

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET (SPECIAL MEETING)

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at 5.00 pm in the Conference Chamber East (F1R10), West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds

PRESENT: Councillor J H M Griffiths (Leader of the Council)
(in the Chair)
Councillors Clements, Everitt, Mrs Gower,
Mrs Mildmay-White, Pugh, Ray, Mrs Stamp and Stevens

41. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

42. Declarations of Interests

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

(The following item was not on the Cabinet agenda; however, as five clear working days had not elapsed between the meeting of the Sustainable Development Working Party (where Vision 2031 had been considered) and this meeting, the Chairman had duly agreed for the item to be considered by the Cabinet.)

43. Petition: Haverhill Vision 2031 – Proposed Extension of East Town park, Haverhill

Decisions Plan Ref: N/A Cabinet Member: Cllr Terry Clements

Mr Ian Johnson, a resident of Haverhill drew attention to a petition containing 350 signatures on behalf of residents in Haverhill that had been submitted as part of the consultation process on Haverhill 2031. The petition related to a triangular area of land in Haverhill located between the Wilsey Estate, Coupals Road and Calford Green and the petitioners had requested that under sections 76 and 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework for this parcel of land to be formally designated as a green area of country parkland.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Mr Johnson addressed the Cabinet for a total of three minutes, detailing the reasons why he and the petitioners considered the designation should be made. Reference was also given to the petitioners' opposition to a proposed tertiary access road to the new Estate and how this road would be constructed through the woodland belt the petitioners were seeking to protect. It would also prevent a footpath linking the proposed parkland with East Town Park.

Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation, duly responded to Mr Johnson and Mr Wetton, another representative of the petitioners and present at the meeting. He explained that should full Council approve the submission of all three Vision 2031 documents to the Secretary of State for subsequent examination by the Planning Inspectorate, all representations would be submitted, including the petition and it would be the Inspector's decision to determine whether the documents were sound. The Examination was anticipated to take place in early 2014.

The current designation for this area of land was a green buffer zone and once a Masterplan for this location had been produced, further definition would be provided in this plan which may include a designation of country parkland. Residents were therefore encouraged to engage with the consultation process that would need to take place on the draft Masterplan. In respect of the proposed new tertiary access road to the Estate, work would be undertaken with the Highway Authority, the landowner and developer to determine whether this road was completely necessary or whether the development could be served satisfactorily without this road joining Coupals Road.

44. Recommendations from the Sustainable Development Working Party: 18 September 2013

Decisions Plan Ref: Sep13/15

Cabinet Members: Cllrs Terry Clements and Alaric Pugh

The Cabinet considered Report E118 (amended) (previously circulated) which presented the recommendations emanating from the meeting of the Sustainable Development Working Party held on 18 September 2013.

On 18 September 2013 the Sustainable Development Working Party considered the following items:

- (1) Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031: Submission;
- (2) Draft Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy - Consultation; and
- (3) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan – Consultation.

Councillor Clements, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulation informed the Cabinet that Report E118 had been amended following changes to the recommendations of Report E115, 'Draft Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy – Consultation' and Report E116 'South Cambridgeshire Local Plan – Consultation'. He drew relevant issues to the attention of the Cabinet, including that comprehensive discussions had been held on all three reports, which had resulted in the amended recommendations.

A typographical error was reported in Recommendation (2)(a)(iv) of Report E118 (amended) in respect of the Draft Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy – Consultation, where the word 'considerably' should be amended to read 'considered'.



RECOMMENDED:- That

(a) Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031: Submission

That, the submission versions of the Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031 documents and supporting documentation as contained in Reports D370, D368 and D367 respectively, as amended as minuted in Minute 15 (B) (3) and Appendix A of the minutes of full Council on 16 May 2013, and as consulted upon between 18 June and 9 August 2013, be approved for submission to the Secretary of State and subsequent examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLVED: That

(b) Draft Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy – Consultation

- (1) Cambridgeshire County Council be thanked for consulting the Borough Council on the Draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire; and
- (2) the content of paragraphs 4.1 – 4.20 of Report E115 form the basis of the Borough Council's response to the consultation, subject to the following amendments:

(a) Paragraphs 4.7 to 4.13: Haverhill to Cambridge Corridor

The last sentence in paragraph 4.12 be deleted and the following views be expressed in robust terms:

- (i) the strategy should include recognition of the need to effect improvements to the A1307;
- (ii) a holistic approach is needed to formulate a realistic and achievable plan to meet travel requirements between Haverhill and Cambridge and vice-versa;
- (iii) it is considered that the current car parking charging regime in Cambridge is punitive to persons from outside the town, including those from St Edmundsbury, who have an essential need to travel into Cambridge by car and this matter should be reappraised; and
- (iv) it is felt that the proposed enhanced bus route for this corridor, whilst laudable, will not in itself overcome the current travel problems and that the proposed reopening of the railway line between the two towns is not considered feasible in view of the extensive practical problems in reopening the route and the major investment involved;

(b) Paragraphs 4.14 to 4.20: Newmarket to Cambridge Corridor

The view be expressed that whilst proposals to improve the Cambridge to Newmarket railway line are welcome, any scheme to electrify this line should also provide dual lines for sections of the line which are currently single track or to provide passing loops along these sections; and

- (3) consideration be given to the proposal to make part of the A14 west of Cambridge a Toll Road and if feasible with the consultation timescale this be the subject of a report to the Sustainable Development Working Party.

(c) South Cambridgeshire Local Plan – Consultation

- (1) South Cambridgeshire District Council be thanked for consulting the Borough Council on the Submission Draft South Cambridgeshire Local Plan document;
- (2) the content of paragraphs 4.1 – 4.8 of Report E116 form the basis of the Borough Council's response to the consultation; and
- (3) the Council's views in relation to the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy, as contained in Section 2 of Report E118 (Amended), be reiterated in connection with this consultation in view of their relevance to the Travel Section contained within the Local Plan.

The meeting concluded at 5.32 pm

**J H M GRIFFITHS
CHAIRMAN**