

**CABINET MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 17 MARCH 2016 at 4.00pm**

Present: Councillor S Barker (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environmental Services) - Chairman
Councillor J Redfern (Cabinet Member for Housing and Economic Development)
Councillor L Wells (Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships)

Also present: Councillor B Light (Residents for Uttlesford Deputy Group Leader).

Officers in attendance: D French (Chief Executive), R Fox (Planning Policy Team Leader), R Harborough (Director of Public Services), M Perry (Assistant Chief Executive – Legal), M Cox (Democratic Services Officer) A Taylor (Assistant Director Planning and Building Control) Director o and A Webb (Director of Finance and Corporate Services).

CA101 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Rolfe and J Redfern.

CA102 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2016 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CA103 REFUGEE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Redfern reported that she had recently attended a meeting of the East of England Refugee Resettling group. She would bring full details to next Full Council meeting.

CA104 NEW SETTLEMENT OPTION FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

Councillor Barker presented the report, which had been discussed in detail at the recent meeting of the Planning Policy Working Group. The working group had been asked to provide a steer on its approach to the concept of new settlements and whether this option should be taken forward in the Local Plan preparation. The working group had put forward a recommendation, which had been supported by all members, and if agreed today it would be forwarded to Full Council for approval.

Councillor Light asked a number of questions around the new settlement option for the district. She asked which of the garden city guiding principles were likely to be realised in an Uttlesford proposal. It was explained that these

were aspirational at this stage and would be considered at a later date if a detailed proposal came forward. In relation to the recent consultation, she was advised that comments on the new settlement would be taken into account, although as there had been responses from various interested parties; it was to be expected that opinion would be divided.

She mentioned various comments that had been raised on the R4U website about the Local Plan preparation process. The main concern appeared to be the need for appropriate infrastructure and in particular transport provision.

Councillor Light asked why the Council was being asked to take this decision when a new settlement was already included as an option in the Local Plan. Councillor Barker explained this confirmation would prevent officers wasting time in the preparation of options and provide certainty for Members and the public.

Councillor Redfern said she was confident that the PPWG would consider all options. She proposed the recommendation, which was duly seconded.

RECOMMENDED to Full Council that a new settlement (or settlements) should continue to be investigated and analysed alongside all other possible options for housing and employment distribution and should not be dismissed at this stage from the potential options for inclusion in the Local Plan.

C105

MEMBERS NEW HOMES BONUS SCHEME

The Cabinet was asked to consider changing the rules around the Members' New Homes Bonus Scheme. Due to the elections in 2015 the scheme time had been reduced by three months, which meant that a number of councillors were not likely to allocate their entire grant by the end of the financial year. Under the current rules, this would mean that any unspent grant would be lost. It was therefore agreed to amend the criteria for the 2015/16 year only.

RESOLVED that criteria b) set out in the Members New Homes Bonus Scheme be replaced with the following wording

For 2015/16 year only, any unspent allocation can be carried forward to 2016/17. Thereafter any unspent allocation can be carried forward to the following year, providing the amount is less than 50% of the allocation for that year. If it exceeds 50% of the in year allocation only 50% shall be carried forward.

The meeting ended at 4.30pm.