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EAST
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2019
DECISION LIST

Agenda Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	A petition from Witchford Parish Council and 7 Questions were submitted by Councillor Ian Allen of Witchford Parish Council and the petition, questions and responses are detailed in the Appendix at the end of this Decision List.	
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	-	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allan, Beckett, Chaplin, Cresswell, Hitchin, Hobbs, Morris and Pearson.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interest	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	Declarations of Interests were made by the following Councillors in respect of Agenda Items as detailed: 9 & 14 – Councillors Bailey and Roberts Prejudicial Interests as Directors of ECTC and ECSS.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 18 December 2018	-	It was resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	Democratic Services Manager
5.	-	Chairman's Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chairman made the following	

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				<p>announcement:</p> <p><u>Alteration of Order of Business</u></p> <p>Due to the volume of public in attendance for the item, the Chairman stated that she had agreed to an amendment to the order of business to take Agenda Item 14 on Local Plan – Proposed Submission Version after Agenda Item 11 on the Revenue Budget.</p>	
6.	-	Petitions	To receive public petitions.	No Petitions had been received.	-
7.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	<p>The following Motion was proposed by Cllr Lorna Dupré and seconded by Cllr Christine Whelan:</p> <p><u>HIGHWAYS ENGLAND</u> <u>APPLICATION TO RECLASSIFY</u> <u>THE A14 AS A MOTORWAY</u></p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That in 2016 the Secretary of State for Transport granted a development consent order for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme; • That in 2018 the Roads Minister asked Highways 	On being put to the vote the motion was lost.	Democratic Services Manager

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			<p>England to reclassify the new A14 between Girton and the new Ellington junctions, and the A1 between Alconbury and Brampton, as a motorway; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Highways England have now applied to the Planning Inspectorate for a change to the scheme's development consent order to allow the roads to become motorways. <p>The consultation period for this application closes on 28 February 2019.</p> <p>If approved, motorway status will mean that certain categories of vehicle, including slow-moving farm vehicles, will not be permitted to use the upgraded A14. It is not clear from the consultation documents what traffic modelling has been carried out to test the impact this change will have on traffic through the villages of East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The Council instructs the Director Commercial to respond to the consultation to ascertain what modelling has been carried out to assess the impact that the</p>		

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			proposed new motorway status for the A14 will have on villages in East Cambridgeshire, and — if this is deemed by the council to be insufficient — to request that sufficient traffic modelling be done and the results shared with the district council before the change of status is approved.		
8.	-	Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	No questions from Members were received.	All to note
9.	T203	Schedule of Items Recommended from Committees and Other Member Bodies	To consider and take decisions on items recommended from Committees and other Member Bodies.	<p><u>1. RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2019</u></p> <p><u>2019/20 Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy (AIS)</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That approval be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy; • The Annual Investment Strategy; • The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement; • The Prudential and Treasury Indicators; <p>as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, as amended to include an updated Brexit Timetable and Process.</p>	Finance Manager & S151 Officer

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				<p><u>Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That approval be given to the adoption of the new Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules attached to the submitted report for inclusion within the Constitution, subject to amendment throughout of reference to 'the relevant Committee' to avoid the requirement to change the Constitution each time the name of that Committee changes.</p>	<p>Finance Manager & S151 Officer/ Democratic Services Manager</p>
				<p>2. <u>SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE 11 FEBRUARY 2019</u></p> <p>a. <u>ECSS Business Plan</u></p> <p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the ECSS Annual Business Plan 2019/20 be approved.</p>	<p>Director Operations</p>
10.	T204	Community Infrastructure Levy: Amendments to Regulation 123 List	To consider amendments to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 list (R123 list), namely; the inclusion of A142/Witchford Road roundabout.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the draft R123 list attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.</p>	<p>Director Commercial</p>

11.	T205	Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax 2019/20	<p>To consider the Council's proposed Revenue and Capital Budgets and the required level of Council Tax for 2019/20.</p> <p>To assess the robustness of the budgets, the adequacy of reserves and update the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>1. That approval be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formal Council Tax Resolution which calculates the Council Tax requirement as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report. • The draft 2019/20 Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 2 of the submitted report (as amended), including a proposed Council Tax freeze. • The Statement of Reserves as set out in Appendix 3 of the submitted report (as amended). • The 2019/20 Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 4 of the submitted report. • The Capital Programme and financing as set out in Appendix 5 of the submitted report. • The awarding of discretionary Business Rate relief to certain retail business premises with a rateable value below £51,000 as set out in paragraphs 5.2 to 5.4 of the submitted report. <p>(The revised Appendices 2 and 3 include the removal of the cost of the pre-full Council buffet for elected Members (saving £900 per annum) and the addition of membership of</p>	Finance Manager & S151 Officer
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				the Association of Drainage Authorities (at an initial cost of £334 per annum).	
14. (out of Agenda order)	T208	Local Plan – Proposed Submission Version	To consider an agreed way forward for the emerging Local Plan.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Withdraws the Submitted Local Plan from its independent examination, and in doing so the status of that emerging plan is reduced to zero for the purpose of making decision on planning matters. 2. Notes the consequences of withdrawing the emerging Plan from its examination, including on 'five year land supply' matters. 	Director Commercial/ Strategic Planning Manager
12.	T206	Restructuring of Committees 2019/20	To consider proposals to restructure Committees for the new municipal year 2019/20.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That approval be given to the revised Committee structure as detailed in Appendix 2 to the submitted report for implementation from the municipal year 2019/20. 2. That the role of Service Delivery Champions be revised and make provision for member champions for key services and projects (when and if appropriate). 3. That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary consequential amendments to the constitution and 	Chief Executive/ Democratic Services Manager

