

Executive Councillor Records of Decision and Environment Scrutiny Committee minutes

09.30 – 12.35

PRESENT:

Executive Councillors:

Executive Councillor Reid (Climate Change & Growth)
Executive Councillor Pitt (Environmental & Waste Services)

Scrutiny Committee:

Councillors Baker, Herbert, Kerr (Alt.) Newbold, Upstone, Ward (Chair),
Wright and Zmura.

Also Present for consideration of item 5: Jo Mills, Corporate Manager for New Communities, South Cambridgeshire District Council; Mike Mason, South Cambridgeshire District Council Councillor for Histon and Impington and Interim Chair of Orchard Park Community Council, Joseph Whelan, Head of New Communities, Cambridgeshire County Council; Richard Preston; Head of Network Management, Cambridgeshire County Council, Philip Crack, Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery, Cambridgeshire County Council, ; John Finney, Principal Engineer, Cambridgeshire County Council, Clare Blair, Cambridge City Councillor and Chair of Governors of Orchard Park Community Primary School, Peter Studdert, Director of Joint Planning

09/ENV/30 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 3 March and the special meeting of 21 June 2009 were approved and signed as correct records.

09/ENV/31 **Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Kightley and Shah

09/ENV/32 **Declarations of Interest**

None

09/ENV/33 **Public Questions**

There were no questions. However, members of the public spoke on agenda item 17 and 19. Comments are recorded with the items.

09/ENV/34 **Change to Agenda**

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Chair used his discretion to alter the order of business. However, for ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the agenda.

09/ENV/35 **Review of the Orchard Park Development and
Lessons to be Learnt for Future Major Developments
(Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 5)**

Matter for Decision: A motion was passed at the Council meeting in September 2008, that the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth should bring a report to Environment Scrutiny with regards to the review South Cambridgeshire District Council has carried out of the Arbury Park (renamed Orchard Park) development. The findings of South Cambridgeshire's Scrutiny Review are particularly important given Arbury Park's location at the edge of Cambridge, its proposed transfer to Cambridge City Council and the opportunity it holds for learning lessons for the other major developments planned at the fringes of Cambridge. The report sets out a number of lessons to be learnt for future major developments.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth: Agreed, the findings of the report relating to the Orchard Park development, and that it be used to inform the work of the City Council in relation to the planning of the urban extensions around Cambridge, and the transfer of Orchard Park to the City Council if the boundary change is implemented.

Reason for the Decision: The findings of South Cambridgeshire's Scrutiny Review are particularly important given Arbury Park's location at the edge of Cambridge, its proposed transfer to Cambridge City Council and the opportunity it holds for learning lessons for the other major developments planned at the fringes of Cambridge.

Any alternative options considered and rejected: N/A

Scrutiny Considerations:

Jo Mills, the Corporate Manager for New Communities at South Cambridgeshire District Council updated the Committee on the most

recent development at Orchard Park. The Partnership group is working well and there have been recent improvements on site. Work has begun on three more plots. Flexibility of tenure has allowed some units to switch from market to affordable. This could result in an overall mix of 50/50 rather than the original aim of 30/70. A bid has been made for kick start funding.

Cllr Kerr referred to lesson to be learnt 27 in the report which recommends the setting up of a design panel at an early stage. It was agreed that the original design guide had been good at Orchard Park. However, some properties have been left with a poor finish due to cost cutting and thoughtless minor design issues. It was thought that the lesson relating to the use of a clerk of works (lesson 41 in report) would be useful to ensure quality of build in future developments. It was agreed that the quality of public spaces, play areas and general street-scape is good. The opening of the school has been positive. Cllr Reid stated the desirability of setting up a design panel or quality panel for the urban fringes which would have a high level of external expertise on design and permanent members for continuity. As mentioned in the report, such a proposal has already been reported to Joint Strategic Growth Implementation Committee (JSGIC) and is currently under review by Members.

Cllr Blair stated that the Community Council is concerned about the change to tenure mix and the potential loss of the commercial sites. The vision for the project needs to be preserved. The report highlights gaps in joint working which allows developers to deviate from the original brief.

Cllr Herbert stated that the report is impressive and the lessons learnt must be applied to new sites. He stated that better controls were needed to ensure the Master Plan is not lost and responsibilities are not passed down to the volume housebuilders.

