

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

Growth of Cambridge – Further Consideration of Options for the Management of Green Infrastructure at the Trumpington Meadows Site
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Decision of: Councillor Julie Smith, Executive Councillor for Arts & Recreation

Reference: 07/CS/42

Date of decision: 6 September 2007 **Recorded on:** 6 September 2007

Decision Type: Key Decision

Matter for Decision: This report contains a summary of the issues that require further consideration in relation to the future provision, management and maintenance of green infrastructure at Trumpington Meadows in the Southern Fringe following the submission by the developer (Grosvenor) of an Open Space Management Framework (OSMF).

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): Preferences for future management approaches had been previously expressed by the Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation at Community Services Scrutiny Committee on the 29th March 2007 and 25th May 2007. The recommendations from the meeting on the 25th May 2007 were as follows:

- The City Council will further develop its own in-house arrangements to manage green infrastructure provision within the City boundary. The forecast costs of this approach will be incorporated into the budget process and into the Medium Term Strategy.
- The Executive Councillor noted that part of the Trumpington Meadows Country Park (TMCP) site is within the city, whilst the remainder is in South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). This aspect, and implications for access and management arrangements, will need to be considered further during negotiations with the Developer (Grosvenor) and SCDC.

At the time of deadline for submission of the report to Committee Services, the City Council received a revised OSMF from Grosvenor. Although officers had not had time to consider it in detail, this document would appear to be an initial response by Grosvenor to concerns raised to their original approach.

The Head of Active Communities updated the meeting on the content of the revised OSMF and on some of its implications. The main changes are:

As a consequence of the on-going nature of this work, amended recommendations were tabled at the meeting (see Scrutiny consideration)

The Executive Councillor's decision(s):

Agreed:

2.1.1 To re-confirm the City Council's preference for self-management of green infrastructure.

2.1.2 To note that the preferred position of SCDC appears to be to support the proposals put forward by Grosvenor in the OSMF

2.1.3 To acknowledge both that SCDC has the majority interest in the Trumpington Meadows development, and that it is desirable to have a coordinated approach to the management of TMCP.

In this context she further agreed:

2.2.1 To instruct officers to continue to explore with SCDC whether that authority might be willing to work with Cambridge City Council to support a self-management programme.

2.2.2 That any Cambridge City Council support for the Grosvenor proposals would be conditional upon the following requirements being met within the determination timetable:

a) That a sustainable, equitable funding model for the management arrangements is established by Grosvenor, which has the agreement of Cambridge City Council and the Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association partner

b) That concerns identified in this report and at this committee meeting about the appropriate use of land, costings, access, standards of maintenance, involvement of local people and accountability are addressed.

Reasons for the decision:

As in the officer report.

Scrutiny consideration:

Amended recommendations were tabled at the meeting:

After considerable discussion, the Scrutiny Committee agreed unanimously with the following amendments to the tabled recommendations for the Executive Councillor (changes shown in bold):

"2.1.1 To re-confirm the City Council's preference for self-management of green infrastructure.

2.1.2 To note that the preferred position of SCDC appears to be to support the proposals put forward by Grosvenor in the OSMF

2.1.3 To acknowledge both that SCDC has the majority interest in the Trumpington Meadows development, and that it is desirable to have a coordinated approach to the management of TMCP.

In this context she is further recommended to:

2.2.1 To instruct officers to continue to explore with SCDC

whether that authority might be willing to work with Cambridge City Council to support a self-management programme.

~~2.2.2 If such discussions prove abortive, to support in principle the proposal for the management of green infrastructure put forward by Grosvenor. This support is~~ That any Cambridge City Council support for the Grosvenor proposals would be conditional upon the following requirements being met within the determination timetable:

a) That a sustainable, equitable funding model for the management arrangements is established by Grosvenor, which has the agreement of Cambridge City Council and the Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association partner

b) That concerns identified in this report **and at this committee meeting** about the appropriate use of land, costings, access, standards of maintenance, involvement of local people and accountability are addressed.”

The Executive Councillor agreed these recommendations.

Report: Agenda Item 4 of Community Services Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2007

Conflicts of interest: For openness and transparency the Executive Councillor declared a personal interest as a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Comments: