

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2008** at **11:30 AM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

APOLOGIES


**Contact
(01480)**

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2008.

**Mrs H Taylor
388008**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Notes 1 and 2 below.

3. FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET (Pages 5 - 10)

To consider a report by the Head of Financial Services outlining spending variations

**S Couper
388103**

4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 2007/08 (Pages 11 - 14)

To consider a report by the Head of Financial Services highlighting variations from the approved Capital Programme for 2007/08.

**S Couper
388103**

5. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY GYPSY & TRAVELLER POLICY (Pages 15 - 20)

To consider a report by the Planning Policy Manager inviting responses to the Regional Spatial Strategy Gypsy and Traveller Policy. The views of the Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support) on the matter are also attached.

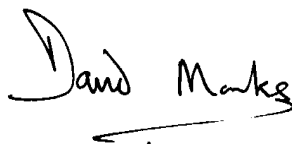
**R Probyn
388430**

6. PROMOTING BETTER HEALTH IN OLDER PEOPLE THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (Pages 21 - 24)

By way of a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) to note the conclusion of the Panel's study on Promoting Better Health in Older People Through Physical Activity.

**A Roberts
388004**

Dated this 16 day of April 2008



Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Mrs H Taylor, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail Helen.Taylor@huntsdc.gov.uk /e-mail: if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Cabinet.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of
Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a

large text version or an audio version
please contact the Democratic Services Manager
and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit and to make their way to the car park adjacent to the Methodist Church on the High Street (opposite Prima's Italian Restaurant).

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Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 3 April 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

Councillors P L E Bucknell, D B Dew,
A Hansard, C R Hyams, Mrs D C Reynolds,
T V Rogers and L M Simpson.

121. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th March 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

122. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors D B Dew and L M Simpson declared personal interests in Minute No 124 by virtue of their membership of the St Ives Town Initiative and the Huntingdon Town Partnership respectively.

123. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND 2008/09 ACTION PLAN

Further to Minute No. 07/17, consideration was given to a report by the Head of Environmental Management (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a copy of the proposed Environment Strategy for Huntingdonshire setting out a series of aims to overcome the following three main environmental challenges:-

- ◆ Tacking climate change;
- ◆ Using resources efficiently; and
- ◆ Protecting and improving the environment.

By way of background, Members were reminded that the strategy had been developed over a twelve month period during which there had been constructive and positive engagement with local communities and interested parties. Having discussed the content of the Strategy proposals, Executive Councillors emphasised the importance of partnership working including involvement with local trade and commerce and the need to promote and encourage sustainability within the home.

In noting the views expressed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) Executive Councillors acknowledged the benefits of linking the value of projects against national performance indicators and noted the Panel's concern relating to the protection of agricultural land. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Council be recommended to endorse the Environment Strategy;
- (b) that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Environment and Transport, to agree minor consequential amendments to the final document;
- (c) that, having noted the requirement for further refinement of some proposals contained in the Environment Strategy, its priorities and project plan, the Director of Environmental & Community Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, Environment & Transport to approve the release of the relevant Medium Term Plan funding for that purpose; and;
- (d) that the Director of Environmental and Community Services be requested to submit a report to Cabinet on 15th May 2008 identifying the linkages between the priorities in the Environment Strategy, those in the Council's Corporate Plan, "Growing Success" and the provision available in the Medium Term Plan.

124. TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES

A report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which summarised the findings of a review by a Working Group into the purpose, cost and achievements of the Town Centre Initiatives across the District.

In discussing the views expressed by the Working Group, Executive Councillors' attention was drawn to the benefits for the Partnerships of moving from the annual grant, awarded by the District Council, to a longer term arrangement. Having acknowledged that the beneficial work of the Partnerships, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that, to ensure their long-term stability and effectiveness, the four town centre Partnerships be invited to enter into three year funding agreements which, in return for the maintenance of existing grants and other assistance from the Council, will require each Partnership to produce a three year business plan with annual action plans and targets designed to support delivery of the Local Economy Strategy and to sustain and encourage the economic viability of the town centres.

125. SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

The report of the Safety Advisory Group held on 5th March 2008 was received and noted.

Chairman

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CABINET

24 April 2008

FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET (Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1. 2007/08 Budget – As at Mid-March 2008

- 1.1 Cabinet received a report on the forecast outturn of the 2007/08 revenue budget at its meeting on 31 January 2008 which identified a saving of £1,204k and carry forward to 2008/09 of £608k. This report provides the latest forecast. Although this report is generally based on the information available in mid-March, it is still subject to variation in the light of actual spending and income in the last two weeks of the year together with adjustments required in the final accounts process to adjust items between this year and next year.
- 1.2 It is now expected that there will be a saving of £1,574 and £713k of spending deferred to 2008/09. This will result in £713k being placed in a special reserve for delayed projects and the achievement of a balanced budget with £9k being added to reserves rather than the budgeted £1,565k having to be funded from the general revenue reserve. The main variations are summarised in Annex A and the following paragraph highlights the main issues.
- 1.3 Whilst this is a significant but very welcome change it can be seen from the table below that the main changes are due to items that it would have been difficult to forecast with any certainty at the start of the year:

	£000
Planning Delivery Grant	-436
LABGI	-369
VAT Partial Exemption Moratorium	-138
Commutation adjustment (change in Government calculation)	-74
Extra recharge of staff time to capital schemes (partly offset in future years by reduced interest or loan repayments)	-578
Other items	21
Forecast saving	-1,574

- 1.4 The 2008/09 budget already assumes £250k for Planning Delivery and Housing or other Grants and LABGI ceases although there are likely to be some final adjustments from previous years.
- 1.5 £400k of LABGI grant relating to 2006/07 was not received until June 2007 and our external auditors required it to be incorporated in the 2006/07 accounts. It has therefore now been removed from the 2007/08 budget monitoring exercise and from the “previously reported” figures in Annex A.

2. Risks and opportunities

2.1 There are certain aspects of this forecast that carry a greater risk than others:

- a) HM Revenues and Customs have announced a moratorium on requiring Councils to repay them their partially exempt VAT for this year only, as a start to their review of whether future repayments will be required. Whilst there is no legislation in place to authorise the moratorium the VAT “industry” consider it extremely unlikely that HMR&C will change their mind. This results in a saving of £138k.
- b) There still remains potential for further spending to be deferred to next year as a result of matters outside of the Council’s control.

3. Amounts collected and debts written off

3.1 The position as at 31 March 2008 is shown in Annex B

4 Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet note the forecast spending variations and position on debts collected and written off.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Source Documents:

1. Cabinet and Council Reports
2. Budgetary control files.

Contact Officers: Eleanor Smith, Accountancy Manager (01480 388157)
Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services (01480 388103)

Annex A

NET REVENUE SPENDING	Expenditure	Income	Recharge to capital	Net expenditure
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Approved budget	64,110	-43,611	-965	19,534
Delayed projects brought forward from 2006/07	564			564
	64,674	-43,611	-965	20,098
Less benefits reimbursed by Government	-26,853	26,853		0
Adjusted total	37,821	-16,758	-965	20,098
Spending Variations (excluding deferrals)				
Items previously reported (adjusted for part of LABGI)	235	-814	-225	-804
Items now identified				
Recharge to capital (net of assumed increase)			-200	
Development Control income		-33		
Capital financing - commutation adjustment	-74			
Refuse collection staff savings	-53			
Economic development - industrial units rent		-48		
Turnover contingency	-46			
Ramsey Leisure Centre electricity	-43			
St Neots Leisure Centre reduced costs arising from the pool closure	-55			
Car parks - saving on survey and staff	-25			
Local taxation & housing benefits - general change in volume & subsidy	-35			
Community safety - equipment and transmission lines	-23			
Licensing - Gambling Act	-22			
Public conveniences - APC's	-17			
Land charges income		31		
Eastfield House running costs	81			
Building control - staff time moved to non-fee-earning work	92			
Moratorium on repayment of partially exempt VAT	-138			
LABGI over and above £300k provision		-69		
Other variations	-84	-9		
total	-442	-128	-200	-770
Total Variations to date	-207	-942	-425	-1,574
Deferrals to 2008/09				
Items previously reported	-608			-608
Items now identified	-89	-16		-105
Total deferrals to date	-697	-16		-713
Forecast net spending	36,917	-17,716	-1,390	17,811
total variations - £000	-904	-958	-425	-2,287
-%	-2.4%	-5.7%		-11.4%

