

CABINET: MINUTES

Date: 22nd May 2012

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.

Present: Chairman: Councillor N Clarke

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

Apologies: Councillor M Curtis

Present by invitation: Councillors R Butcher, P Downes, S Johnstone, L Nethsingha and
T Sadiq

572. MINUTES: 17th APRIL 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 17th April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

573. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor T Orgee declared a personal interest under paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct in Minute 580, Northstowe, as a member of South Cambridgeshire District Council; however, he noted that he did not expect to be involved in discussions or decisions at District level.

574. PETITIONS

Cabinet received three petitions.

Parking in the Kite Area of Cambridge

The first petition had 77 signatures, 28 on paper and 49 electronic, and read:

All of the undersigned petition the Council regarding concerns about parking in the Kite area of Cambridge city centre. We are all resident permit holders and vehicle owners living in the Kite catchment. We understand that the development at the corner of Parkers Piece on Parkside will include 99 flats with provision for only 82 parking spaces. The owners of these flats are to be provided with visitors' permits in the Kite zone. This will saturate our parking options in an area in which it is already extremely difficult to find spaces. We want to find out how the Council plans to address this.

Catriona Walker addressed Cabinet on behalf of the petitioners.

Cabinet Members shared the petitioners' concern that new developments should have adequate parking and noted that this issue should have been addressed, with the involvement of the local community, through Cambridge City Council's planning processes. The Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, thanked the petitioner and noted that as there was no relevant agenda item, a written response would be sent within ten working days of the meeting.

Parking around Brunswick Nursery School in Cambridge

The second petition had 52 signatures and in summary read:

We, the parents of children attending Brunswick Nursery School, would like to raise an issue with the parking arrangements around the nursery ... on Young Street, ... a residents' permit parking area. The nearest Pay and Display parking spaces are available on Sturton Street. Our children are 3-4 years old so we need to accompany them into the nursery for a short period when dropping off/picking up. This means that each family needs to spend £1 a day for a few minutes' parking.

... We believe that the current situation is unfair ... We would like the council to consider one of the following options:

- 1) Allow parking on Young Street during drop-off/pick-up times ...
- 2) Introduce a lower fee in the Pay and Display on Sturton Street for shorter periods ...
- 3) Increase the Civil Enforcement Officers' (CEOs') observation periods to 15 minutes around the nursery during the drop-off/pick-up times ...

Eli Liberman addressed Cabinet on behalf of the petitioners. In response to a query from a Cabinet Member, he explained that the CEOs' current observation periods were 5 minutes; increasing them to 15 minutes would allow most parents sufficient time to drop off or collect their children without either having to pay for parking or being fined.

The Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor Orgee, thanked the petitioner and noted that as there was no relevant agenda item, a written response would be sent within ten working days of the meeting.

Lighting the Cycle Track adjacent to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

The third petition had 150 electronic signatures and read:

We, the undersigned, wish to register concerns about the track running alongside the Guided Busway, particularly the lack of lighting. This leaves it very dark in the early mornings and evenings, putting cyclists and pedestrians at risk. We call upon Cambridgeshire County Council to light the track outside of daylight hours; to provide signposts to key locations; and to mark the track so as to separate cyclists and pedestrians.

Amanda Taylor presented a further 83 signatures on paper and addressed Cabinet on behalf of the petitioners. She noted that the petitioners were keen for the lighting of the cycle track to be included as a Section 106 Southern Corridor project. In

response to queries from Cabinet Members, she explained that it was primarily the urban sections of the cycle track that they wished to see lit, since these were the most heavily used; and that they would be happy for the County Council to determine the most appropriate lighting solution, possibly including low-level solar studs.

The Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning, Councillor I Bates, thanked the petitioner and noted that as there was no relevant agenda item, a written response would be sent within ten working days of the meeting.

575. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Implementation

The Chairman of the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor R Butcher, presented a report on the implementation of the Street Lighting PFI. The report focussed primarily on problems with communication with local communities in the early stages of the project and made recommendations to improve communication as the project progressed.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor N Clarke, noted that he had received two requests from non-Cabinet members to speak on this item. However, as a principle he was not minded to let non-Cabinet members speak on reports initiated by Overview and Scrutiny Committees, since all political groups had the opportunity to contribute as such reports were being prepared.

The Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure, Councillor T Orgee, and other Cabinet Members welcomed the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was noted that steps were already being taken to improve local involvement, in particular by beginning consultation six months prior to work commencing in an area, rather than three months beforehand as had previously been the case.

It was resolved

- a) To thank the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their report and to note its contents
- b) To agree the responses to the Committee's recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report
- c) To delegate sign-off of the proposed communication protocol to the Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Infrastructure.

Waste PFI Contract

The Chairman of the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor R Butcher, presented a report on the Council's Waste PFI contract. The report highlighted financial risks associated with the delay in commissioning the mechanical-biological treatment (MBT) plant and also noted the need to identify markets for the plant's recyclates and compost-like output (CLO).