				<p>shareholder agreement to implement the above recommendations.</p> <p>4. That the Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer) be authorised to consult with the existing Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider the implications of the new responsibilities and Job Profiles for Leader and Deputy Leader as detailed in Appendix 3 to the submitted report.</p>	
13.	T207	Pay Policy Statement 2019/20	To consider the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the 2019/20 Pay Policy Statement be approved and adopted.</p>	HR Manager
15.	-	Combined Authority Update Reports: January 2019	To receive reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's appointees.	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's appointees be noted.</p>	-
	-	EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining agenda item because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).	<p>It was resolved:</p> <p>That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the remaining agenda item.</p>	-

16.	-	Exempt Minutes – 18 December 2018	-	It was resolved: That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	Democratic Services Manager
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PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Agenda Item 14 Local Plan – Proposed Submission Version

Parish Councillor Ian Allen on behalf of Witchford Parish Council:

PETITION OF WITCHFORD PARISH COUNCIL TO EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

We the Councillors of Witchford Parish Council resolved at an ordinary meeting on Wednesday 20 February 2019 to petition East Cambridgeshire District Council to consult with the parishes in the district to allow them to express an opinion on whether:

- i) The proposed modifications to the Submission Local Plan 2018 put forward by the Inspector should be challenged;
- ii) The proposed modifications to the Submission Local Plan 2018 put forward by the Inspector should be accepted; or
- iii) The District Council should revert to the 2015 Local Plan.

Response from Strategic Planning Manager:

There are only two options available to the Council: withdraw, or proceed with the Inspector's modifications. If the Council went to consultation on the Inspector's modifications, that consultation is unlikely to be meaningful since the Inspector is extremely unlikely to change her mind on any of her modifications. So the final Local Plan fundamentally will be based on the published Inspector's proposed modifications, even if a consultation process is undertaken. Therefore, if Members are minded to withdraw the Submission Local Plan, it would be better to do so now rather than postpone such a decision until after a consultation process which is unlikely to have any material effect on the proposed modifications.

QUESTIONS

- 1. The Government has made provision for Councils to build Council housing. Now that the flagship CLT policy is in tatters, is ECDC going to develop a more conventional route to deliver much needed affordable housing?
- 2. Witchford Parish Council has spent thousands of pounds developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It is structured to fit into the emerging Local Plan as required by policy. Are ECDC Members happy to refund this cost which could have been avoided with a more transparent process?
- 3. Is abject failure in Planning a good reason for the local electorate to lose faith in this Council?
- 4. Just what are the detailed dangers of working with the 2015 Local Plan highlighted at paragraph 3.35 of the Agenda Paper?
- 5. Is ECDC going to provide funding or officer time to reinforce the Neighbourhood Plan process across the District? It may be that these Plans are the only form of Planning

control that will work for our communities following the abject failure of the Council to adequately plan for us.

6. Is the bullet point at paragraph 3.22 referencing CLT policy – which is a key Corporate Objective – the real stumbling block to modification and acceptance of the emerging Local Plan? Is the Inspector's opinion in any way surprising given the flawed interpretation of community led development?
7. What impact will the Council's failure to agree a Local Plan have on the delivery of the North Ely development?

Response from Director Commercial & Strategic Planning Manager:

I thank Parish Councillor Ian Allen for the questions. Some of the issues raised I can respond to tonight and for some a fuller written response will be provided. Members also are reminded to have regard to the points raised in conjunction with consideration of agenda item 14.

- 1, 4.& 6 This issue will be considered and discussed under Agenda Item 14.
2. There should be no significant impact from Agenda Item 14 on the emerging Witchford Neighbourhood Plan, as this Plan has been developed in compliance with the 2015 Local Plan.
3. The question is noted.
5. The Strategic Planning Manager briefly explained the level and nature of the support that has been, and will continue to be, provided by the District Council for the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. He explained that full details of the support is set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which is available on the website. The Director Commercial stated that more detailed information would be provided in her written response.
7. As the North Ely Development was already a secured and allocated site, there would be no impact on this development.