	Original Budget	Reported last time (adjusted)	This Report
	£000	£000	£000
Forecast Net Spending	19,534	18,686	17,811
Funded from:			
Government support (RSG & NNDR)	-11,649	-11,649	-11,649
Collection fund adjustment	-7	-7	-7
Council tax	-6,313	-6,313	-6,313
Delayed projects reserve b/f		-564	-564
Delayed projects reserve c/f		608	713
Contribution to (+)/from (-) Revenue Reserves	-1,565	-761	+9

CONTINGENCIES INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET

	Budget	Estimated outturn	Variation	
	£000	£000	£000	
General contingencies	140	0	-140	This is included as a forecast saving
Turnover	-414	-312	102	The estimated outturn is that not all of the contingency will be met from staff savings
Additional savings	-136	0	136	This has been set-off against the savings identified above
Pathfinder House repairs	122	92	-30	The estimated outturn is that most of this budget will be spent
Employee costs recharged to capital	-153	-578	-425	The transfer of costs to capital is forecast to be exceeded. An extra £225k was identified in the previous report and another £200k is now forecast giving a total of £578k.
	-441	-798	-357	

AMOUNTS COLLECTED AND DEBTS WRITTEN OFF

Collected

The total amount of payments received, less customer refunds and transfers to other debts:

	April to December 2007	January to March 2008	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Type of Debt			
Council Tax	61,230	8,915	70,145
NNDR	43,429	5,511	48,940
Sundry Debtors	4,591	1,932	6,523
Excess Charges	120	36	156

Amounts written off

Whilst the amounts below have been written-off in this financial year, much of the original debt would have been raised in previous financial years.

	Up to £4k			Over £4k			TOTAL
	April to December 2007	January to March 2008	Total	April to December 2007	January to March 2008	Total	Total
Type of Debt	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Council Tax	112.2	62.1	174.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	174.3
NNDR	40.2	4.4	44.6	86.8	13.7	100.5	145.1
Sundry Debtors	37.7	19.3	57.0	14.5	0.0	14.5	71.5
Excess Charges	4.2	13.9	18.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.1

Authority to write off debts

The Head of Customer Services is authorised to write-off debts of up to £4,000, or more after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finance, if she is satisfied that the debts are irrecoverable or cannot be recovered without incurring disproportionate costs. The Head of Financial Services deputises in her absence.

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CABINET

24 APRIL 2008

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 2007/08 (Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report highlights the variations from the Capital Programme approved in February 2007 including any member or officer decisions already taken in accordance with the Code of Financial Management.

2. MONITORING INFORMATION

2.1 The Budget approved in February 2007 and subsequent adjustments are shown below, together with the forecast variations:-

Capital Variations	2007/08 Capital Expenditure		
	Gross Budget	External Contributions	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Approved Budget (February 2007)	20,202	4,924	15,278
Deferrals from 2006/07 (in excess of the £1.5m provision included in the MTP)	1,911	1,074	837
	22,113	5,998	16,115
Cost Variations (Annex A)			
Reported previously	-1,392	-61	-1,331
Further Variations (see para 2.3)	215	66	159
	-1,177	5	-1,182
Timing Changes (Annex B)			
Reported previously	-3,750	-1,850	-1,900
Further Changes (see para 2.4)	626	-510	1,136
	-3,124	-2,360	-764
Capital from Revenue			
Reported previously	213	0	213
Further Changes (see para 2.5)	313	0	313
	526	0	526
Current Forecast	18,338	3,643	14,695

2.3 None of the current variations to scheme cost require approval as they are simply reducing savings that had been forecast earlier in the year.

2.4 The timing changes, now identified, include bringing forward £2.4m relating to the replacement Headquarters building. This follows a detailed review of the value of all building work expected to be completed by the end of March, rather than just the cash paid before the end of the year, so that the figures comply with the appropriate accounting standards. It also reflects a deferral of the expected income for the sale, or transfer, of the Alms Close and Caxton Road depot sites until 2008/09. The forecast cost of this scheme is regularly reviewed and will be updated for the next report once further information is available on potential land values.

- 2.5 The following table identifies some specific items that were originally budgeted for as revenue but can legitimately be charged to capital. This is advantageous as it increases the Council's financial flexibility. The net impact is to reduce capital reserves but increase revenue reserves by £313k.