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Councillor M Shuter, and other Cabinet members welcomed the Committee's report and expressed their confidence that the new deadline of 9th November 2012 for commissioning the MBT plant would be met. In the interim, financial risks would be borne by AmeyCespa. It was also confirmed that markets for recyclates and CLO were being actively developed.

It was resolved

- a) To thank the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their report and to note its contents
- b) To agree the responses to the Committee's recommendations as set out in the Cabinet report.

576. CAMBRIDGESHIRE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY STRATEGY

Cabinet was asked to endorse the Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy and action plan for 2012-16. The Strategy set out for parents, carers, schools and other partners the ways in which the Council would develop its services to ensure that children with SEND had the best opportunities to reach their full potential.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the Strategy at its meeting on 16th May 2012. Their comments were presented by the Committee's Chairman, Councillor S Johnstone. The Committee had generally welcomed the Strategy but had noted that it covered provision for children with a wide range of needs. It would be important to ensure that those who had mild or moderate needs were properly supported and able to access services close to where they lived. The Committee had also had some concerns about how provision would be made through academies; and had noted that many of the consultation meetings on the Strategy had been held in the daytime, making it difficult for some parents to attend.

One other non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Downes, Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Children and Young People's Services, expressed support for the principles set out in the Strategy. However, his Group was concerned that the Strategy would be costly and challenging to deliver in a time of reducing budgets and legislative change. He expressed particular concern as to how the Council would work with academies, noting that only a majority had agreed to share data on pupils with SEND.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services, Councillor D Brown, welcomed members' comments and noted that a number of sub-strategies, such as a Dyslexia Strategy, would be prepared to assist with delivery of the main Strategy. He recognised the challenge faced by the Council during a time of legislative change; in particular, the Strategy would need to be reviewed in light of the Government's announcements the previous week on post-16 and funding. The Council would work with academies to support children with SEND; to date, no academies had actively refused to share data.

It was resolved

- a) To note the report from the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- b) To endorse the contents of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy for Cambridgeshire and the associated action plan
- c) To note the implications outlined in Section 6 of the Cabinet report.

577. PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF ELY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY AIDED JUNIOR SCHOOL, ELY

Cabinet's approval was sought for plans to increase the size of Ely St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, Ely, to provide a total of 480 places, by increasing its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 90 to 120 with effect from 1st September 2013. Members noted that this would help the Council to respond to continuing growth in primary school pupil numbers in Ely.

It was resolved

- a) To note the fact that no written responses were received to the statutory notice published on 22nd March 2012
- b) To approve the prescribed alteration to increase the size of Ely St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior School, Ely to provide a total of 480 places, with effect from 1st September 2013.

578. CAMBRIDGESHIRE EDUCATION ORGANISATION PLAN

Cabinet's approval was sought for the Education Organisation Plan, which set out the Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to school place planning, its policies for meeting these responsibilities and its response to the demand for school places across the County. Members noted that the Plan would also be used as the main way of communicating the Council's policies and proposals with key stakeholders.

One non-Cabinet member spoke on this item:

- Councillor Downes, Liberal Democrat Spokesman for Children and Young People's Services, commended the Council's Plan as well constructed. However, he noted that the national context would make it difficult to deliver. A new admissions code would enable academies to expand or contract without consultation, affecting the viability of other schools; this, combined with changes to the schools funding methodology, would make it difficult for the Council to guarantee high-quality, cost-effective school places.

Cabinet Members welcomed the clarity and flexibility provided by the Plan. It was noted that Part C of the Plan would be updated annually. As this section set out schemes identified in the capital programme, which was agreed by Council as part of

the Integrated Planning Process, it was proposed to delegate the annual review to the Cabinet Member for Learning.

It was noted as a correction to the Plan on page 61 that Kettlefields Primary School in Dullingham fell within the catchment area of Bottisham Village College, not Soham Village College.

It was resolved

- a) To endorse the proposed approach to reviewing and updating the Education Organisation Plan on an annual basis, including the delegation of responsibility for approving the annual review to the Cabinet Member for Learning
- b) To approve the Plan as the main communication vehicle with key stakeholders, relating to the provision of statutory education in Cambridgeshire.

579. ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Cabinet was asked to approve the draft Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework for consultation. The Strategy Framework set out four priorities, which focussed on improving individual aspirations and skills; ensuring future employees knew what employers were seeking; improving providers' responsiveness to the needs of the labour market; and supporting partners, businesses and employers to improve skills across Cambridgeshire. The Adult Learning and Skills Strategy would be closely linked to other strands of Council activity, including the Apprenticeship Strategy, the Child Poverty Strategy and work on raising participation.

A working group of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the Strategy Framework at a meeting on 4th May 2012. Its comments were presented by Councillor L Nethsingha. Whilst welcoming the Strategy Framework, the working group had asked for the Strategy to recognise that the value of skills development extended beyond economic productivity and included, for example, enhanced parenting and caring skills and enhanced quality of life, especially for older people.

