

ORDINARY COUNCIL

13th March 2024

**Subject: To deal with any business from the last Council Meeting:-
Notice of Motion**

1. Purpose of Report

To present to Council the report and recommendations of the Cabinet on the Notice of Motion deferred from the Council meeting in November for Cabinet to consider the report on the budget implications.

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

This report impacts on the Corporate Plan objectives - Economy and Growth, Place and Environment.

3. Recommendation

Council is requested to consider the report from Cabinet on the budget implications of the Motion namely that the creation of a Castle Point bespoke parking standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not a good use of the Council's resources because the law requires that the provision of parking standards is undertaken as part of the local plan making process in any event and, therefore, the Council's resources should remain focussed on the preparation of the Castle Point Plan and not be diverted into the creation of an unnecessary SPD.

4. Background

At the Ordinary Council held on 29 November 2023, Councillor Skipp gave notice of the following motion:

"We call on this Council to begin work on its own Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document for adoption by the Council to provide the material planning considerations needed to adequately address parking concerns raised during the planning process."

The motion was moved by Councillor Skipp and seconded by Councillor Hart

As this Motion had budget implications the Motion was deferred without debate for a report to Cabinet pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 A copy of the report before Cabinet is attached.
- 5.2 Cabinet decided to recommend to Council to consider the report from Cabinet on the budget implications of the Motion namely that the creation of a Castle Point bespoke parking standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not a good use of the Council's resources because the law requires that the provision of parking standards is undertaken as part of the local plan making process in any event and, therefore, the Council's resources should remain focussed on the preparation of the Castle Point Plan and not be diverted into the creation of an unnecessary SPD.
- 5.3 Council now resumes consideration of the item of business .

CABINET

17th January 2024

Subject: Notice of Motion - Parking Standards

Cabinet Member: Councillor W. Gibson – Strategic Planning

1. Purpose of Report

For Cabinet to consider whether to report to Council on the budget implications of the Motion deferred from Council held on 29 November 2023.

2. Links to Council's Priorities and Objectives

This report impacts on the Corporate Plan objectives - Economy and Growth, Place and Environment.

3. Recommendations

(1) To report to Council on the budget implications of the Motion namely that the creation of a Castle Point bespoke parking standards Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is not a good use of the Council's resources because the law requires that the provision of parking standards is undertaken as part of the local plan making process in any event and, therefore, the Council's resources should remain focussed on the preparation of the Castle Point Plan and not be diverted into the creation of an unnecessary SPD.

4. Background

4.1 At the Ordinary Council held on 29 November 2023 ,Councillor Skipp gave notice of the following motion:

"We call on this Council to begin work on its own Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document for adoption by the Council to provide the material planning considerations needed to adequately address parking concerns raised during the planning process."

As this Motion had budget implications the Motion was deferred without debate for a report to Cabinet pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13.

- 4.2 This report is presented to Cabinet to consider the budget implications of the Motion and whether a report should be made to Council on those implications.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 At the meeting of Cabinet last month on 20.12.2023, Cabinet considered and approved the response to consultation on the Essex Parking Guidance Consultation. The Essex Parking Officers Association (EPOA) working with ECC at the Transport Authority have been working on this for approximately 18 months and they commissioned evidence at a cost of £40k. To prepare parking standards different to those proposed for Essex the Council will need its own, separate evidence – estimated to be a further £40k.
- 5.2 Currently, the 2009 Essex Parking Standards are adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the Council. The Council response was generally supportive of the new standards. The comments to the consultation are being considered by the County Council before they issue a revised version. For reasons set out below, the Council will need to consider the incorporation of the final standards into the Castle Point Plan.
- 5.3 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 removes Supplementary Planning Documents from the planning system. To this end, policies related to parking will need to be incorporated in any event into the Castle Point Plan as it is prepared. The effect of this change means that work on a separate Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) would be unnecessary, duplicating work which is required to take place as part of the Castle Point Plan and would, therefore, place an unreasonable burden on the Council's financial and human resources. Preparing an SPD is a separate document to the Castle Point Plan, will require its own Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Because parking has a potential negative effect on the use of land this would need to be a full SEA which has a cost of approximately £10k.
- 5.4 In summary the cost of preparing a separate SPD, bespoke to the Council, would be in the region of £50k for which no budget provision has been made.
- 5.5 There is also a staff resource implication. It would take an officer around six months to complete the work to prepare an SPD over and above what officers are already doing on the Castle Point Plan, which will divert the officer resource from preparation of the Castle Point Plan. Given the recent letter received from the Secretary of State threatening intervention if the Castle Point Plan is not delivered by June 2025, the Council should not adopt an approach which will result in any delay in delivery of the Castle Point Plan.

6. Corporate Implications

- (a) **Financial Implications**
As set out in this report.

- (b) **Legal Implications**

As set out in this report.

(c) Human Resources and Equality Implications

Human Resources

As set out in this report.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken because no decision has been made by this report.

(d) IT and Asset Management Implications

None.

7. Timescale for implementation and Risk Factors

The Notice of Motion was deferred for consideration at the Council meeting rearranged to 13th March 2024.

8. Background Papers

Email dated 20.1.2023 Principal Transportation & Infrastructure Planner(New Communities) Planning Services Essex County Council.

Report Author: Ann Horgan, Head of Governance ,Monitoring Officer