Revenue/Capital Transfers	Gross Budget	External Contributions	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Revenue to Capital			
St Neots Leisure Centre – Pool Roof Refurbishment	95	0	95
Flexible Working	32	0	32
ICT for New Accommodation	37	0	37
Commutation adjustment – Higher Government approval	72	0	72
Staff time recharge	77	0	77
Extra Capital Provision Required	313	0	313

- 2.6 Despite this report being based on mid-March figures there are still likely to be further adjustments before the outturn is finalised.

3. REVENUE IMPLICATIONS 2007/08

- 3.1 The impact of the variations to the original budget approved in February 2007 is to reduce the net revenue expenditure by £633k in 2007/08 with further reductions in future years, as shown below.

Revenue Impact	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost Variations	-30	-59	-59	-59
Timing Changes 2006/07 to 2007/08	-21			
Timing Changes 2007/08 to 2008/09	-69	-19		
Revenue/Capital Transfers	-513	26	26	26
TOTAL FORECAST VARIATION	-633	-52	-33	-33

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet note the variations contained in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Capital programme and monitoring working papers.
Previous Cabinet reports on capital expenditure.

Contact Officer – Steve Couper ☎ 01480 388103

ANNEX A

Cost Variations	2007/08 Capital Expenditure		
	Gross Budget	External Contributions	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000
Disabled Facilities Grants - Saving	-253	113	-366
Repairs Assistance Grants - Saving	-76	0	-76
Social Housing Grant – Interest earned on Section 106 contribution	0	60	-60
Non-reclaimable VAT - Saving	-411	0	-411
Mobile Home Park – Remediation – Saving offset by reduced Grant	-458	-458	0
Tourist Information Kiosk, St Neots – Contribution from St Neots Town Centre Partnership – approval of £13k revenue contribution pending.	35	22	13
Automated Forms Processing (Benefits) – Project not now proceeding	-223	-166	-57
Housing Benefits Mobile Working - Saving	-16	40	-56
Ramsey Rural Renewal – Contribution from the East of England Development Agency	8	8	0
Creative Enterprise Centre, St Neots – Further Contributions from EEDA and the Government and virement from Disabled Facilities Grants (in previous report)	691	600	91
Transportation Projects contributions included in the Programme are now expected to be transferred to the County Council – Local Transport Plan, Cycle Shelters and Safe Cycle Routes	-243	-243	0
Sewage Treatment Repair Works at Herne Road and Wood Walton to be taken on by Luminus	-70	0	-70
Network and ICT Services – Capital monies no longer required	-108	0	-108
Business Systems – Saving	-23	0	-23
County Council agreed contribution to Leisure Centre projects	0	29	-29
Huntingdon Leisure Centre – Energy Saving increased cost	19	0	19
Pathfinder House and One Stop Shop – Identified savings	-49	0	-49
Other Forecast Minor Variations	0	0	0
	-1,177	5	-1,182

New item this time
Adjusted value this time

ANNEX B

Timing changes	2007/08 Capital Expenditure		
	Gross Budget	External Contributions	Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000
New Public Conveniences	-236	0	-236
Mobile Home Park	0	-165	165
St Ives Town Centre Environmental Improvement – Ph 2	20	0	20
Huntingdon Town Centre Environmental Imp – Ph 2	-20	0	-20
Social Housing Grant	-1,048	0	-1,048
Crime and Disorder Lighting	-23	0	-23
Ramsey Community Information Centre - Refurbishment	-11	0	-11
Leisure Centres Future Maintenance	-1,038	0	-1,038
St Neots Leisure Centre – Bar/Kitchen/Creche Extension	-10	0	-10
St Ivo Leisure Centre – Rifle Range	-513	0	-513
St Ivo Leisure Centre – Sect 106 – Football Improvements	35	0	35
Huntingdon Leisure Centre – Impressions Expansion	-1,003	0	-1,003
Huntingdon Leisure Centre – Energy Saving	-90	0	-90
Sawtry Leisure Centre – Fitness Ext etc	-36	0	-36
Leisure Centre – CCTV Improvements	-35	0	-35
Community Facilities Grants	26	0	26
Pathfinder House Improvements and One Stop Shop	2,376	-345	2,721
Postal Dispatch Arrangements	-131	0	-131
Multi-Functional Devices	-18	0	-18
Corporate EDM	-231	0	-231
Customer First	-270	0	-270
Business Systems	-140	0	-140
Voice and Data Infrastructure	-88	0	-88
Vehicles and Plant	-17	0	-17
Town Centre Developments	-61	0	-61
Ramsey Rural Renewal	-36	0	-36
New Industrial Units	-274	0	-274
Huntingdon Marina Improvements	-50	0	-50
Huntingdon Town Centre Developments	-162	0	-162
Heart Of Oxmoor	0	-1,850	1,850
Huntingdon Bus Station	-66	0	-66
Bus Shelter Provision	-67	0	-67
Implement Car Park Strategy	-270	0	-270
Safe Cycle Routes	-100	0	-100
St Neots Pedestrian Bridges	-537	0	-537
Forecast Adjustment to Programme for Deferrals	-4,124	-2,360	-1,764
Less provision for deferral included in MTP	1,000	0	1,000
Adjustment Required	-3,124	-2,360	-764