Members discussed the need to improve transport links prior to building new communities in future. Cllr Pitt did not feel that the needs of pedestrians or cyclists had been taken into account at Orchard Park. This has been a key lesson of the report and alternative arrangements will be applied to future projects as 8 lane junctions are not acceptable in the fringe developments. The road system also presents barriers to integration with existing communities, and this has been particularly the case at Orchard Park due to its location next to King's Hedges Road. Cllr Upstone agreed with Lesson 10 of the report that any changes to the road network associated with new developments should not be to the detriment of existing cyclists and should improve existing routes where possible.

Richard Preston from the County Council expressed the opinion that officers had underestimated the barrier that Kings Hedge's Road presents and that the County Council had taken a reactive approach rather than a proactive approach. He said that in the future there needs to be closer working and earlier engagement between the County Council and other partners. He also said that there need to be adequate resources to deliver infrastructure and that the Section 106 agreement at Orchard Park had fallen well short of what was needed in providing successfully for cycle and pedestrian facilities. He stated that the 'Cambridgeshire Design Guide' was a good step forward and that it is important that developers sign up to this.

South Cambridgeshire Cllr Mason stated that phasing had been a major problem with this site as the guided bus and A14 improvement works had not kept up with the development. Work promised by the S106 scheme is still to be delivered while over 400 homes are already occupied. Boundary issues and the status of Orchard Park as a parish also complicate the provision of community facilities. Members agreed that residents are likely to see themselves as citizens of Cambridge rather than a separate community.

Cllr Reid thanked the report authors for the detailed report and also thanked the Labour Group for requesting this. Many lessons have already been learnt and the partnership culture and honest appraisal of work completed to date will improve future developments around the City.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/36

Contaminated Land Strategy Review and Update (*Key Decision - Agenda Item 6*)

Matter for Decision: This report seeks member approval to update the Council's main strategy document guiding implementation of contaminated land duties under Part IIa of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The first strategy document was brought before committee in 2001. Considerable progress has been made since then and the revised draft document takes account of this and refocuses the work on detailed individual site investigations.

This committee report also seeks to highlight the level of resources available to pursue our statutory duties in this area, and to seek approval to carry forward any unspent funds to future years to make more effective use of the available budget. The proposal is to achieve results through re-assignment of staff priorities and effective and timely grant applications for external funding. We also seek to clarify the relationship between property owning services within the Council, and our own regulatory function.

Following member approval the document will be subject to statutory consultation and may need minor amendment prior to being issued as a final strategy. We seek delegated authority, subject to the approval of the Executive Councillor to make those changes and issue the final strategy document in due course.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Environmental and Waste Services:

Agreed:

1. The revised Contaminated Land Strategy subject to the consultation and approval process set out in recommendation 4, with particular attention on the constraints imposed by resources detailed in section 4 of the strategy.
2. Head Environmental Services is instructed to seek funding in future years from existing budgets if this is not possible to bid for funding as part of the MTS and budget process.
3. That the detail of the formal relationship between Environmental Services as regulator on one side, and property owning departments, such as Property and Community Services within the City Council is to be decided at 'Asset Management Group' which should be broadly in line with the draft memorandum of understanding included in annex B
4. Granted delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Executive Councillor, to incorporate minor amendments suggested by statutory consultees prior to issuing a final revised strategy document.

Reason for the Decision: The statutory contaminated land regime came in to force in April 2000. Relevant Local Authorities then had to produce a strategy to discharge their inspection duties. The first Cambridge

Contaminated Land Strategy was approved in June 2001 and this document has directed work since then.

Any alternative options considered and rejected: N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Environmental Health Manager introduced the report and amended the recommendations.

Recommendation one is amended to insert the words "*subject to the consultation and approval process set out in recommendation 4*" after the words contaminated land strategy.

Recommendation two is replaced by "*Head Environmental Services is instructed to seek funding in future years from existing budgets if this is not possible to bid for funding as part of the MTS and budget process*"

Recommendation five is removed.

