
Cabinet

Report of the meeting held on 18th July 2013

Matters for Information

**11. 2012/13 OUTTURN AND
2013/14 BUDGET CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING**

The Cabinet has been acquainted with variations in the Capital Programme in the current year. In discussing the document, the Cabinet has questioned the use of capital expenditure rather than revenue for various schemes. They reiterated the need for greater challenge for each capital scheme in the future and Portfolio Holders were encouraged to pursue this with managers during their review of the Medium Term Plan.

**12. 2012/13 OUTTURN AND
2013/14 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING**

The Cabinet has noted the final outturn of revenue expenditure for 2012/13 and the variations already identified in the current year. Executive Councillors were advised that as a result of under spending the Council has been successful in saving an additional £1m. This will be placed in the Special Reserve to fund one-off expenditure that will lead to ongoing savings. Members were advised that the grant for 2014/15 may be marginally less than that forecast but within the sum included in the risk provision.

**13. STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION AND
DRAFT REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT –
LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT**

In conjunction with the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) (Item No. 8 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has considered the contents of the following documents:-

- ◆ Proposed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development;
- ◆ Draft Revised SPD: “Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Turbine Development” – Revised Statement of Consultation; and
- ◆ Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts (CLVI) of Wind Turbines in Huntingdonshire.

The new SPD updates, clarifies and will replace the existing SPD document adopted by the Council in 2006. Members noted that it reflects the publication of new policy guidance notably the National

Planning Policy Framework and the methodology used to assess landscape sensitivity to wind turbine development since 2005. In order to address the concerns over the effects of wind turbines and to clarify the evidence base for the SPD, a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts report was also commissioned. This document details all operational and consented wind turbine developments in the District together with those awaiting determination.

In considering the contents of the SPD, Executive Councillors have concurred with the Panel that the document should not include the proposed upper limit for large groups of wind turbines and that the specification of an upper limit would provide developers with an indication of the level of development they could expect to receive approval for, and in some cases, they might expect to exceed that level. Executive Councillors referred to Table 1 of the SPD which provided a summary of potential capacity for wind turbine developments. The data indicated that there was, at best, moderate capacity for large groups with some of these limited to groups of 13-15. The Cabinet has expressed some doubts over the capacity judgements given that Table 6 of the CVLI revealed that some areas of the District were already reaching saturation point. With this in mind and having noted the issues raised during the consultation on the draft document, the Cabinet has requested the Planning Service Manager to further review the content of the SPD.

With regard to the CVLI, the Cabinet has requested Officers to proceed with a public consultation exercise on the document. In doing so, Executive Councillors supported the Panel's view that this will give this important piece of work extra weight and will strengthen the SPD during any potential appeal process.

During their deliberations, Members referred to a letter received from "Stop Molesworth Wind Farm Action Group" which expressed support for the CVLI as technical evidence alongside the Council's policy. However, the Group believed that some additional consultation will be required to transform the proposed SPD into a document that represented the views of Huntingdonshire residents as a whole.

14. HUNTINGDONSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN

The Cabinet has considered the content of the Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Plan 2013 to 2023. As part of their deliberations, the Cabinet had regard to the conclusions reached by **the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the matter (Item No.7 of their Report refers)**. In that respect, Members concurred with the Panel that the Plan's vision should be amended to refer to Huntingdonshire becoming one of the best places in England to live, work and invest and that the document would benefit from a more dynamic tone throughout. Members also supported the Panel's view that a more explicit explanation be provided for the "trickle down" effect.

In response to concerns over the lack of reference to rural areas, Executive Councillors were advised that the Plan was based upon

current assets within Huntingdonshire with the Alconbury Enterprise Zone being an important factor. It was stressed that the successful development of key strategic sites will result in increased economic activity throughout the district.

Having stressed the importance of the Economic Growth Plan for the District and Council, the Cabinet has approved the contents of the Plan subject to minor amendments to reflect the views above.

15. CCTV OPERATIONS – SHARED SERVICE PROPOSAL

Having regard to the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) (Item No.11 of their Report refers), the Cabinet has approved, in principle the establishment of a shared CCTV service with Cambridge City Council.

In considering the key aspects of the proposal, the Cabinet's attention has been drawn to the background to the proposal, the scope for improving the service's financial performance and the implications for existing staff. In noting the strong business case for locating the joint service at the CCTV Control Room in Eastfield House, the Cabinet has authorised the Head of Operations, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities, to approve the establishment of the shared service, based in Huntingdon, subject to the receipt of a detailed business case.

J D Ablewhite
Chairman