New item this time
Adjusted value this time

CABINET

24th April 2008

**REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY
SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW
PLANNING FOR GYPSY & TRAVELLER ACCOMODATION
DRAFT POLICY**

(Joint Report by Head of Planning Services and Head of Housing Services)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report is to determine the Council's response to the Draft Policy put forward by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) which sets out the numbers of additional Gypsy and Traveller Pitches to be accommodated by each local planning authority.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government's Circular 01/2006 requires the RSS to identify the total number of pitches needed (but not their location) for each local planning authority area in the light of local Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) and a strategic view of needs across the region. The emerging RSS (due to be adopted in the near future) does not address this matter which is why the single issue policy review is needed.
- 2.2 In coming to a strategic view of needs across the region, EERA commissioned research to reconcile the various Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAAs) which have been or are being prepared at a sub-regional level. The GTAA for the wider Cambridge Sub-Region of May 2006 identified that the need in Huntingdonshire for the period to 2011 is for an additional 15 to 25 pitches. In Huntingdonshire at the time of the survey (2005) there were 20 pitches (with a capacity for 36 caravans) on the County Council owned site at St. Neots, while the average number of unauthorised caravans 2002-2004 was 14 caravans.
- 2.3 The Council will be preparing a Development Plan Document (DPD) for Sites for Gypsies and Travellers and the programme for its production is set out in the Local Development Scheme. The programme reflects the need to ensure that the DPD is consistent with the both the RSS policy and the emerging Core Strategy. Consistent with Government Guidance as set out in Circular 01/2006 regarding this transitional period, this Council has recently granted temporary planning permission for a number of pitches. These are sites which could potentially be options for allocations in the Development Plan Document (DPD). If they are translated into allocations, which could then be granted permanent planning

permission, they would count towards the additional requirement. Any permanent permission for pitches granted ahead of the DPD would also count towards this requirement.

- 2.4 EERA consulted on “Issues and Options” in May 2007 which showed two options for the distribution for the period to 2011. Option A distributed pitches according to where the need was identified; Option B sought some redistribution by requiring all LPAs to provide at least 15 additional pitches. In both Options, the requirement for Huntingdonshire was 20 pitches. This was consistent with the need for 15-25 additional pitches identified in the Cambridgeshire Sub-Regional Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) of 2006.
- 2.5 Cabinet considered this matter on 19th July 2007 and agreed that the Council’s response should be that needs should be met where they arise.

3 THE DRAFT POLICY

The Number and Distribution of Pitches

- 3.1 EERA submitted the draft policy to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 25th February, with the associated consultation running for 12 weeks until 16th May.
- 3.2 The draft policy requires at least 1,187 net additional permanent residential pitches to be provided over the period 2006 to 2011. This would see the number of authorised pitches in the Region rise from 1836 (2006) to 3023 (2011). For Huntingdonshire the figures would be the existing 20 pitches as at 2006 rising to 40 pitches by 2011 i.e. an increase of 20 pitches.
- 3.3 In terms of the requirement for Huntingdonshire of 20 additional pitches, the draft policy is consistent with the level of need identified in the GTAA and is thus also consistent with the Council’s previous representation that our local need should be met where it arises. However, Members should be aware that the policy is based on the principle of redistribution across the Region based on Option B as set out in paragraph 2.4 above, requiring all Local Planning Authorities to provide at least 15 pitches as some councils, unlike Huntingdonshire, have made no provision.
- 3.4 It is considered that the response from this Council should be to support the draft policy as it affects Huntingdonshire on the basis that it is consistent with the need identified in a very thorough assessment of local needs and is therefore consistent with the evidence base. However, as the redistribution suggested by the draft policy would see a requirement for provision in some areas where need has not been identified it may well be challenged by those local authorities who wish to continue to make no or inadequate provision and they may seek to amend the draft policy to alter the distribution – and that could therefore impact on Huntingdonshire’s potential requirement. It is important therefore that this Council’s response indicates that it would oppose such a change in approach.