Cllr Herbert asked which sites currently pose the most risk. This information will be emailed to all members of the committee. Cllr Upstone asked for clarity on the use of the term Cambridge Leisure Park in the report. This is an error and should read Cambridge Retail Park.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 6 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/37

Capital Project Appraisal and Procurement: Wheeled Bins for Recycling at Flats (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 7*)

Matter for Decision: The purpose of the project is to purchase bins to enable us to implement communal recycling areas in high density housing such as flats and colleges and ensure these residents have an equal service to those in the rest of the city.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Environmental and Waste Services:

Agreed:

Approved commencement of the project, which is already included in the Council's Capital Plan. The total capital cost of the project is £185,000, this is to be funded from reserves. The revenue costs of the project are R & R contributions of £10,500, for 2009/10 and £18,500 for 2010/11 onwards which was agreed at Council 26/2/09, reference UR1916.

Approved the carrying out and completion of a procurement for the provision of wheeled bins for the use in communal recycling facilities for flats and college residences. If the tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.

Reason for the Decision: One of the Council's MTOs is to promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particular by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and sub-region. This project is designed to bring about increased recycling thereby reducing the amount of waste that is landfilled.

The main objectives for this Project are as follows:

- To maintain high quality collections of segregated recycling for residents in flats and colleges where services are currently not provided.
- To increase recycling in the City from 42% in 08/09 to 45% by 2010/11. In the longer term we will be working to increase the recycling rate to 50% by 2012/13.

The waste from this stream will be either be sent to individual reprocessors for recycling or will be collected with other domestic recycling and which will be processed under the proposed MRF contract.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Wright asked for clarity on the term College Properties and the officer explained that this refers to college accommodation that are treated as domestic dwellings. Cllr Newbold questioned the amount of consultation that had taken place. The officer explained that consultation is part of the project. Different tenure groups will be contacted by relevant bodies, such as the housing department, in the near future. Members will be sent detailed information on the consultation process.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/38

2008/09 Revenue and Capital Outturn (*Non Key
Decision - Agenda Item 8*)

Matter for Decision: The report presents a summary of the 2008/09 outturn position (actual income and expenditure) for services within the Environmental & Waste Services portfolio, compared to the final budget for the year. The position for revenue and capital is reported and variances from budgets are highlighted, together with explanations. Requests to carry forward funding arising from certain budget underspends into 2009/10 are identified.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Environmental and Waste Services:

Agreed:

- a) The carry forward requests, totalling £49,100 as detailed in Appendix C of the report, are to be recommended to Council for approval subject to the deletion of Item 2, £5,100 Control of Dogs.
- b) To seek approval from Council to carry forward capital resources to fund rephased capital spending of £40,000 from 2008/09 into 2009/10 as detailed in Appendix D.

Reason for the Decision: These decisions are part of the Council's decision making process.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The accountant introduced the item as per the report. Cllr Herbert asked for an explanation of the recycling costs on page 161 of the report which appear very high. The Head of Waste and Fleet explained that this is budget realignment due to a change in the way budgets are accounted. Costs have not increased and the figures cancel each other out. However, there has been a slight increase in the cost of recycling. The Chair and the Executive Councillor were unhappy with the suggested reallocation of Control of Dogs budget. The committee rejected this on a vote of 5 to 0 and it was deleted.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the amended recommendations in the report by 5 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/39 **Appointments to Outside Bodies** (*Non Key Decision -
Agenda Item 9*)

Matter for Decision: Appointments to outside bodies and steering groups.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Environmental and Waste Services:

Agreed: The following appointments.

Cambridgeshire Councils Association Waste Forum

Appointed: Cllr Pitt

Recycling in Cambridge and Peterborough (RECAP)

Appointed: Cllr Pitt

Steering Group	Current Members	Appointed
City Ranger Steering Group	Cllrs Baker and Newbold	Cllr Dryden and Ward

Reason for the Decision:

These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

Scrutiny Considerations: The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 7 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor for Climate Change & Growth approved the recommendations.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/40 **2008/09 Revenue and Capital Outturn, Carry Forwards and Significant Variances** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 10*)

Matter for Decision: This report presents a summary of the 2008/09 outturn position (actual income and expenditure) for services within the Climate Change & Growth portfolio, compared to the final budget for the year. The position for revenue and capital is reported and variances from budgets are highlighted, together with explanations. Requests to

carry forward funding arising from certain budget underspends into 2009/10 are identified.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

- a) The carry forward requests, totalling £57,900 as detailed in Appendix C, are to be recommended to Council for approval.
- b) To seek approval from Council to bring forward capital resources to fund rephased capital spending of £305,000 from 2009/10 into 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix D.

