey, Willingham, Bar Hill, Cottenham, Histon and Impington
- Purpose:** The Committee is asked to consider the future function of the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee
- Recommendation:** That the Committee recommend to Council that:
- a) the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee be wound up with immediate effect
  - b) there be further consideration of committee arrangements for the new settlements when there is more clarity about the timing of the relevant strategic decisions
  - c) the Constitution be amended by deleting Part 3C-B, Terms of Reference for Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee, and renumbering subsequent sections of Part 3C
  - d) the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, be authorised to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC) was established in 2007 by Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC), and first met on 2 August 2007. It has met intermittently since that date, most recently on 29 July 2015.
- 1.2 The Committee is a joint committee formed under the provisions of section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to enable District and County Council members to come together to consider and decide upon planning applications for the new town. There are six Members from South Cambridgeshire District Council and four Members from Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.3 To quote its terms of reference (attached as Appendix A), the functions delegated to the JDCC are, within a geographical area defined on an accompanying map, 'To exercise each of the Councils' powers and duties in relation to development control on Major Developments and ancillary developments including for the avoidance of doubt the power to approve authorise and direct the respective Councils to enter in to agreements regulating the development or use of land pursuant to S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and related powers and to prepare for approval by each Council a scheme of delegation to officers insofar as this has not been agreed prior to commencement of the Committee and thereafter to keep such scheme of delegation under review.'

## 2. PROPOSAL TO WIND UP THE JOINT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 November 2015, SCDC Full Council received a report from the Planning Portfolio Holder recommending that the JDCC be wound up, on the grounds that the Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee had determined the strategic applications for Phases 1 and 2 and that the forthcoming applications for Northstowe did not require a dedicated committee. The Planning Portfolio Holder told Council that the JDCC had been successful for what it needed to do in relation to the new town of Northstowe, but there was a feeling that it was now time for the body to be disestablished.
- 2.2 The report considered by the Planning Portfolio Holder had stated that as the Local Plan progressed and the intentions of the promoters for the new settlements at Waterbeach and Bourn became clearer, it would 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 was considered appropriate for the JDCC to be wound up and, for the time being, planning decisions at Northstowe would revert to the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee.
- 2.3 As its other partner in the Joint Committee, SCDC, has already decided that the JDCC should be wound up, the County Council has little choice but to accept the proposal.

Source Documents	Location
Agenda, Decisions & Minutes of SCDC 26 November 2015	<a href="http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&amp;MId=6520&amp;Ver=4">http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&amp;MId=6520&amp;Ver=4</a>
Report considered at the Planning Portfolio Holder Meeting on 17 November 2015	<a href="http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1059&amp;MId=6670&amp;Ver=4">http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1059&amp;MId=6670&amp;Ver=4</a> (agenda item 10)