Provision beyond 2011

- 3.5 The Gypsy and Travellers Sites DPD for Huntingdonshire will cover the period to 2021 which is consistent with Government Guidance. However, the RSS Draft Policy only gives specific guidance to 2011 as GTAA's have difficulty in identifying need over a longer term. For the longer period, based on general research, the Draft Policy proposes that provision should be made on the basis of an annual 3% increase on the overall planned provision in 2011, with each district continuing to have the same proportion of additional provision as they were required to have between 2006 and 2011. For Huntingdonshire this would translate into a further 18 pitches being required for the period 2011 – 21 with the total additional pitches therefore being 38 pitches for the period 2006 – 2021.
- 3.6 Until there is a further GTAA undertaken for the Cambridgeshire area, there is little evidence to warrant challenging this assumption as it takes into account projected changes in household size, birth rates etc within the Gypsy and Traveller communities. However, the Policy should contain clear reasoning, which is currently lacking, as to why a 3% compound annual rate of increase is proposed.

Transit provision and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.7 The draft policy states that the figures included in the policy do not include any provision for transit sites or the needs of Travelling Showpeople. It simply states that this is the subject of "ongoing research". It would be helpful if it were to indicate that this is to be the subject of a future review of the policy.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the following representations be made on the Draft Policy:
1. The Council supports the draft policy as it affects Huntingdonshire on the basis that it is consistent with the local need identified in a very thorough assessment of need and is therefore consistent with the evidence base.
 2. The Council notes that the distribution across the Region requires all local authorities to provide at least some pitches including in areas where previously no or little provision has been made. The Council reserves its position should some local authorities seek to challenge this equality of provision by any alternative redistribution which would see unjustified increase in provision within its area.
 3. The Policy should contain clear reasoning as to why a 3% compound annual rate of increase is proposed.
 4. The Policy should include an indication that a future review of the Policy will need to take into account the need for transit sites and the needs of Travelling Showpeople.

Background Papers:

Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation in the East of England: Issues & Options Consultation Document; *East of England Regional Assembly, May 2007.*

Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites, Circular 1/2006, ODPM February 2006.

Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment; Anglia Ruskin University/Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, May 2006.

Agenda & Minutes Huntingdonshire District Council Cabinet 19th July 2007.

Draft Policy RSS Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy & Traveller accommodation in the East of England EERA February 2008.

CONTACT OFFICER - enquiries about this report to Richard Probyn (Planning Policy Manager), on 01480 388430 or Steve Plant (Head of Housing Services) on 01480 388240.

**REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY – PLANNING FOR GYPSY & TRAVELLER
ACCOMMODATION (DRAFT POLICY)
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel
(Service Support))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 8th April 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) considered a joint report by the Heads of Planning and Housing Services outlining the Council's suggested response to the draft policy by the East of England Regional Assembly on the numbers of gypsy & traveller pitches to be accommodated by each local planning authority as part of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2. THE PANEL'S COMMENTS

- 2.1 Having discussed the report, the Panel endorsed the recommendations as a practical and sensible approach to the draft. However, the Panel does have concerns about the potential for some authorities to object to the proposed allocation because they wish to make no or inadequate provision for gypsies and travellers. Any consequential re-distribution of pitches could adversely impact on Huntingdonshire's current proposed allocation.
- 2.2 The Panel was informed that the preparation of a Development Plan Document (DPD) to determine sites for gypsies and travellers in the District was unlikely to be finalised until some time in 2009 as part of the Local Development Framework. However the Panel was conscious of the potential difficulty in dealing with unauthorised encampments and determining planning applications in the interim and would suggest that the DPD should be developed as soon as practicable within the LDF timescale.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Panel as part of its deliberations on the matter.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) held on 8th April 2008.

Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation - Draft Policy. Joint Report by the Heads of Planning and Housing Services.