Reason for the Decision: These decisions are part of the Council's decision making process.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Kerr supported the need to invest in the web site. Cllr Reid also saw this as a priority as much work has been done internally and the skills now needed will have to be purchased externally.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 6 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted)

N/A

09/ENV/41

**Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report:
Mill Road Cemetery Artwork Commission** *(Non Key
Decision - Agenda Item 11)*

Matter for Decision: At the March 3, 2009, Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting, a decision was made to approve funding from the Public Art Initiative Fund to commission an artwork at Mill Road Cemetery.

A Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report for the commission was subsequently prepared and was approved by the Asset Management Group on May 8, 2009.

This report seeks approval of the Capital Project Appraisal and Procurement Report by the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

Approved the Capital Project & Procurement Appraisals for the Mill Road Cemetery artwork commission as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for the Decision: These are set out in the officer's report.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Upstone asked how the public could influence the design process. Consultation will be a key part of the project. Full details will be sent to members when available. Cllr Herbert was concerned that the areas distinctive character, charm and patina of age should not be lost. The end design must fit the context of the area and compliment it.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 7 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/42

**Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report:
Snowy Farr Memorial Artwork Commission** (*Non Key
Decision - Agenda Item 12*)

Matter for Decision: At the March 3, 2009, Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting, a decision was made to approve funding from the Public Art Initiative Fund (PAIF) to commission an artwork to be a permanent tribute to the past achievements of 'Snowy Farr'.

A Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report for the Snowy Farr artwork commission was subsequently prepared and approved by the Asset Management Group on May 8, 2009.

This report seeks approval of that Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report by the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed: The Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report for the Snowy Farr Memorial artwork commission as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for the Decision: On March 3, 2009, the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth approved £70,000 in funding for the Snowy Farr Memorial project from the Public Art Initiative Fund (PAIF).

Any alternative options considered and rejected:
N/A

Scrutiny Considerations:

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 7 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):
N/A

09/ENV/43 **Cambridge Environmental Framework** (*Key Decision - Agenda Item 13*)

Matter for Decision: This report presents a final draft of the Environmental Framework for approval. In April 2008 proposals were approved by Environment Scrutiny Committee to develop a new Environmental Framework for Cambridge City Council to replace the 2005 Environment Strategy. The purpose of this document is to outline how the Council's existing environmental plans and strategies contribute towards delivering the Medium Term Objective of promoting Cambridge as a sustainable city, and to provide a framework for co-ordinating actions which contribute towards its fulfilment, monitoring and reporting.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth: Agreed: The document presented was approved for adoption as the Council's Environmental Framework.

Reason for the Decision: Cambridge City Council's 2005 Environment Strategy lapsed in 2008 and it was agreed at Environment Scrutiny Committee in April 2008 to replace this with a new Environmental Framework document. The term 'Framework' has been selected to reflect the purpose of the document: to co-ordinate, monitor and report the

implementation of existing budgets, policies and actions in fulfilment of the Council's environmental objectives, rather than the allocation of additional budgets or development of new policies.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/44 **Climate Change Fund Annual Status Report** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 14*)

Matter for Decision: A Climate Change Fund with an initial investment of £250,000 was agreed at Council on 21 February 2008 to be used to provide funding for schemes or activities which will contribute to the achievement of the Council's climate change and carbon reduction Medium Term Objective. Detailed operational guidelines for management of the fund were agreed at Environment Scrutiny Committee in July 2007, which included a requirement for the total expenditure and achievements of the fund to be reported to Environment Scrutiny Committee annually, beginning in June 2009. This report fulfils that purpose.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed: Approved the first annual status report for the Council's Climate Change Fund.

Reason for the Decision: These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Head of Policy and Projects gave an update on progress since the report was written. Cllr Upstone expressed satisfaction with the number of projects in the pipeline and with progress in general. Cllr Wright asked who would be the contactor used for project 11,

Watercourse Management. The officer confirmed that the aim is to use in house staff where possible. Members asked for more information in the selection criteria for projects. This will be sent to them as soon as possible.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 5 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/45

Government Consultation on Possible Changes to the Administration of Concessionary Travel (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 15*)

Matter for Decision: To agree the proposed responses to the consultation paper in appendix 1.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed: The responses to the consultation paper in appendix 1 subject to the inclusion of additional wording agreed by the Director of Environment and Planning.

