

**ENVIRONMENT
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**18 March 2003
(10.00am- 4.15pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Dixon (Chair), Bailey, Baker, Blencowe, Bradnack, Durrant, Sian Reid, Pinnington, Stuart and Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Nichola Harrison, Executive Councillor for Environment.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**03/ENV/19 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

03/ENV/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

03/ENV/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal interests under the Code of Conduct were declared:

03/ENV/23 Councillor Durrant as Co-Chair of Cambridge Futures

03/ENV/28 Councillor Durrant as Trustee of the Leper Chapel and Parkers Piece Public Sculpture

The following prejudicial interest under the Code was declared:

03/ENV/32 Councillor Bradnack being a resident of Riverside and he left the room whilst the matter was discussed.

03/ENV/22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms Stubbings from Friends of the Earth addressed the Committee on the issue of Genetically Modified Food. She stated that Friends of the Earth was encouraging local authorities to become GM free zones and requested that the Scrutiny Committee consider the issue at its next meeting. The Executive Councillor replied, and referred to her statement which had been circulated to members the previous day and to Ms Stubbings immediately before the meeting. She confirmed that she would write to the Government and GM Public Debate Steering Board and promote and publicise the national debate scheduled for May-September.

Ms C Niccolls from the Halpern Partnership and Mr Winter from the Cambridge Muslim Society addressed the Committee under 03/ENV/23.

Mr Routledge from the Trumpington Residents Association addressed the Committee under 03/ENV/28.

03/ENV/23 KEY DECISION **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW FIRST DEPOSIT DRAFT**
(See also record of decision 03/env/15)

Ms C Niccolls addressed the Committee on smaller employment sites and in support of the proposal of Betjemen House, Hills Road as such a site.

Mr Winter referred to a summary of requirements for a new mosque site (attached to these minutes).

The Planning Policy Manager introduced the report. He explained that it was important to make rapid progress on the Local Plan review now that the County Council Structure Plan was close to adoption. The Committee noted the officer view that depositing the draft Local Plan would not hamper the necessary close working with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and the County Council which is required and endorsed by the Structure Plan Panel Report. In addition, a new BVPI would be introduced in 2003/04 making it a statutory requirement to have an up to date Plan or to have commenced work on a replacement.

In drawing the Committee's attention to some key points the Planning Policy Manager stated:

1. Public consultation was timetabled to commence on 2 June for six weeks.
2. The new Local Plan would become material consideration in planning decisions from 11 April following consideration by Council on 10 April.
3. Re. Addenbrookes proposal site 3.01 and Map 2. The map is incorrect, land south of the site except the Bell Site should be retained in the Green Belt.
4. To note the letter dated 13 March from the Director of Estate Management and Building Service at University of Cambridge (circulated to members on 17 March) and the comments regarding land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road. The Committee noted that the officers remained of the view that no proposed release of Green Belt in this location is recommended at this stage of the Local Plan review. The officers were of the view that the University had yet to show the need for growth which warranted release of Green Belt land and further work with the University (and SCDC) would be required to establish the need for growth and the implications for the Green Belt.
5. Re. para 1.26 of Chapter 1, the style of policies proposed in the Plan which usually set out a positive statement of what will be permitted rather than negative statements of what will not be permitted; this is the favoured approach of Government for Local Plan policies.
6. Re. the petition to Council on 28 November concerning the location for a new Mosque, the Area Action Plan for the Station Area included under 'Principal Land Uses' places of worship as a planning requirement to help meet the needs of religious groups requiring central provision in Cambridge. This had not been mentioned in the report to Committee as it had been a subsequent

addition to the Plan.

7. Re. Monitoring Chapter 1 para 1.18, this had not been completed and would be added before the Plan was published with the agreement of the Executive Councillor after consultation with Chair and spokes.
8. Re. Area Action Plan 2 – Southern Fringe: Principal Land Uses - the reference to 5Ha of employment land is inaccurate and likely to be higher, Site 3.01 will also require amendment.
9. Re. Area Action Plan 5 – Station Area: other key issues and constraints – in order to reflect better the joint working undertaken to date with the Ashwell Group and other development interests, it was proposed that the reference to operational parking be deleted and replaced with ‘Parking Standards will encourage a shift from car based travel.’

