

**ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE –  
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

**To:** Council

**Date:** 10th May 2016

**From:** Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment

**Purpose:** To consider the Annual Report 2015/16 for the Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee.

**Recommendation:** Council is recommended to note the Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

| <b><i>Officer contact:</i></b> |  | <b><i>Member contact</i></b> |  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee was established following the May 2014 annual meeting when the Council resolved to convert from a Cabinet form of governance to a Committee System.
- 1.2 The committee comprises the following Members:  
  
Cllrs I Bates, J Clark, L Harford, M McGuire, J Schumann, M Shuter, E Cearns, D Jenkins, J Williams, N Kavanagh, A Walsh, A Lay and R Henson.
- 1.3 The Chairman is Councillor Ian Bates, the Vice-Chairman is Councillor Ed Cearns and the Spokesmen are Councillors Mathew Shuter, Ed Cearns, Roger Henson, Noel Kavanagh and Mike Mason.
- 1.4 Over the last twelve months (April 2015 – March 2016 inclusive), the Committee has met eight times. Section 2 of the report highlights a number of significant issues considered by the Committee during this period.

## **2. ECONOMY & ENVIRONMENT POLICY & SERVICE COMMITTEE WORKLOAD**

### **Business Planning**

- 2.1 The Committee was involved in the Business Planning process for 2016/17. In January 2016, the Committee endorsed the draft revenue savings proposals in its remit for 2016/17 for referral on to General Purposes Committee.

### **A14**

- 2.2 In May 2015, a paper was presented to the Committee seeking feedback and agreement to the County Council's draft written representations to the Highways Agency's (HA) Development Consent Order (DCO) process for the A14 improvement scheme, which is being considered by the Planning Inspectorate at Examination.
- 2.3 The representations consisted of the draft Written Representation, the draft Local Impact Report and the draft Statement of Common Ground. The Committee approved the representations and agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, to amend the Local Impact Report and the Statement of Common Ground as necessary.

### **Transport Strategies**

- 2.4 Over the past year, the Committee considered and approved a revised Third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) to 2031. This is an important document that sets transport policy and identifies improvements and investment needed to support and mitigate the impacts of growth planned across Cambridgeshire. In April 2015, the LTP Integrated Transport Block funding allocations were agreed for 2015/16.
- 2.5 In December 2015, the Committee approved consultation on a new Transport Strategy for East Cambridgeshire. Consultation took place in February and March

2016, and a proposed strategy for adoption will be brought to Committee in September 2016.

### **Local Plans and Developer Funding**

- 2.6 Restrictions to the pooling of S106 contributions came into effect on 6 April 2015. Committee approved the proposed approach to pooling up to five planning obligations and noted the government guidance, and also noted that changes to the ways that monitoring fees were collected, as a result of the guidance and of a legal case between Oxfordshire County Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), might mean that costs of the S106 monitoring service might not be covered. A report will be brought back to Committee in 2016.
- 2.7 Committee also agreed a response to the Targeted Consultation on the Huntingdonshire Local Plan. The response highlighted that:
- “The scale and location of the proposed allocation at Wyton alongside other development in the Huntingdon/ St Ives area will place significant additional demand on the transport network and infrastructure. It will be necessary for the development to address these impacts. Mitigation should include appropriate improvements to the local and strategic road network and measures to promote sustainable transport links. This should identify the most sustainable package of transport options to meet the transport demand of development and set out how this can be aligned with the LTTS for Cambridgeshire. That development at Wyton Airfield needed to undertake work to identify the most sustainable package of transport options to meet the transport demand of development and set out how this can be aligned with the Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) for Cambridgeshire.”*
- 2.8 Committee also considered the implications of a motion tabled by Councillor Graham Wilson and agreed by Council at its meeting on 16 December 2014. In addition, it agreed recommendations in respect of East Cambridgeshire District Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 list.

### **Major Developments**

- 2.9 Northstowe Phase 2 was granted outline consent subject to S106 contributions and mitigation. The S106 draft is now well advanced and should be agreed this summer. Phase 2 comprises 3500 dwellings and the town centre and from a County Council perspective included 4 schools and significant highway infrastructure.
- 2.10 Cambourne West is also currently a live application by MCA development for up to 2350 residential units. The Committee approved the county formal consultation response for the proposal and Officers are waiting to return to Committee with the agreed Heads of Terms for the Section 106 Agreement, which are currently under discussion.
- 2.11 To clarify the County Council’s position when negotiating, S106 officers have prepared a Planning Obligations document which sets out the requirements for the County Council in determining and then mitigating the impact of growth. This has been drawn up in consultation with the County Council’s partner authorities and is on formal public consultation until June.

## **Floods and Water**

- 2.12 The Committee endorsed the Cambridgeshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Update 2015 – 2019 at Committee in September 2015. This updated the current strategy and the Council will now seek to implement the strategies actions.
- 2.13 A Countywide Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared and will return to Committee in July 2016 for final adoption. This is potentially the first county wide SPD and will be a significant policy document for use when considering new developments.
- 2.14 The County Floods and Water team are now a statutory consultee to major planning proposals and applications for surface water management. This is a new role and Committee were made aware of the sustainable drainage roles and responsibilities at Committee in May 2015.

