

Appendix J: Scrutiny & Overview recommendations to South Cambridgeshire Cabinet

Extract from the Report of South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny and Overview Committee 17 October 2019 to South Cambridgeshire Cabinet 6 November 2019

1. The committee received and noted the Lessons Learned and Good Practice review, the Statement of Consultation and provided comments on the report and supporting documents:
 - Comments were provided on the formatting of the document, which some members found difficult to read; appendices needed to be labelled and the use of colour on colour needed to be avoided.
 - The importance of using plain English, avoiding acronyms and explaining these, as well as the need for a larger glossary, was highlighted.
 - Reassurance was sought that the Local Plan website would be fully accessible.
 - Concern was raised regarding water resilience and confidence on this issue needed to be provided to communities.
 - Consideration should be given in the Local Plan to future changes in society, about which there is uncertainty, such as the heating and cooling of houses, as well as ensuring there was enough electricity to meet future power demands.
 - The committee was keen to see that people from further afield geographically, who came to the district to work, were also consulted.

2. Cllr Heylings attended the meeting to provide comments as Chairman of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC):
 - The CEAC was positive about the issues and options document, including its focus on climate change and biodiversity issues.
 - Cllr Heylings requested a workshop be held to bring together bodies, including the Environment Agency, to look at the water cycle strategy. The idea of water neutrality should be discussed at this workshop and the environmental consequences of spatial choices made in the plan should also be looked at.

- Thought needed to be given to what we were trying to get out of the questions being asked in the document and whether they generated useful information.
 - Water efficiency should be addressed in the housing quality section, as well as in the climate change section.
3. The committee considered the proposed timing and length of public consultation. The committee favoured the consultation starting in January 2020 to avoid the Christmas period. If consultation started in January, the committee suggested that pre-consultation engagement should be undertaken. It was also suggested that the consultation document and questions be made available as far in advance as possible of the consultation start date. This would enable parish councils which may only meet once every two months, to start considering their consultation responses.