Reason for the Decision:

The Department of Transport have issued a consultation paper on possible changes to the administration of concessionary travel. The two key matters for the consultation are which bodies should administer the scheme locally and the issue of local discretionary travel concessions. The consultation asks 11 questions, proposed responses to each are appended as Appendix 1. The consultation will inform Government decision making on how concessionary travel should be administered, thereby enabling certainty to be provided at the earliest opportunity on who will be responsible for concessionary travel in the longer term. Communities and Local Government (CLG) will consult separately on the funding implications of any proposed changes. This will be undertaken as part of the formal consultation on the next three-year local government finance settlement.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Upstone was satisfied with the responses but felt that an opportunity had been missed to highlight the problems this

issue is causing for City budgets. He suggested highlighting the problems of some authorities being forced to divert money from other priorities to fund concessionary fares while other authorities were getting a bonus payout. He was also concerned about the agreement reached with the local provider.

Pressing for a national review to look at the basis of the funding was suggested. The Director confirmed that the cost over three year was £4.5 millions which had had a detrimental impact on other services. The Local Government Association (LGA) has had a dialogue with the Minister for Transport and is asking for three things:

1. Better information about fund allocation for the next year prior to budget setting.
2. The reimbursement rate to bus operators to be reduced for the current 73.4%
3. Fairer financial arrangements

Cllr Herbert expressed satisfaction that the government is listening. He suggested looking more closely at the local transport provider to ensure that the best deal was achieved. The current situation allows the provider to control the data and is not open and accountable.

It was agreed that the response to question 11 needs additional wording to add weight to the argument.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously subject to additional wording to be agreed by the Director of Environment and Planning.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/46

Pro-active Conservation (*Key Decision - Agenda Item 16*)

Matter for Decision: In November 2008 the Committee approved a programme of Pro-active Conservation work for 2008-9 and the early part of 2009-10, comprising Conservation Area Appraisals and Suburbs and Approaches studies. This programme was to be reviewed and further developed from July 2009, in the light of evolving legislation. Additional projects for 2008-9 were agreed by the Committee on 3 March 2009. This report reviews progress with the 2008-9 projects, and seeks agreement on the projects to be carried out in 2009-10.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

Conservation work programme for 2009-10, comprising:

- a) Publication of the De Freville Conservation Area Appraisal, and (subject to approval – see other items on this agenda) of the Chesterton Conservation Area Appraisal and the Suburbs and Approaches Studies for Huntingdon Road, Madingley Road and Barton Road;
- b) Public consultation on the draft Conservation Area Appraisals for Conduit Head Road and NIAB / Howes Place;
- c) Completion of the draft Review of the Trumpington Conservation Area Appraisal, followed by public consultation;
- d) Review of the Conservation Area Appraisal for the Mill Road and St Matthews Area, with a Conservation Appraisal for Romsey;
- e) A Conservation Area Appraisal for West Cambridge;
- f) The second tranche of Suburbs and Approaches studies, comprising Trumpington Road, Long Road, Hills Road and Newmarket Road; and
- g) Reviews (subject to availability of resources) of the Tree Preservation Orders covering Huntingdon Road and Madingley Road.

Reason for the Decision: These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda. Funding of £30,000 per year for pro-active conservation work has been agreed for each of the financial years 2008-9, 2009-10, and 2010-11.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Historic Environment Manager introduced the report and updated on progress. English Heritage's survey of Conservation Areas, published that morning, had identified the Trumpington Conservation Area as being "at risk". Trumpington had already been prioritised; issues were being addressed through the review, agreed at the March meeting, of the Trumpington Appraisal. A "Historic Environment and Climate Change" consultation event is taking place as part of Environment Week. Cllr Newbold asked for more information on the Holy Trinity War Memorial funding. The officer responded that he is waiting to hear from the War memorial Trust. However, it is likely that there will be a shortfall in the funding which will need to be met. Cllr Baker congratulated the team on the quality of the work being undertaken which is well ahead of many other authorities.

Members discussed trees and what impact this work will have on tree preservation. The officer explained that review of Tree Preservation Orders would include an emphasis on younger trees with a view to the future.

