

Decision Digest

Edition 84

Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 6th – 30th May 2008

NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE CONSULTATION – CHANGES TO TERMINAL CONTROL NORTH AIR SPACE OVER CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The key elements of a proposal by the National Air Traffic Service to change the use of terminal control north, an area of airspace extending from London to Huntingdon, have been considered by the Cabinet.

Luton and Stansted Airports currently share two holds in the vicinity of Royston and Sudbury. With the continued growth in air traffic, the National Air Traffic Service proposes to relocate these holds to new air space and create a new third hold. It is intended that two of the holds will be dedicated to Stansted and one for Luton. Members had been advised that the proposed new hold for Luton will lead to a number of aircraft stacking over the south of the District. With this in mind, the Cabinet has questioned the need to change the site of the existing holds being of the opinion that their retention together with the creation of an additional new hold would be the better option. At the same time, Members have expressed concern about the impact of noise from aircraft stacking, the

threat to tranquillity from noise and visual intrusion and the general detriment to the environment and well being of the population in rural areas. Reference also was made to the National Air Traffic Service's failure to take into account the population growth factor predicted for Cambridgeshire and the potential effects on the growth of air traffic. The Council's response will need to be submitted to the National Air Traffic Service by 19th June 2008 and in that respect the Cabinet has authorised the Director of Environmental and Community Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finance and Environment, to respond to the proposals.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

A new Local Area Agreement for Cambridgeshire has been endorsed by the Cabinet. The Agreement reflects the Government's intention to streamline funding, encourage partnership working and direct investment towards local priorities.

THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION: SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND MONITORING OFFICER

Having been informed of the impending retirement of the Director of Central Services, the Cabinet has authorised the Chief Executive to undertake the executive and other powers delegated to this role by virtue of the Scheme of Delegation. This is an interim measure and will take effect from 27th June 2008.

DOCUMENT CENTRE – PURCHASE OF INSERTER

In accordance with paragraph 11.4 of the Council's Code of Procurement, the Cabinet has approved the acceptance of an estimate from Mailing and Mechanisation for the supply of inserting equipment.

FLEXIBLE WORKING: REMOTE ACCESS PROJECT

The Cabinet has been informed of the circumstances surrounding the acceptance of a quotation other than the lowest received for the supply of a "two factor authentication" system as part of the remote access project.

DESIGN BRIEF, MAYFIELD ROAD, HUNTINGDON

In their consideration of the development opportunities presented by the Design Brief for an area of open space along Mayfield Road, Huntingdon, the Development Control Panel have recommended that the Brief be adopted as Council Policy provided approximately 1/3 of

the development site is retained as open space.

SOMERSHAM CONSERVATION AREA: BOUNDARY REVIEW AND CHARACTER STATEMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The Development Control Panel has welcomed the publication of the latest Boundary Review and Character Statement documents in relation to Somersham Conservation Area. Having been reminded of the importance of both documents in protecting and enhancing the village, the Panel has endorsed the content of the documents and recommended that both be adopted as Council Policy.

DESIGN BRIEF – FORMER HEALTH AUTHORITY OFFICES, PRIMROSE LANE, HUNTINGDON

The Development Control Panel has considered early responses received during consultation on the Design Brief for the former health authority offices, south of Primrose Lane, Huntingdon. Although these reveal a preference to retain at least one of the existing buildings, namely the Primrose Centre, the Panel wishes to retain some flexibility and indicated a willingness to consider a high quality scheme that might involve its demolition.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

Of the thirteen applications considered in May, the Development Control Panel has recommended the Council to support a proposal to develop a new college campus and sports facilities

for the Huntingdonshire Regional College on a site adjacent to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary HQ on Hinchbrook Park road, Huntingdon. Should this proposal be supported, the application will be referred to Go East for approval as a departure from the current Local Plan.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Development Control Panel has endorsed a proposal to take enforcement action to discontinue the operation of a woodshaving line at Sundown Straw Ltd, Station Road, Tilbrook until steps are taken by the owner to implement an approved consent for safe access arrangement to the site. The owner has been given six months to comply with the enforcement notice.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Development Control Panel have welcomed a report which suggests that the Development Control Section has met all national performance targets for the determination of major, minor and other applications in the period 1st January – 31st March 2008.