Members noted that following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including Overview and Scrutiny, the final version of the Strategy would be brought to Cabinet for approval.

It was resolved

- a) To note the report from the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee working group and to take their comments into account when taking the Strategy forward
- b) To approve the draft Adult Learning and Skills Strategy Framework and its four priorities for consultation.

580. NORTHSTOWE DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Cabinet was asked to consider the Council's responses relating to the Northstowe Phase 1 outline planning application, including 1,500 houses, and the Northstowe Development Framework Document, which set out proposals for the whole development. These were contained in two reports. With Cabinet's agreement, the two reports were considered as a single item.

The Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the consultation responses at its meeting on 10th May 2012. Their comments were presented by the Committee's Chairman, Councillor R Butcher. The Committee had raised particular concerns relating to the provision of satisfactory secondary education during the early years of the development; the importance of high quality building standards and low energy emissions; adequate provision of lifetime homes; and early introduction of community facilities such as pubs, supermarkets, shops and surgeries.

Two other non-Cabinet members spoke on this item:

- Councillor Johnstone, speaking as a local member, set out concerns relating to possible over-engineering of junctions on the B1050, which would make it unattractive for cycle and pedestrian use. She also expressed concern about possible rat-running on Airfield Road and Longstanton High Street. She shared the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concerns about secondary provision and called for the secondary school to be provided as early as possible. She also expressed concern at the lack of proposals for early years and post-16 provision. Health services should be provided at Northstowe as early as possible. Proposals for energy and water use were in her view disappointing, not making Northstowe an 'exemplar' as previously proposed. Proposals to use the B1050 to bring aggregates onto the site should be reviewed.
- Councillor Sadiq, the Labour Group Leader, expressed concern that the developers might not be required to provide 40% affordable housing at Northstowe, at a time when affordable housing was urgently needed. He also emphasised the importance of promoting employment opportunities at Northstowe, to stimulate the local economy and to reduce congestion, and of ensuring that these opportunities were extended to the more disadvantaged, for example through apprenticeship schemes.

Responding to the speakers and to the proposed consultation responses, Cabinet Members discussed a number of issues:

- Secondary education – It was accepted that the provision of financially viable secondary education in the early years of the development would be a challenge, especially given that neighbouring schools were already at capacity. However, it was noted that there were successful examples on the Continent of co-location of primary and secondary pupils during the early stages of a new development; and that it was intended to open a secondary school in Northstowe from the start of Year 4 of Phase 1.

- Affordable housing – It was noted that the level of affordable housing would be set by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A requirement for 40% affordable housing had been included in the Northstowe Area Action Plan as statutory policy and the developers would need sound reasons not to comply. However, some Cabinet Members felt that a pragmatic approach should be taken, especially if there was a risk that too inflexible a requirement for affordable housing would affect overall viability and delay development and the provision of any affordable housing at all.
- Roads and transport – Cabinet Members emphasised Northstowe's unique position as a new development in having pre-existing public transport links, to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. However, issues relating to the A14, B1050 and Airport Road were recognised. Members also commented on the need to ensure adequate car parking provision for residents, given that this would be a rural community.
- Community facilities – It was noted that the NHS was a statutory consultee for the Northstowe proposals. The Council was working with them to ensure satisfactory health provision from an early stage, including access to GPs and dentists, but relevant comments in the Council's response could be strengthened. Community facilities would be important but some, such as a pub or shops, would be dependent on commercial interest. The early focus on open spaces and play areas was welcomed.
- Developing the local economy – The importance of developing employment opportunities at Northstowe alongside housing was recognised. The Council was working with the Local Enterprise Partnership and other Councils' economic development officers to ensure that the role of Northstowe was appropriately recognised in sub-regional strategies.
- Flood mitigation measures – Members emphasised the need to ensure that effective flood mitigation measures were built into the development, so that residents were able to secure affordable insurance.
- Cycle link to Bar Hill – One of the local members, Councillor J Reynolds, had submitted written comments, including a request for a cycle link between Northstowe and Bar Hill. This was supported by Cabinet Members.

It was resolved

- a) To note the comments from the Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- b) To consider and approve the County Council's consultation responses to the Northstowe Phase 1 Outline Planning Application and the Northstowe Development Framework Document
- c) To delegate to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Planning in consultation with the Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment the authority to make any minor textual changes to the two consultation responses prior to submission

- d) To approve the increase in size of the first primary school in Northstowe from two to three forms of entry.

581. DRAFT CABINET AGENDA – 12th JUNE 2012

Members noted the draft agenda for the Cabinet meeting to be held on 12th June 2012, including the following updates made since the publication of the agenda for this meeting:

Additional item

- Consultation response on East Cambridgeshire's proposed approach to seeking developer contributions

Deferred to July meeting

- Allocation of Section 106 developer contributions to transport schemes
- Procurement of new school buildings in major housing development areas

Removed from the agenda

- Raising participation
- The future pattern of education provision in St Ives.

Chairman 12th June 2012