Cllr Reid thanked Cllr Baker for his work as Historic Environment Champion. She suggested that careful consideration must be given to the use of the limited budget and that lessons learnt from work to-date must inform future works.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/47 **Draft Appraisal for Chesterton and Water Lane Conservation Areas** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 17*)

Public Speaker: Local resident, Mr Bond spoke on behalf of the Old Chesterton Residents' Association. He stated that he had read the report with delight and feels it will provide valuable protection for the character of Chesterton in the future.

Matter for Decision: The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve:

- a) the draft Appraisal
- b) the renaming of the Water Lane Conservation Area as Ferry Lane Conservation Area
- c) designation of the extensions to the Conservation Areas.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

- a) the draft Appraisal
- b) the renaming of the Water Lane Conservation Area as Ferry Lane Conservation Area
- c) designation of the extensions to the Conservation Areas.

Reason for the Decision: The City Council has duties under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to periodically review its Conservation Area designations and boundaries, and consider any new areas, and under Section 71 of the Act to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of these areas.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/48 **Suburbs and Approaches studies** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 18*)

Matter for Decision: This report seeks approval for the first 3 Suburbs and Approaches studies, for Huntingdon Road and Howes Place, for Madingley Road, and for Barton Road and Barton Close.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

- 1) the text of the draft studies set out in the appendix to the officers' report for Huntingdon Road, Howes Place, Madingley Road, Barton Road and Barton Close.
- 2) that after inclusion of mapping, graphics and an arboricultural assessment, the final studies be published subject to prior consultation with the Executive Councillor, Chair and Spokesperson.
- 3) that the studies of local distinctiveness be used to inform planning decisions in these areas.

Reason for the Decision:

These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Historic Environment Manager introduced the report. The graphics need further work but members were asked to consider the text. Cllr Reid expressed her satisfaction with John Harris's work.

Members decided that the final graphics would be agreed by the Executive Councillor, Chair and Spokes.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/49 **2009/10 Local Nature Reserve (LNR) Designations**
(Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 19)

Public Speaker:

Local resident, Mr Bond, spoke in support of the project. Community activity in the area is growing and residents want to be consulted on matters relating to their area. Residents hope this is the beginning of a dialogue. The current LNR in the area is off the beaten tract and not easily assessable. Linking it to the newer project will improve this and was welcomed.

Matter for Decision:

Officers have been working towards the designation of 3 new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in 2009, as proposed in the Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS) adopted in 2006. These are:

- East Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Part of Coldhams Common (adjacent to Barnwell West LNR)
- Logans Meadow LNR extension (Pye Fen LNR)

East Pit LNR is due to be officially opened during the Environment Festival and the decision to designate was made under the urgent decision process. The remaining two Local Nature Reserves require committee approval for their 2009 designation.

Committee are requested to discuss the preferred option for approving future designations of the remaining 9 proposed LNRs within the NCS.

- Option 1: All proposed LNRs within a given financial year are brought annually to the Environment Scrutiny Committee (EnvSC)?
 - Option 2: Proposed Sites in existing Council ownership are considered for approval under delegated powers by the Executive Councillor and / or senior Environment & Planning Officers? Sites requiring land purchase or maintenance and access agreements would still be brought to EnvSC.
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Option 3: The Executive Councillor and / or senior Environment & Planning Officers consider all LNRs for approval under delegated powers?

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

The designation of two new LNRs (Part of Coldhams Common and an extension to Logans Meadow LNR) in 2009/10, as proposed in the adopted 2006 Nature Conservation Strategy (NCS).

The following process of approval for the remaining 9 proposed LNRs detailed in the NCS.

Option 2.

Proposed sites in existing Council ownership are considered for approval under delegated powers by the Executive Councillor and / or senior Environment & Planning Officers. Sites requiring land purchase or maintenance and access agreements would still be brought to EnvSC.

Reason for the Decision:

These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Kerr asked about the consultation process. There will be a half day event to open the LNR and further information can be found on the website. The project is a joint venture with Active Communities and this approach has worked well. Cllr Wright requested that resident on the other side of the river be invited to the opening and kept informed of development and they too enjoy the riverside area. Members discussed the naming of the area and asked if it could take an existing name for the area or if it had to be completely new. The officer will investigate this issue.

