

County Councillor's Report November 2018

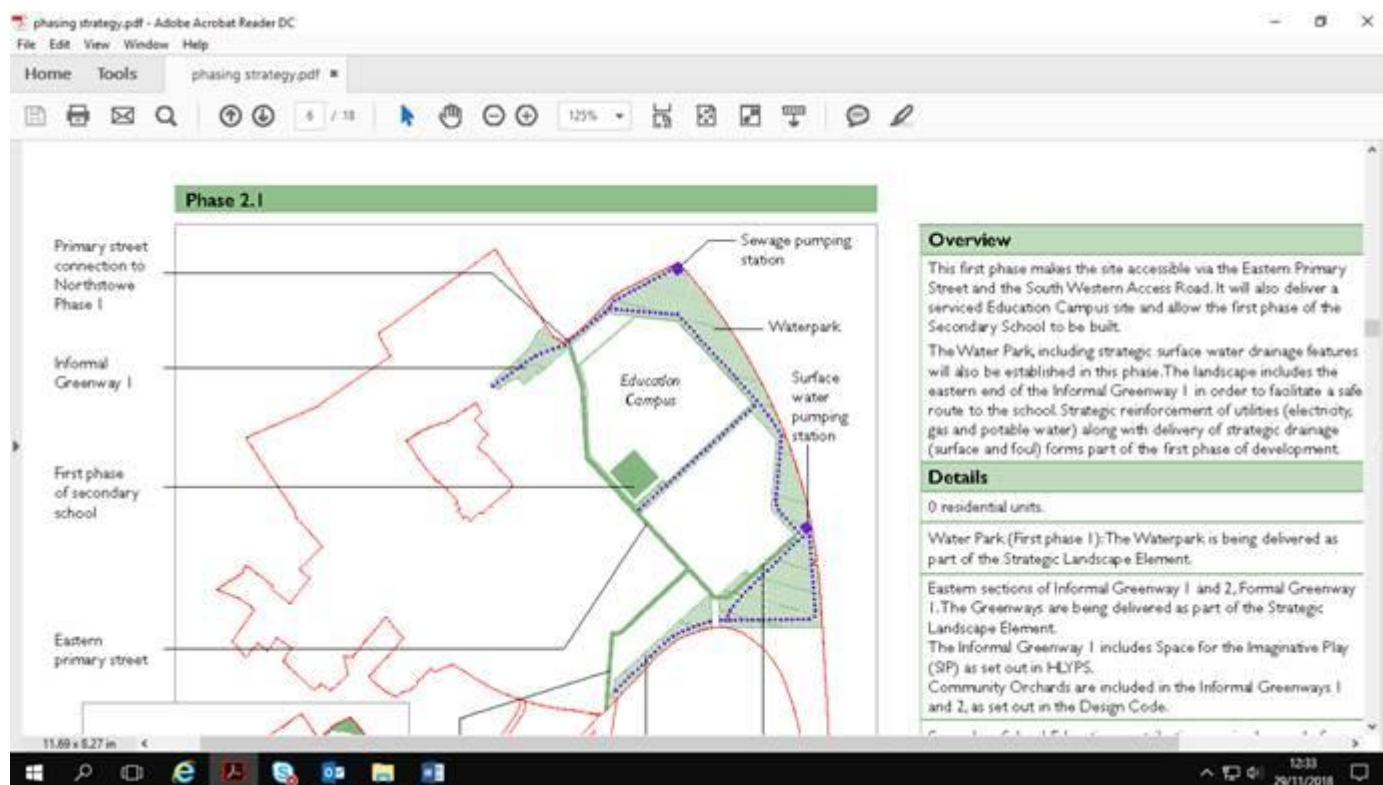
Highways

The footpath upgrades in Ladywalk and Brookfield Drive are now completed.

The reported potholes on School Lane and Rampton Road have been repaired. The lights around the roundabout on the by-pass have been repaired, also the lighting within the bollards has been checked.

Access to our New Education Campus.

The Northstowe Phase 2 phasing strategy outlines in phase 2.1, which is the first set of works, that access to the school will be allowed from Longstanton via Rampton Drift to the eastern primary road via the new greenway route. The development of the new greenway will be brought forward to ensure a safe route to the new School.



Library Services

The County Council has approved an expenditure of £275k for 2 replacement mobile libraries. This secures the future of this valuable rural service and provides an opportunity for other outreach Services.

