

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING CABINET ADVISORY GROUP held on WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021 at 6.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor Marland (Chair)(Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning)  
Councillors Ferrans, D Hopkins, Legg, Taylor and Trendall.  
H Chipping (SEMLEP), K Fraser (Youth Cabinet), R Mascarenhas (Youth Cabinet, chaperone)

**Officers:** P Thomas (Director of Planning and Placemaking), J Palmer (Head of Planning), N Sainsbury (Head of Placemaking), A Turner (Planning Policy Manager), J Povey (Strategic Lead Transport), Mathew Clarke (Principal Urban Designer), S Kupczyk (Principal Planning Officer) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager).

**Apologies:** R Kurth (CMK Town Council), V Shah (Youth Cabinet) and C Walton (Community Action).

**Also Present:** Councillor John Baker (Central Bedfordshire Council) and L Hillman-Gamble (Strategic Plan Partnerships Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council).

**CAG09 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed members and reminded the Group of the function of the Cabinet Advisory Group. He further advised that the recording of the meeting would be made available on the Council's You Tube channel and that Councillor Taylor had replaced Councillor Walker on the group.

**CAG10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor D Hopkins asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests and noted, for transparency, that he was the registered and beneficial owner of a timber plantation which is located opposite his home. His home and the plantation lie adjacent to the SLA Church Farm land which borders SEMK and that his land does not border the SEMK land.

Councillor Marland asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests.

In the interest of transparency, Councillor Ferrans and Councillor D Hopkins advised that they were on the board of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership.

**CAG11****MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Advisory Group held on 8 SEPTEMBER 2021 be agreed as an accurate record and the Chair to sign them as such, subject to the addition of the Youth Cabinet member being recorded as being present at the meeting.

**CAG12****SEMK – PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND SPD AMENDMENTS**

The Group received a presentation from officers on the SEMK SUE public consultation feedback and SPD amendments.

Members of the Group thanked officers for taking into account the detailed responses that had been received from local parish councils and for taking into account fully the relationship the site had with the Greensand Ridge. It was also noted that the increase in buffering around Wavendon and Bow Brickhill, extending existing playing field provision and relocating the school was also seen as positive enhancements.

Concern was expressed as to the uncertainty with regard to East West Rail and what their plans were. It was noted that it was difficult to fully implement these proposals until East West Rail had made a decision. With regard to discussions with East West Rail they had shared some of their current thinking with the Council and it seemed that it was likely they would look at the V10 option which would fit with what the Council believed was also the best option to progress. It was important that discussions continued between the parties to mitigate the impact on the existing businesses in the area. It was also questioned as to where in the planning hierarchy did the East West Rail plans sit with regard to the Local Plan and the Development Brief for this part of our Local Plan. Officers advised that as a National Infrastructure project, East West Rail would follow a separate process to our local plan making processes but the Council would have the opportunity to submit a local impact report as part of the consideration.

It was noted that the V10 as opposed to the V11 as the primary option seemed a sensible move forward. Officers advised that the SPD covered all scenarios that East West Rail were considering.

It was queried as to where was the Strategic Transport Review for the area which was needed to assess the impacts of this development on the existing infrastructure. It was noted that this had been promised for at least four years and it was an important evidence base. Officers advised that some elements of a Strategic Transport Study had been taken forward and looked at separately. More strategic issues would be addressed by the work East West Rail were undertaking as part of the mitigation of their proposals.

It was questioned as whether there would be a phasing schedule in the SPD to ensure that infrastructure such as the school, health centre and gypsy and traveller site were built out early in the process.

The officer from Central Bedfordshire noted that Central Bedfordshire Council were committed to carrying out a partial review of their Local Plan and welcomed continued dialogue between the two local authorities.

Concern was expressed as to how people would access the station, schools, playing fields and local centre and whether appropriate consideration had been given to private car use and parking provision. The Chair advised that this was a matter that officers would pick up outside of this meeting.

It was noted that the existing Woburn Sands station lay outside of the red line of the SEMK. East West Rail may close some level crossings and relocate the Woburn Sands station (EWR proposals) but some of those are actually outside the red line boundary. The Woburn Sands station may be relocated subject to EWR's decision. The Chair requested that officers look at those options and provide a formal response to what those positives and negatives might be of each option and including the options in the SPD. Officers noted that options for the locations had been considered in the design and a zone where a station may be relocated based on EWR's proposals is contained within the SPD. It was noted that the draft version shared with CAG Members actually did show the possible locations within the SEMK site. The Chair indicated that we could not show for example a car park if that would fall outside of the SEMK site.

Officers noted that the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment identified the need for nineteen pitches in Plan MK, seven of which would be delivered through this SPD. Three proposed locations were identified in the consultation. Consideration was made of the criteria for the site, consideration of feedback and ability to access necessary infrastructure.

The Planning Policy Manager summarised that the SPD had addressed a number of the concerns raised through the consultation. The next steps were that the SPD would be taken as a Delegated Decision and it was anticipated that this would be at the end of November as long as there was nothing significant raised that needed to be addressed. The Chair requested that a preferred phasing strategy be included in the SPD

**RESOLVED**

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That officers provide a formal response on station location to East West Rail
3. That a preferred phasing strategy is included in the SPD.

**CAG13**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Planning Policy Manager advised that there would be a survey carried out shortly that would look at existing open space provision and that this would be used to inform a review on open space assessments.

Members were also advised of the following SPD's and other planning work that was being undertaken including:

- Sustainable Construction SPD;
- Conservation Area Reviews (7 areas);
- Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood SPD; and
- Bletchley Urban Design Framework SPD

**CAG14**

**FUTURE MEETINGS DATES**

- 25 November 2021
- 12 January 2022
- 2 March 2022.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7:53 PM