Members then discussed the three options for future LNR decisions. Cost implications were considered. Members decided on option two by a unanimous vote.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/50

**Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report:
Year 2 and 3 Housing Growth Fund Biodiversity
Projects** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 20*)

Matter for Decision: The proposed project aims to use Year 2 and 3 Housing Growth Fund (HGF) monies allocated for Biodiversity Improvements in the Southern Fringe. The grant is provided under a contract with Cambridge County Council on behalf of Cambridge Horizons. We have entered Year 2 of the 3 Year Housing Growth Fund (HGF) project to enhance Biodiversity in the south west of the City. At present officers only have committee approval for the Year 1 (RoD attached) spend and therefore seek permission for the current Year 2 and Year 3 allocation.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed:

To recommend this capital scheme (which is not included in the Council's Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the Scheme. The total capital cost of the Yr 2 & Yr 3 project is **£251,500**, and it is proposed that this is funded from the Housing Growth Fund, to be reimbursed quarterly by the County Council, provided that the work is completed by 31 March 2011.

The revenue costs of the project are expected to be no greater than £5,000 annually,

Approved the carrying out and completion of the procurement of materials and services for biodiversity enhancement works detailed below. If the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.

Reason for the Decision:

These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Cllr Herbert asked if the proposed timeframe was realistic. The timeframes have been agreed with horizons to comply with budget requirements. However, some slippage from year 2 to year 3 is possible. Members were concerned about potential tree losses and were assured that although some trees would be thinned out, these would be self set trees and the loss would strengthen remaining stock. There is no intention to change the character of the area.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/51

**Capital Project Appraisal & Procurement Report:
E&P Server Replacement Project (*Non Key Decision -
Agenda Item 21*)**

Matter for Decision: The project is required to procure and implement five servers to replace six within the Environment and Planning department that have reached the end of their estimated technical life.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed: commencement of the project, which is already included in the Council's Capital Plan (under reference SC421). The total capital cost of the project is **£55,000**, this is to be funded from Environment and Planning's R&R funds. There are no additional revenue implications arising from the project.

If the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.

Agreed:

Reason for the Decision: All servers within the department have been assessed and those being replaced by this proposed project have been identified in consultation with Serco, the ICT Client Team and our third-party system vendors.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: Members wanted more information on the energy efficiency of the new systems. The officer explained that the new servers would produce green savings by the use of virtual servers. There should be an overall improvement in the service to customers, as virtual servers increase business continuity by minimising system down time caused by hardware failure.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report unanimously.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/52 **Appointment to Outside Bodies** (*Non Key Decision - Agenda Item 22*)

Matter for Decision: Appointments to outside bodies and steering groups.

Decision of Exec Cllr for Climate Change & Growth:

Agreed: the following appointments

Cambridgeshire Regional Spatial Strategy Review Panel (CRoSSP)

Appointed: Cllrs Blencowe, Reid and Ward

Joint Transport and Planning Lead Member Group

Appointed : Cllr Reid

Steering Group	Current Members	Appointed
Community & Public Transport Steering Group	Cllrs Blair, Blencowe, Hart, McGovern, Reid and Ward	Cllrs Blair, Blencowe, Hart, McGovern, Reid and Ward
Design Champion	Cllr Cantrill	Cllr Cantrill
Historic Environment Champion	Cllr Baker	Cllr Baker
Cycling Champion	Cllr Nimmo-Smith	Cllr Nimmo-Smith
Car Club Steering Group	Cllr Lynn, Reid and Smart	Cllr Lynn, Reid and Smart
Members' Cycling	Cllrs Al Bander,	Cllrs Al Bander, Bick,

Steering Group	Bick, Smith, Taylor, Todd-Jones and Walker (Executive Councillors for Climate Change and Growth and the Cycling Champion will attend Ex Officio)	Lynn, Taylor, Todd-Jones, and (Executive Councillors for Climate Change and Growth and Cycling Champion will attend Ex Officio)
Members Planning Obligation Steering Group	Cllrs Baker, Blair, Blencowe, Herbert, Pitt and Ward	Cllrs Baker, Blackhurst, Blencowe, Herbert, Liddle and Ward

Reason for the Decision:

These are set out in the officer's report on the Agenda.

Any alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

Scrutiny Considerations: The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 7 votes to 0.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted):

N/A

09/ENV/53

DECISIONS BY EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS

The Committee noted decisions made by the Executive Councillor for Climate Change & Growth since the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in March:

- o Local Nature Reserve Designation of the Wildlife Trusts East Pit Reserve. Decision Recorded on 24 April 09

The meeting ended at 12.35.
