

**ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND SERVICE COMMITTEE –
ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

To: **Council**

Date: **12th May 2015**

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

Purpose: **To consider the Annual Report 2014/15 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 2014/15.**

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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:

I Bates, R Butcher, B Chapman, J Clark, D Divine, E Cearns, D Harty, R Henson, J Hipkin, D Jenkins, N Kavanagh, A Lay, M Rouse, J Schumann, M Shuter, A Walsh and J Williams
- 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 John Hipkin.
- 1.4 Over the last twelve months the committee has met ten 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 2015/16 and endorsed the final plan at its November meeting before it went to General Purposes Committee in January 2015 and Full Council in February 2015.

A14

- 2.2 The A14 scheme is the largest single highway scheme in the country. The scale and importance of the scheme means that it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). Under this regime, Highways England (previously Highways Agency) must obtain consent under the Planning Act 2008 by means of submitting a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Secretary of State. The County Council has been working closely with Highways England to consider and assess the proposals. The Committee has considered reports and provided timely responses at key stages in the process.

Transport Strategies

- 2.3 Over the past year, the Committee considered and approved a new Local Transport Plan to 2031. This is an important document in clarifying the transport policy and identifying improvements and investment needed to support and mitigate the impacts of growth planned across Cambridgeshire.

Major Developments

- 2.4 The Committee considered the two parallel developments for North Ely. Heads of terms were approved, setting out the level of contribution to be sought towards each item of infrastructure.

- 2.5 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) applied for outline planning permission for phase 2 of Northstowe which includes up to 3500 houses and the town centre. The Committee considered the County Council's response and an initial section 106 list. The initial draft response endorsed by Committee included seven objections to the application but it was later agreed that four could be lifted in the light of improvements made to the plans or information provided by the HCA and the Committee agreed a delegation for removal of the other three, if the outstanding issues could be resolved. The Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (NJDCC) will consider the outline planning application in July.
- 2.6 Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council consulted on the potential redevelopment of the Cambridge Northern Fringes East. The consultation sought views on four potential scenarios for redevelopment and the committee resolved to respond that they did not support the two more ambitious proposals for redevelopment. They also recommend the new station be called 'Cambridge North' and that the area action plan should not include the Cambridge Science Park.

Infrastructure Projects

- 2.7 The outcome of the Ely Southern Bypass application was reported to Committee and when taking account of reviews of the delivery of earlier major infrastructure projects, a procurement strategy using an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) type of contract was approved. In January the committee approved the appointment of Councillors Mathew Shuter and Michael Rouse as members of the Project Board.
- 2.8 The Committee considered a report on options to close the King's Dyke Level Crossing on the A605 between Whittlesey and March and approved public consultation on three deliverable options. It also appointed Councillor Clarke to the Project Board. The southern route option was later approved for further development and submission of a planning application.

Cycling Projects

- 2.9 Committee approved the implementation of new and improved cycleways on Hills Road, Huntingdon Road, and Trumpington Road in Cambridge as part of the Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG) programme. Approval was also given for a list of schemes making up the CCAG programme for 2015-18, in view of additional funding from Department for Transport (DfT) of £6m.
- 2.10 Proposals to progress the new Abbey-Chesterton foot and cycle bridge were presented to Committee. It was resolved that further consultation should be undertaken with stakeholders so that a planning application could be submitted on an option that meets the needs of as many people as possible.
- 2.11 Approval to use compulsory purchase orders to obtain land needed for the long awaited Yaxley to Farcet foot and cycleway was granted.

Managing Local Energy Investment (MLEI) Project

- 2.12 Following a change in Government processes in May 2104 Committee considered a paper on the MLEI Project delivery risks and agreed to progress but with a further review. The Solar Park successfully secured the Government financial incentives in

February 2015. This success was reported to Committee and provided greater confidence that the MLEI contract could be delivered by August 2015. A forward strategy for energy was also agreed, including using the income from the energy performance contracting investments to support further energy project development and to grow the ambition and scale of energy work across the Authority.

Business Champion

- 2.13 The Committee appointed Councillor Matthew Shuter as the County Council's business champion. This role will involve supporting other Councillors in representing the County Council to businesses and representing and communicating business perspectives within the Council. Cllr Shuter will report to Committee spokes occasionally on activities.

Source Documents	Location
Agenda and Minutes of the Economy and Environment Policy and Service Committee	http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=74