

Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2012

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No.**

**7. JOINT STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH BY THE LOCAL
AUTHORITIES (Pages 1 - 2)**

To consider a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking endorsement for the Joint Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities.

**8. NEW GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE HOME
ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995 (HECA) AND DELIVERY OF
THE GREEN DEAL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Pages 3 - 4)**

To receive a report by the Head of Environmental Management on new guidance for Local Authorities on the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) and the delivery of the Green Deal in Huntingdonshire.

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CABINET

13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 11th September 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy on the Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 It is recognised that the purpose of the Statement is to balance future infrastructure requirements to allow developments to take place. However, the Panel has drawn attention to the Statement's claim that 'major developments, essential regeneration and infrastructure provision in Cambridgeshire's market towns continue to make positive progress' (para. 2.3) and questioned the evidence base for this assertion.
- 2.2 Given the need for joint working on cross border issues, Members have questioned why there is no reference to neighbouring authorities other than those in Cambridgeshire. There will be a need, for example, to work with Northamptonshire authorities. While attention has been drawn to this absence from the Joint Statement, it should be noted that two meetings have been held with partners including Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Peterborough Councils in order to comply with the Duty to Co-operate.
- 2.3 Having regard to the joint working arrangements, a Member has emphasised that historically this Council has delivered its objectives when neighbouring authorities have failed to do so. In response, the Panel has been assured that the joint working arrangements will establish the causes of this and will prevent undue development being forced upon this Council. The aim is to ensure that the right development targets are set for each authority.
- 2.4 Generally, the Panel has welcomed the joint strategic planning arrangements as a basis for enabling the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities to continue to work together at a strategic level across administrative boundaries and to plan effectively for growth. The Cabinet is recommended to endorse the Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities (2102).

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

Contact Officer: A Roberts, Scrutiny and Review Manager 01480 388015

Background Documents - Reports and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 11th September 2012.

CABINET

13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

NEW GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995 (HECA) AND THE DELIVERY OF THE GREEN DEAL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 11th September 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Environmental Management on the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 and the delivery of the Green Deal in Huntingdonshire. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has previously received information about the Green Deal. At that time Members expressed the view that safeguards should be put in place to guarantee the standard of work by providers. This view is now reiterated. The Council has a good reputation, which could be tarnished by poor work. Equally, a Member has had experience of private companies selling Green Deal products that are purportedly endorsed by the Council. The Panel has stressed that the Council's partner companies should employ acceptable sales practices. Members have been assured that these matters will be addressed through the procurement exercise to identify partners, which will realise a single scheme for Cambridgeshire with acceptable sales methods and effective products. The process will emphasise the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- 2.2 The Panel recommends that option two of those identified in paragraph 3.3 of the report by the Head of Environmental Management is adopted. The Council's role in this arrangement would be to provide leads for potential customers to be followed up by providers. The Council has a data base of properties in the District, which contains relevant information such as whether they have solid or cavity walls. This data base has recently been updated. The Council will benefit through the receipt of referral fees. It is estimated that this could produce an income in the order of £150k per annum. The Council would also publicise the Green Deal and market services.
- 2.3 The Panel has discussed the County Council's involvement in the scheme. Although it will operate County-wide, only District Councils, that is authorities with housing responsibilities, will be party to the scheme. However, the County Council will be involved by providing procurement expertise. Furthermore, the Green Deal is most appropriate for housing and is probably not suitable for County Council properties such as schools. This position will be confirmed at forthcoming meeting of the Making Assets Count Board.
- 2.4 Once the scheme starts to operate the Panel recommends that details of accredited partners are published on the Council's website. It is also recommended that feedback on providers is sought and monitored to ensure satisfactory standards are maintained. This will ensure members of the public receive satisfactory services and protect the Council's reputation.

2.5 The Panel will review the outline business case at a future meeting.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

Contact Officer: A Roberts, Scrutiny and Review Manager 01480 388015

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