

# CABINET



**13 JULY 2017 - 2.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor W Sutton(Chairman), Councillors T R Butcher, M Cornwell, S J E King, P Murphy, D C Oliver and Councillor C J Seaton.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor J F Clark and M Tanfield.

## **CAB8/17 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 15 June 2017 were confirmed and signed.

## **CAB9/17 RATE RELIEF POLICY AMENDMENT**

Members considered an amendment to the Rate Relief Policy to take account of initiatives introduced by Government to further ease the burden on business rate payers presented by Councillor Seaton, following the Government announcement that a £300 million fund would be available to local authorities to help them offer additional rate relief to businesses adversely affected by the 2017 rate revaluation.

**Cabinet AGREED to recommend to Council that**

- **the Rate Relief Policy be revised to include the provisions in the guidance and that the new Policy is adopted, backdated to take effect from 1 April 2017**
- **delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, to determine the amount of this specific relief for each relevant financial year after 2017-18.**

## **CAB10/17 FENLAND ENTERPRISE ZONES (PROPOSED)**

Members considered the establishment of two Enterprise Zone sites in the district, one in Wisbech and one in Chatteris, presented by Councillor Butcher. He stated that the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the only body able to submit a proposal to Government and the Council must work with all key stakeholders to develop a viable and deliverable submission, with the proposal aligning with both the Council's Local Plan and the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan. The submission is currently subject to an announcement from Government regarding inviting a Wave 3 Enterprise Zone bidding round.

Councillor King asked what the process was of choosing Chatteris and Wisbech and why were only two sites identified? Councillor Butcher responded that from having discussions with the LEP and Government these two sites were identified as the most likely to succeed in their submission, but there may be further sites in the future. Councillor Sutton added that only two sites were allowed to be put forward and officers advised that there was a limit within each LEP region.

**Cabinet AGREED to**

- **endorse the engagement with key stakeholders, including landowners within the proposed Fenland Enterprise Zone areas, and the preparation of proposals to the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership to be submitted to the Government should a Wave 3 bidding round go forward**

- **delegate authority, to approve the detailed land areas (post landowner consultation) and terms of the Fenland Enterprise Zone submission with both the Local Enterprise Partnership and Government, be given to the Corporate Director (Growth and Infrastructure) and Corporate Director (Finance) in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Growth and Finance.**

### **CAB11/17 WISBECH GARDEN TOWN PROPOSAL**

Members considered a proposal for a Garden Town for Wisbech presented by Councillor Sutton and the undertaking of further feasibility work to assess whether existing flood mitigation/management and highway/transportation constraints can be addressed, together with the feasibility of the reinstatement of the Wisbech-March railway line. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has agreed to fund this work, estimated at £6.5 million.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor King stated that this is fantastic news and he wanted to record his thanks to all the officers and others involved in securing the funding of £6.5 million. He asked about the A47 and the local network and feels it is important that there should be a bottom up rather than top down approach and asked how Fenland District Council can maximise its involvement in shaping this part of the proposal. Councillor Sutton stated that the Combined Authority will take the lead on this project as it is financing it, but there will be involvement from other organisations and Fenland's voice will be heard. Councillor King expressed his hope that Fenland will have at least the opportunity of commenting, even if informally, on how the process will work as he is anxious that the best is achieved for Wisbech and concerned that if others are allowed to do it on their own this is unlikely to happen. He asked for assurances that members will receive information on the process, perhaps via a Members' Seminar. Councillor Sutton stated Fenland as a district want this to work, there has already been a huge amount of work undertaken and this will be fed into the Combined Authority, and he can see no reason why members could not be updated via a Members' Seminar.
- Councillor Oliver referred to Councillor King's thanking officers and he would like to reiterate that. He feels that if Wisbech 2020 had not gone ahead, pushed by Fenland District Council, the County Council and other stakeholders, the position would not be as it is today. Councillor Sutton agreed acknowledging that it is not only the local authority, but other stakeholders who have provided funding and pushed to be where we are.

