RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL (THE LEADER – COUNCILLOR BICK)

NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT – MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR OPEN SPACES, SPORTS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The outline planning applications for the North West Cambridge development were submitted to Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) in September 2011. The proposed development straddles the district council boundary between the two local authority areas. Negotiations on the planning applications are now at an advanced stage and it is hoped to report the application to the Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC) in the near future.

This is a mixed use development, comprising a mixture of market and University key worker housing, student accommodation, academic, research and development uses. A number of new open spaces, sports and community facilities are included and it is important that the management strategy agreed for these provides the maximum benefits and degree of public access for all types of residential occupiers of the development and the wider Cambridge community.

Following negotiations over several months, the University of Cambridge has agreed in principle a proposal to set up a Joint Management Vehicle (JV) with the City Council for the management of Storey's Field open space (which includes the SSSI) and the proposed North West Cambridge community centre, both of which lie within the City boundary part of the development. Subject to the principle of the establishment of a JV being formally agreed by Members, further negotiations will be necessary to finalise the detailed arrangements.

The University propose that the remainder of the open space, sports and community facilities within the development would be managed by the University itself, subject to the detailed provisions being agreed and finalised through the S106 agreement associated within the planning applications.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the recommendations by 4 votes to 0.

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

Approve a budget allocation for the proposed Joint Vehicle of up to £100k from 2027 onwards and that this be included in the Council's Medium Term Strategy.