Council investments support a renewed focus on planning for the future

The councils General Purposes Committee, which I am a member, have agreed additional capital funding of more than £45m to increase school places across the county and develop four new clean energy schemes at our meeting on Nov 27th – in line with the development of a new corporate strategy. The development of the new corporate strategy, which was also discussed at the meeting, which sets out the key outcomes, activities and behaviours that the Council will pursue over the next three years – sees the council focus even more clearly on developing the future of Cambridgeshire. In the strategy proposed, a more

dedicated focus on delivering a good quality of life and thriving places to live for all residents, and the best start in life for every Cambridgeshire child. The additional investments agreed today shows that the council is keen to put the money where the priorities lie. Among the main changes to borrowing decided by the General Purposes committee are:

- £14.6m of additional borrowing in 2019/20 to finance six planned school building projects. The work at the six schools includes a proposed new primary school for the Wing development in the Newmarket Road area of Cambridge, extensions to increase the capacity at St Philips Primary in Cambridge, Bassingbourn and Caldecote Primary Schools, as well as planned works at Highfield and Samuel Pepys Special Schools in Ely and St Neots. The proposed work at Highfields Special School in Ely would provide much-needed sports and staff facilities to bring the school in line with other special schools in the county. These would include a new hydrotherapy pool, sports hall and fitness suite. There would also be a new centre to provide life skills and therapy for young adults with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 19 and 25 – the first for Cambridgeshire. Construction is due to start in July 2019 for completion in May 2020.
- Four new energy schemes at a total cost of £30.6M, which are expected to generate a total net income of £77.4M to return to front line services over their 25 year life. These include the development of smart energy schemes at the Trumpington and Babraham Park and Ride sites, where the sale of electricity and provision of grid services is expected to generate £7m for Trumpington and £24.5m for Babraham over the next 25 years. The other two schemes at the closed landfill sites are at Stanground and Woodston.

With rising demands on our services, the County Council is determined to consider all opportunities to invest in schemes that will help us maintain and improve our service levels and stand on our own feet financially. Our ethos of transformation, commercialisation, and sound financial management means we are better able to deal with financial pressures.

Cambridgeshire Schools Scoop regional STARS awards

Cambridgeshire schools are celebrating a record day of success at a regional awards ceremony which recognised their outstanding achievements in sustainable travel to and from school.

Fourfields Community Primary School in Yaxley, St Bede's Inter-Church School in Cambridge, Spring Common Academy, Huntingdon, and **Hatton Park Primary School in Longstanton** along with Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup all picked up Modeshift STARS Regional Awards at the event held in London on November 13th. The awards won by these schools was a record number for one authority, with the county's schools beating off competition with 80 other schools in the East of England to win these coveted awards. The regional awards ceremony recognised the schools for their work in enabling and promoting sustainable travel to school and reducing car use on the school run.

Modeshift STARS is a national awards and travel planning scheme for schools that recognises schools that support cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. The schools have been working with the County Council's road safety team on their school travel plans using the Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition) national school travel planning programme. These award winning schools have begun a journey that will benefit not only their pupils but also the county by helping reduce vehicle numbers and emissions at peak times, making our area healthier and safer. There are 98 schools, colleges and nurseries in Cambridgeshire taking part in the county's scheme. 53 have achieved Bronze Level, one gained Silver and three have Gold levels awards.

Award success for Cambridgeshire's National Citizen Service programme

A summer programme for young people in Cambridgeshire with special educational needs and disabilities has won a top national award. The County Council's NCS SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) summer programme won the National Citizen Service Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards 2018 last week. The National Citizen Service (NCS) programme is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all 15 – 17 year olds and up to 25 years for young people with SEND that builds skills and confidence and helps to get ahead in work and life. It also helps young people connect to their local community through social action projects designed and delivered by the young people themselves. Now in its sixth year in Cambridgeshire, there are a number of programmes being delivered during the summer period across the county which consist of young people living together over a number of weeks, excluding weekends, in residential centres.

Most of the young people required one-to-one support day and night. The challenge was to gain the trust and support of parents and to encourage SEND schools/colleges take part so the young people could mix in a residential setting for 5 days and four nights.

Community literacy projects will get families talking together in Cambridgeshire

Thousands of pounds of funding has been awarded to community projects across Cambridgeshire to boost children's communication, language and literacy. The County Council launched its community literacy project 'Talking Together in Cambridgeshire' with the support of the National Literacy Trust. The Early Years' Service has established a team around the project to work with the community groups involved and to deliver training across the project reach areas. The project focusses on raising awareness of communication, language and literacy development for children aged 0-6 with parents, childminders, practitioners and others in the community as well as looking to support family members who may have language or literacy difficulties. As part of this work, local community groups have been able to apply for funding and 15 projects have now been awarded a share of the money. For a full list of successful projects visit <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/early-years/community-literacy-project/funding-information/>

Peter Hudson

County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Over, Oakington and Westwick.