Contact Officer: Mrs C Bulman
 **01480 388234**

CABINET

24TH APRIL 2008

PROMOTING BETTER HEALTH IN OLDER PEOPLE THROUGH PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

(Report of the Service Delivery Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Cabinet formally that the Scrutiny Panel's study on Promoting Better Health in Older People Through Physical Activity has been concluded.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It will be recalled that the Cabinet considered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) on this matter on 4th October 2007 (Minute No. 60 refers). As a result the Cabinet requested "clarification of the Council's financial commitment to support a pilot programme of exercise for older people in the sum of £5,400". A table containing details of the financial commitment referred to, which was submitted, is reproduced as an Appendix hereto.

3. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

- 3.1 The appended table shows the predicted costs against income for a fledgling programme of activities for those aged 50+ including facility hire, marketing, training and equipment. It was originally predicted that approximately £5-£6k would be sufficient to deliver a one year programme although some of this would be recouped in income.
- 3.2 In the meantime the Council's Leisure Development Team has successfully acquired grant funding from "Well Being in the East", a National Lottery linked agency, for a post of Older Person's Physical Activity Officer. This is a part time post (15-20 hours a week) for two years. This person's role will be to deliver activities for the 50+ age range both on and off Leisure Centre sites. The grant funding for the post comes with provision for marketing, training and equipment. In addition, the Council's Leisure Development Team has submitted an MTP bid for an additional £5k for both years 08/09 and 09/10 to support the role. This is MTP Bid No. 845 Physical Activity Initiatives for Adults.
- 3.3 The complete MTP together with the Budget and Financial Plan was considered by the full Council on 20th February 2008 and the bid was approved. It is suggested that in taking a decision on the MTP the need to provide the information the Cabinet requested has been removed and that the original recommendation made by the Panel regarding a pilot programme of exercise for older people has been supported.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 In the circumstances the Panel has requested that the Cabinet is formally informed of these developments and that, as a result, the study on Promoting Better Health in Older People Through Physical Activity has been concluded.

Contact Officer: Mr A Roberts (01480) 388004

Background Documents – Reports of meetings of the Older Persons Working Group, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery), the Cabinet and the Council.

APPENDIX

Older Persons Working Group

Breakdown of *annual* costs incurred by Leisure Centres to support the “Out and About” pilot project.

	Quantity	Approx Cost	Notes
Leaflet Production	10,000 glossy	£400 (£800 if twice)	Once or twice a year specific to 50+ activities. Based on Leisure Centres but incorporating any other agency wishing to advertise
Leaflet Distribution	5,000	£1,000 (£2,000 if twice) (5,000 x 2 nd class)	Requires data base sharing and access to addresses of those of target age. Various means to distribute but posting might be the best option. Again, once or twice a year.
Instructors	2 per week	£2,370 (£20 per hr x 50 weeks)	£20 (Level 3) plus on costs @ 18%. Based on one instructor per class at two centres per week.
Facility Hire	2 hrs per week	No charge	Leisure Centres at St Ivo and Huntingdon will offer one hour free per week whilst instructor costs are underwritten by Out and About
Equipment	2 sets	£400	Exercise bands and stability discs – Centres do not currently possess
Training	4 courses per annum	£300 £900	2 x Chair Aerobics (2 x £150) 2 x Old Peoples YMCA (2 x £450)
Training attendance	14 days (2x2 day chair course, 2x5 day YMCA course))	£800	Cost based on existing hourly Fitness instructor (gym) rates c £8 per hour (7 hr days)
Total		£5,400	

Income examples					
Pilot classes	Average attendance	Cost per head	Total Income	Total Expenditure	+/-
St Ivo/Huntingdon	10	£2.50	£25	£23	+£2
St Ivo/Huntingdon	4	£2.50	£10	£23	-£13 **
St Ivo/Huntingdon	9	£2.50	£22.5	£23	-£0.5
<p>** Losses incurred on classes during the pilot scheme will be underwritten by “Out and About” Group.</p> <p>Members of the public who are not members of the “Out and About” Club will be able to attend the classes for the same price. These admissions will be included in any payment calculations.</p>					

Subsequent developments for the “Out and About” scheme in relation to the Leisure Centres will be dependent on the successes of the pilot classes. However, irrespective of the longer-term diagnosis and partnership, the Leisure Centres will be producing its own guide to activities for the 50+ age-group and will include references for external agencies within its covers.

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