

**To:**

Joint Development Control Committee 4 August 2020

**Report by:**

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**Wards/parishes affected: All**

## **1. Executive Summary**

The County Council resolved in May 2020 that they no longer wished to support or participate in the Joint Development Control Committee after 31 July 2020. The effect of their resolution was that the JDCC was no longer quorate and there was a need to establish a new Committee to replace it. The new Committee was intended to come into effect from 1 August.

The corporate processes for the establishment of the new Joint Development Control Committee, composed of members from both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council have now been completed and the previous JDCC has been dissolved.

The changes made to the Terms of Reference, Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation at each stage of the corporate processes are summarised in the report.

Members of the new Joint Development Control Committee are therefore asked to confirm the Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation so that the Committee can proceed with business as usual.

## **2. Recommendations**

- i) To confirm the Standing Orders for the Joint Development Control Committee.

- ii) To confirm the Scheme of Delegation for the Joint Development Control Committee.
- iii) To agree that the Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### **3. Background**

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#### **3.1 Context**

The previous Joint Development Control Committee (JDCC) was established in 2007 by the County Council, Cambridge City Council and SCDC for the purposes of making planning decisions on a number of strategic development sites on the edges of Cambridge.

In May 2020, Cambridgeshire County Council determined to withdraw from the previous JDCC in which meant that the Committee would no longer be quorate as from the date of the County Council withdrawal on 31 July 2020. This meant that there was a need to establish a new Joint Committee composed of members from Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. through the required corporate processes of each of the two Councils.

As an outcome of the County Council withdrawal, there was a need to review the Terms of Reference, Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation for the Committee. In addition, given the length of time that had elapsed since the original JDCC was set up in 2007, the geographical remit for the Committee has also been reviewed. This review took into account the adoption of the Local Plans in Cambridge City and SCDC and the emergence of new projects (such as North East Cambridge). Moreover, given the creation of the shared planning service, covering a single geography and the introduction of area planning teams that overlap the administrative boundaries, there was a need to consolidate decision-making functions. The purpose being to avoid the requirement for applications to be reported to separate committees in the case of developments oversailing the Councils respective administrative boundaries, not just on the “strategic sites.”

#### **3.2 Corporate processes update**

Following a series of lead member discussions, reports recommending the establishment of the new Joint Development Control Committee and draft Terms of Reference, Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation were taken through the following Committee processes, with some modifications being made as part of the process.

#### **Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee 30 June 2020 Resolutions**

- The existing name of the Committee to be retained -Joint Development Control Committee.
- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair to alternate between the two Councils.

- County Council Councillors to be able to attend and address the Committee.
- Number of members increased from 3 to 6 per Council as per the previous JDCC.
- Recommended to authorize the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to decide whether to refer any development management matters for determination by the JDCC where the boundary of the site overlaps or is adjacent to the boundary between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire districts.
- That ongoing planning matters that would otherwise have fallen to be considered by the previous JDCC, would transfer to the new Committee.

#### **South Cambridgeshire District Council Civic Affairs Committee 1 July 2020**

All above resolutions agreed.

#### **Cambridge City Council Civic Affairs Committee 8 July 2020**

All above resolutions agreed.

In addition, the Committee agreed the following amendments to the Terms of Reference in relation to the functions of the Committee:

- That the JDCC should review, change, amend or modify its own Standing Orders.
- That ongoing planning matters that would otherwise have fallen to be considered by the previous JDCC, would transfer to the new Committee.
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#### **South Cambridgeshire District Council Full Council 14 July 2020**

All recommendations agreed

#### **Cambridge City Council Full Council 16 July 2020**

All recommendations agreed.

### **3.3. Adjustments made to Terms of Reference, Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation**

Some minor changes have been made to the previous Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation to refocus the new Committee on major planning applications and to avoid the necessity for householder applications to be reported to the Committee for determination as had been happening over the past few years. Given the aspiration that the Committee focuses on strategic cross boundary matters this change was considered desirable, both in the interests of applicants and those living on the strategic sites, and for consistency in the approach to decision making on such matters by each Committee.

In terms of the remit of the new Committee, some cross boundary sites have been included that were not within the remit of the previous Committee. Since the establishment of the JDCC and the last review of the previous Committee in 2016, both Councils have adopted Local Plans which include specific policy designations – some of which overlap the Administrative boundary of the two Councils. Whilst both Councils have created a shared planning service, this does not change the statutory position of the two Councils as distinct “local Planning Authorities”. The additional sites include the revised emerging North East Cambridge Area Action Plan areas within both City and SCDC, Cambridge Biomedical Campus/Addenbrookes site and the extension of Peterhouse Science Park/ARM on Fulbourn Road.

### **3.4 Reviews**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is engaged with the Planning Advisory Service in a review of its planning committees. That review was intended to include the JDCC and, it is proposed will include a review of the proposed new Committee Lessons learnt from that review, where relevant to the new Committee will be captured and may give rise to a need to return to the existing and proposed new arrangements later this year. Consideration therefore of call in and referral processes have not been altered from the previous JDCC terms at this time. As projects such as the NEC Area Action Plan and the new Joint Local Plan progress to adoption, a further review of the areas proposed for the JDCC may also be required.

## **4. Implications**

### **a) Financial Implications**

The JDCC is managed by Cambridge City Council at present and the cost of the JDCC meetings are covered within the existing budgets. These costs may form part of the shared services charging agreement. The changes proposed are not considered to significantly increase the frequency of JDCC meetings, or its caseload so as to introduce significant additional costs. Officer will nevertheless keep this ongoing cost under review.

The establishment of the new Committee will require specialist legal advice from external advisors. The costs of this advice can be met within the shared service budgets.

### **b) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

### **c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

An EQIA has not been undertaken in respect of this report because the proposed changes relate to the terms of reference of a committee and no material changes are proposed to the operation of the Committee meetings which will follow existing practices.

### **d) Environmental Implications**

None

### **e) Procurement Implications**

None.

### **f) Community Safety Implications**

None.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

No formal consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report. The changes to the JDCC are a matter for the Local Authorities and no formal consultation is required. Subject to agreement and the establishment of the new Committee, details of the Committee meetings, the Standing Orders and arrangements for holding meetings will be published on the Council and Shared Planning Service web pages. All meetings will be subject to the notification provisions of the respective Councils.

## **6. Background papers**

Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee report 30 June 2020

South Cambridgeshire District Council Civic Affairs Committee report 1 July 2020

Cambridge City Council Civic Affairs Committee report 8 July 2020

South Cambridgeshire District Council Full Council report 8 July 2020

Cambridge City Council Full Council report 16 July 2020

## **List of Appendices**

**Appendix A –agreed Terms of Reference Joint Development Control Committee,  
updated geographical maps with draft Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation**

## **Inspection of papers**

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact  
Sharon Brown