During the Committee’s deliberations the following amendments were suggested:

Chapter 2, Designing Cambridge, page 16, Policy 2/12 at the end of e) replace ‘and’ with ‘or’

Chapter 3, Living in Cambridge, page 31, paragraph 3.25 to include ‘community centres’.

Chapter 5, Working in Cambridge, page 52, Policy 5/8 insert ‘in particular’ Policy text to read ‘In the longer term...and student accommodation would be supported *in particular* as part of...’

Chapter 6, Connecting and Servicing Cambridge, page 61 Policy 6/11 replace b)-e) with bullet points and delete a). Delete ‘and’ at the end of last line.

Area Action Plan 1 Eastern Expansion -

page 71, Principal Land Uses: second paragraph amend by inclusion of ‘if required’ to read ‘Provision should be made....and student hostels *if required*’

page 72 Vehicular access: delete final sentence so ends ‘to the A14’

page 72 Public Transport: to change as follows ‘A high accessibility (400m...) to *high quality* public transport systems is required. The area *must* be served...services. It *should* also connect...’

page 72 Planning Obligations: add ‘A key requirement will be long-term agreements on the management of the strategic open space and public access into the countryside to the east.’

Area Action Plan 2 Southern Fringe –

page 74, Principal Land Uses: second paragraph to differentiate between clinical medical and bio medical.

Area Action Plan 5 Station Road area –

Page 84, Principal Land Uses – add ‘Development in the Station Area should pay attention to the implications of development planned and occurring to the east of the station, including sites along Rustat Road, the Cattle Market and the longer term expansion eastwards. This will need to be kept under continual review.’

Councillors Durrant and Stuart requested that the reference to 'eastern expansion' throughout the Local Plan be deleted as the Panel's report had not supported the development east of Airport Way and it was confusing to continue with this phrasing in the draft Local Plan.

Councillors Stuart and Durrant stated that further work should be undertaken on the need for orbital roads to accommodate the proposals for the east of the City. Councillor Stuart proposed an amendment to Area Action Plan 1 – page 72: 'That the Master Plan will be informed by further transport studies including the assessment of any need for orbital routes.' The amendment was lost by 4 votes to 6.

Re. the North West sites and the comments from the University of Cambridge, the officers undertook to provide members with the details of the land last released from the Green Belt and which had been developed and which was yet to be developed.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendations for the Executive Councillor and noted that further amendments may be made to the draft Local Plan before Council on 10 April.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the amendments suggested by the officers and Committee as detailed above and the recommendations. She thanked the Planning Policy Manager and his team for their work on the draft Local Plan.

03/ENV/24 KEY DECISION DRAFT CYCLE AND CAR PARKING STANDARDS *(See also record of decision 03/env/16)*

The Transport Policy Officer informed the Committee that the University of Cambridge Colleges would be consulted as the Council had earlier consulted the Bursars Committee and officers were led to believe it may not have consulted with all Colleges. This consultation would be short and the Standards (subject to any further drafting agreed by Executive Councillor in consultation with Chair and spokes) would be in place by May. The Committee was informed that some late additional comments had been received from Palmer Associates (for Ashwell Group) and were available for inspection.

Councillor Stuart suggested that the Standards incorporate the County Council view that 'cycle parking should be as close/closer to the main entrance than the nearest car parking space' and the Committee and Executive Councillor concurred.

The Executive Councillor requested that the entitlement to parking permits should be more clearly explained (page 2 of appendix 3 refers)

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendation.

03/ENV/25 KEY DECISION NORTHERN CORRIDOR AREA TRANSPORT PLAN AND WESTERN CORRIDOR AREA TRANSPORT PLAN (*See also record of decision 03/env/17*)

The Special Projects Officer informed the Committee of four additional responses (Palmer Associates, Go East, Granta and Cllr Nimmo-Smith) to the consultation and responded to them. She confirmed that none of the points made warranted a change to the Plans except the points raised by GO-East about including clearer references to relevant development plan policies and a statement on the consultation process which would be included in the final documents.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendation for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

03/ENV/26 GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, CARRY FORWARDS AND SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES (*See also record of decision 03/env/18*)

The Committee noted that the Chair had ruled under 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to accept the late report on 'Project Appraisal for replacement lift at Queen Anne Terrace Car Park'.