**Cabinet AGREED to note the progress to date and approve the progression of further feasibility work on a Garden Town for Wisbech, including the relevant submission to Government.**

### **CAB12/17 DECISION ON MARCH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TO GO TO REFERENDUM**

Members considered proceeding to a Referendum for the March Neighbourhood Plan following a successful examination presented by Councillor Sutton. The options for the Council are very limited, if it is considered that the plan meets the basic conditions, which it is felt it does, it must progress the plan to Referendum, which if approved will be held on 7 September 2017.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Cornwell asked who pays for the referendum? Councillor Sutton stated that the costs are picked up by District Council, which is a statutory duty in the Localism Act. The Chief Executive added that the Council receives a £20,000 grant from Government, which may cover most of the costs.

- Councillor Butcher asked how the Neighbourhood Plan affects the Local Plan? Councillor Sutton stated that the Neighbourhood Plan should supplement the Local Plan and not be in opposition to it, although there is one area in this plan where it does conflict in relation to affordable housing thresholds.
- Councillor Cornwell asked if the Referendum supports the Neighbourhood Plan does this mean that the Council's Local Plan has to be amended in relation to the March area? Officers advised that national policy says applications should be determined in line with the Development Plan and that the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan becomes the Development Plan for March, with the new policy taking precedent if it conflicts with the Local Plan. Decision makers will use both plans as their guidance in determining planning applications.

**Cabinet AGREED to approve the March Neighbourhood Plan, incorporating recommended changes of the independent examiner, to go to Referendum and that the Decision Statement be published.**

**CAB13/17 FUTURE OF DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDERS AND INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS - A PROPOSAL TO CONSULT**

Members considered the new powers from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that relate to the replacement of Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO) with the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO), presented by Councillor Oliver. All DPPOs will become PSPOs on 20 October 2017, however, some current DPPOs will be discontinued as there is not an evidenced based requirement to continue to cover the same geographical areas and it is recommended that St Peters Garden, Tilery Field Park and the Memorial Gardens in The Crescent in Wisbech be considered for the introduction of a PSPO.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Sutton made the point that Cabinet is being asked to approve a PSPO on these three locations, but what would the procedure be after the DPPOs are lifted on the other areas, this process would not be required again for any other areas? Councillor Oliver stated that it would not come back to Cabinet, it is based on evidence from the Police and other stakeholders to be able to put the PSPOs in place.
- Councillor Cornwell asked if spitting comes within the confines of the order or whether this is covered by something else? Councillor Oliver stated that it can be included within PSPOs. Councillor Murphy advised that spitting can be controlled by using fixed penalty powers for littering and anti-social behaviour, and further research can be made into this issue if members wished to ascertain the most appropriate provision for Fenland. Kingdom officers could enforce this on behalf of the Council as could Street Scene and there will be a Members' Seminar in the Autumn on Kingdom's trial progress, where any next steps can be agreed. Councillor Oliver made the point that PSPOs are not just for alcohol, spitting and dog fouling and cover issues such as substance mis-use, begging and other things deemed as anti-social behaviour. Councillor Cornwell requested that there is co-ordination between the various powers that have been mentioned.
- Councillor Seaton asked that, as Fenland is predominantly a rural area and the three PSPO areas are within a market town, can these powers be used in any of the rural areas? Councillor Oliver stated that a PSPO area can be set up anywhere in Fenland, but the criteria is that they have to be manageable and there has to be policing of that area.
- Councillor Butcher made the point that Whittlesey DPPO will disappear and queried that PSPOs will be put in place wherever they are needed? Councillor Oliver stated that this is correct, but based on evidence and buy-in from officers and the Police. Councillor Butcher made the point that there are pockets of trouble in all towns, and asked how quickly PSPOs could be put in place? Councillor Oliver made the point that there are other powers under anti-social behaviour act that could be used, so it depends whether it is an isolated issue.

**Cabinet AGREED to approve consultation with the community and partners on the three locations identified for PSPOs and the discontinuation of the existing DPPOs across Fenland.**

**CAB14/17 DRAFT 6 MONTH CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

Councillor Sutton presented the Cabinet Forward Plan for information.

2.40pm

Chairman