## **Managing Local Energy Investment (MLEI) Project**

- 2.15 In April 2015, the Committee agreed to the submission of an outline application for European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The Committee agreed to the scope and ambition of the bid, and agreed to some of the profits from the Energy Performance Contracting Project being used to match fund the ERDF bid, if invited to submit a full application. The bid has been turned down by DCLG but they are interested in the project idea and have suggested some changes to the application before re-applying.

## **Infrastructure Projects**

- 2.16 The outcome of the planning application for a scheme to enable the closure of King's Dyke level crossing at Whittlesey was reported to Committee in April 2016. It was noted that the application had been approved unanimously by the County Council's Planning Committee. Procurement of the scheme, using the Eastern Highways Framework Contract (EHF2) in a two-stage Design and Construct contract was approved.
- 2.17 Delivery of Ely Bypass is progressing. Following the approval of the planning application and securing of the other statutory powers, necessary contract documents have been prepared. In January 2016, a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire was issued, seeking expressions of interest from contractors. Following shortlisting, the tender documentation was issued to six contractors on 8 April 2016. Subject to suitable tenders being received and Department for Transport (DfT) confirmation of funding, it is expected that Committee will be asked to authorise the letting of the contract for construction at their July 2016 meeting.
- 2.18 Work progressed through the Committee on delivering a new rail station in north Cambridge. Responsibility for delivery of the station passed from Cambridgeshire County Council to Network Rail in 2014. Network Rail is now constructing the station with funding from the Department for Transport (DfT). The station is on track to open in May 2017. The County Council completed the busway extension to the station in June 2015.

## **Cycling Projects**

- 2.19 Following a period of further consultation, approval was given by Committee in November 2015 to progress the detailed design of Abbey-Chesterton Bridge, and to submit a planning application. A large number of speakers came to express their views both for and against the project. The agreed design was a hybrid of two of the options consulted on, to be placed as close to the existing rail bridge as possible on the east side.
- 2.20 Proposals to make improvements for cyclists at High Street, Cherry Hinton were approved in January 2016. The S106 developer funded works include removal of numerous traffic islands and narrow cycle bypass lanes, the omission of the road centre line, amendments to two bus stop areas and the introduction of advisory cycle lanes.
- 2.21 Results of a consultation for a new foot and cycle link from A14/B1049 roundabout to Orchard Park were reported to Committee in July 2015. Approval was given for a ramp option, which was well supported locally. Officers reported a range of risks centred around geotechnical concerns which make the project problematic in terms of delivery.

## **Passenger Transport**

- 2.22 The Committee considered a report on commercialisation of the Park and Ride sites in April 2015; an update was provided on the commercial opportunities that are being sought, the potential financial implications and Committee agreed to the next steps of proceeding through a procurement process.
- 2.23 In July 2015, Members considered a report reviewing the implementation of charging at Park and Ride sites and resolved unanimously to note the impact of the parking charges, the effects of the changes made to the charging system, and the ongoing need to market and promote Park and Ride.
- 2.24 Committee agreed in November 2015 to the introduction of a trial bus service from Newmarket Park and Ride via Abbey ward to Addenbrooke's and to a response to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group's Public Consultation on their Future Delivery Model. In December 2015, Committee revised a recommendation on a renewed Quality Bus Partnership and agreed to enter into a five year agreement with a review in one year's time.

## **Adult Learning and Skills**

- 2.25 In July 2015, the Committee considered the Adult Learning and Skills Review proposal. The Committee had previously, (in March 2015), reviewed the Adult Learning and Skills self-assessment report and agreed to undertake a follow up review of the Service and to set up a working group to review the work of the service and consider how to improve equity and the countywide offer. In July 2015, the Committee endorsed the review, agreed the membership of the Review Group and approved Terms of Reference for the Group. On 19 April 2016, the successful outcome of the review was shared with the Committee.
- 2.26 In March 2015, the Committee agreed to set up a working group, which would plan an event to encourage businesses to consider the employment of those in the

criminal justice system. A very positive event, 'Releasing Potential: from Conviction to Career', took place at Peterborough Prison on 2 March 2016. A number of employers attended this event and connections were made between employers and training providers.

### **Connecting Cambridgeshire**

- 2.27 In March 2016, the Committee noted the progress of the Connecting Cambridgeshire Superfast Broadband Rollout Programme to date, which has reached more than 100,000 premises that would otherwise not be able to access fast broadband services. Phase One of the rollout was completed by the end of December 2015; Phase Two is currently in progress and will be completed by mid-2017, by which time 95% of business and homes throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be able to access Superfast Broadband services. The Committee approved a further follow-on rollout phase to target as many of the final 5% of homes and businesses as possible, to be funded by BT through contract underspends and by pulling forward take-up claw-back, (also known as "gainshare").

### **Appointments**

- 2.28 In July 2015, the Committee agreed Committee Member appointments to internal advisory groups and partnership liaison and advisory groups.

| <b>Source Documents</b>  | <b>Location</b>   |
|--|---|
| Agenda and Minutes of the Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee | <a href="http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=74">http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=74</a> |