

ADDITIONAL PAPERS

ITEM 7 – COUNCILLORS’ QUESTIONS

RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM COUNCILLORS D and V HOPKINS

ITEM 7(a)

To provide a response to the question submitted by Cllrs David and Victoria Hopkins, Members for the Danesborough and Walton Ward:

“Could Cllr Gowans provide an update on the current position of MK Council with regards to the progressing of the proposed Development Framework’s for the South East Milton Keynes and Caldecotte C areas and the SPD for the proposed South Caldecotte employment area. In articulating such an update could you in effect provide us with a report of the council’s position following my member’s item to June Cabinet (delivered by Cllr Jenkins) in which, by way of response, you indicated you were in ‘listening mode’?”

Supplementary

Is my request for a local area transport impact overview study and policy document for the Walton, Bow Brickhill, Woburn Sands and Wavendon area being actioned and, if so, what time scales can you provide as to the publication of this study bearing in mind the likely announcement by Highways England of the route options for the Oxford – MK – Cambridge Expressway in the autumn of this year?”

Response

After further consideration of the wider context influencing how the South East MK, South Caldecotte and Caldecotte Site C allocations should be taken forward, I have decided to delay progressing the respective Development Frameworks and Development Brief to the next formal stages of their production until after Highways England’s consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options. The Council understands that Highways England will be consulting on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options in autumn 2019.

Specifically, this means:

- No public consultation on a draft South East MK Development Framework SPD will be carried out until the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options are publicly consulted upon and the potential implications considered.

- The South Caldecotte Development Framework SPD will not be taken forward for adoption until the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options are publicly consulted upon and the potential implications considered.
- The Caldecotte Site C Development Brief will not be taken forward for adoption until the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options are publicly consulted upon and the potential implications considered.

The Council is in the process of preparing a brief to carry out additional transport work that will inform the master planning of the three Plan:MK allocations referred to above, as well as the Council's approach to highways and transport around the south Milton Keynes area. This work will be carried out during 2019, enabling it to take account of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway route options, and their implications, that will be consulted upon in the autumn. Given the strength of concern about the highways and transport issues amongst the local community representatives, the Council will look to engage local ward members and parish/town councils in this work so that those concerns, as well as extensive local knowledge, can be properly considered and responded to.

Councillor Gowans
Cabinet member for Planning and Transport