The Director of Finance introduced the report and highlighted the revised figures for Car Park expenditure and income. Councillor Stuart expressed concern at the late identification of such large overspends. In response, the Head of Transport & Street Services informed the Committee that monthly income and expenditure reports would be produced for the Executive Councillor to enable closer monitoring. The Executive Councillor agreed that the late identification of the reported variances were unwelcome and measures would be in place to ensure earlier identification in future. However the overspends had not been wasteful, but had provided staffing for a necessary frontline service.

The Chair proposed an additional recommendation to approve the Project Appraisal for the replacement of the lift at Queen Anne Terrace Car Park and seek Council's approval to include in the Capital Plan.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendations (as amended above) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

03/ENV/27 SUSTAINABLE CITY ANNUAL REVIEW AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME 2003-04 (*See also record of decision 03/env/19*)

The Environment Co-ordinator introduced the report and amended the figure in paragraph 4.5, capital grant awarded 2002/03 as £45,690.

In response to a request from Councillor Bradnack, the Environment Co-ordinator undertook to ensure that grants link to the Council's Medium Term Objectives and other relevant requirements of the Corporate Grants Strategy. The Executive Councillor concurred.

The Committee agreed (by 7 votes to 0) the recommendations (as amended above) for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed the recommendations.

03/ENV/28 KEY DECISION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME 2003/04 *(See also record of decision 03/env/20)*

Mr Routledge addressed the Committee in support of the schemes listed in the report for Anstey Way area. The Executive Councillor informed Mr Routledge that the projects would be referred to the Area Committee to determine funding priorities.

Councillor Bradnack tabled a breakdown of EIP spend by ward, which illustrated the need to distribute funding more equitably and in most need. Councillor Stuart did not agree that the funding should be apportioned to area committees and proposed an amendment to reject recommendation 2.1 and to allocate £60,000 to the Cherry Hinton High Steet area in front of the shops. The amendment was lost by 1 vote to 5.

Councillor Bradnack proposed that the entire EIP budget be devolved and this was lost by 1 vote to 6.

Councillor Ward highlighted that Area Committees may need to consider joint EIP funding for cross boundary issues and gave the example of the Histon Road shop forecourts.

The Executive Councillor recommended that £7,500 for Parkers Piece be agreed now, rather than referred to the Area Committee.

The Committee agreed the recommendations as in the report:

- 2.1 by 6 votes to 1
- 2.2 (with Parkers Piece approved now) by 6 votes to 0
- 2.3 –2.4 by 6 votes to 0
- 2.5-2.7 by 7 votes to 0

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

03/ENV/29 TOURISM STRATEGY ACTION PLAN AND TOURISM BUSINESS PLAN 2003-04 *(See also record of decision 03/env/21)*

In response to requests from the Committee the Head of Policy and Projects undertook to report back on dealing with aggressive touting on the street for customers by tourism businesses in the City (eg. punt companies, tour buses).

The Committee agreed (by 5 votes to 0) the recommendations as in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

03/ENV/30 **KEY DECISION PROCUREMENT OPTIONS FOR WASTE
MANAGEMENT SERVICES** *(See also record of decision 03/env/22)*

Councillor Stuart questioned whether the Council had adequately challenged the status quo and was not clear on the savings which could be made by contracting out the service. The Head of Environmental Health & Waste Strategy stated that the consultants engaged by the City Council had recommended other local authorities to contract out waste services and were a firm whose work had been accepted by the Audit Commission.

The Executive Councillor recommended that the consultants are engaged to undertake work on dummy bidding/market testing and carrying out a health check on the trade waste service.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) the recommendations as in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

03/ENV/31 **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH JOINT WASTE
PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** *(See also
record of decision 03/env/23)*

The Committee agreed the recommendation as in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

03/ENV/32 **POLICY STATEMENT ON FLOOD DEFENCE** *(See also record of
decision 03/env/24)*

The Committee agreed the recommendation as in the report.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm

CHAIR