

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2008** at **11:30 AM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7th November 2008.

**Mrs H J 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 overleaf.

3. BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2009-2014 - DRAFT PROPOSALS (Pages 3 - 28)

To consider a report by the Head of Financial Services.

**S Couper
388103**

4. GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: INITIAL ISSUES AND OPTIONS: PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES CONSULTATION (Pages 29 - 52)

To consider a joint report by the Heads of Planning Services and of Housing Services inviting responses to the consultation document addressing the issues arising from the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD.

**R Probyn
388430**

5. HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION (Pages 53 - 126)

To consider a report by the Head of Housing Services seeking endorsement of the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Strategy.

**S Plant
388240**

6. DECENT HOMES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR (Pages 127 - 130)

To consider a report by the Heads of Housing Services, Environmental Management, and Environmental and Community Health Services on the award of capital grant from the East of England Regional Assembly's Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel.

**S Plant
388203**

7. **GREAT FEN PROJECT GOVERNANCE** (Pages 131 - 134)

To consider a report by the Head of Environmental & Community Services summarising future governance arrangements for the Great Fen Project.

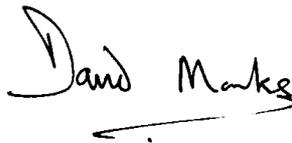
**M Sharp
388301**

8. **FREE SWIMMING** (Pages 135 - 138)

To consider a report by the Leisure Centres' Co-ordinator.

**S Bell
388049**

Dated this 14 day of November 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 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 Friday, 7 November 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

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

83. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6th November 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

84. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

85. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relation to applicants to become employees of the authority.

86. APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL SERVICES

The Chairman reported on the outcome of the Appointments Panel which had interviewed short-listed candidates for the post of Corporate Director of Central Services at a meeting held earlier that day.

Having been acquainted with the requirements of paragraph 4(e) of the Officer Employment Procedure Rules, the Cabinet confirmed that there was no material or well-founded objection to the Panel's proposals with regard to the offer of an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Chairman

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CABINET

20 NOVEMBER 2008

BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2009-2014 DRAFT PROPOSALS

(Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow the Cabinet to review the draft 2009/10 budget, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTP) to 2013/14 and the longer term financial forecast to 2023/24. This report will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny on the 11 November and their comments will be available at the Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2 Once approved by Council in December, these drafts will be used to produce the final budget and MTP for the following 4 years for formal consideration and approval by Council in February.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cabinet will recall the Financial Strategy Report that they considered at their 4 September meeting which highlighted a number of unavoidable additional costs mainly flowing from the current economic problems both nationally and globally.
- 2.2 Since the production of the Financial Strategy, Heads of Service have reviewed their current budgets, existing MTP schemes and plans for the coming 5 years. This has resulted in a number of proposals to reduce, rephase and increase revenue and capital expenditure. These have been reviewed by the Chief Officers' Management Team and been included in this report together with any necessary technical adjustments.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 The key points in this paper are:

- Capital Reserves will run out next year and the Council will have to start borrowing which will raise the cost of capital projects.
- Revenue Reserves will run out in 2013/14 thus removing any remaining flexibility in achieving spending adjustments.
- Significant additional spending has had to be included in 2009/10 to cope with the unavoidable impacts of the economic situation.
- Savings have been identified to fund a significant portion of these extra costs.
- There are increased risks within the plan and these need to be considered in the context of Prudential Borrowing.
- Council Tax rises will continue to be limited to 4.99%

3.2 The following table summarises the Council's financial position over the MTP period:

DRAFT FINANCIAL SUMMARY	FORECAST	BUDGET	MTP			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
NET REVENUE SPENDING	20,206	23,195	24,943	25,365	25,234	24,294
Use of revenue reserves	-1,409	-3,596	-4,631	-4,063	-2,902	-1,145
Remaining revenue reserves EOY	19,337	15,741	11,110	7,047	4,145	3,000
Council Tax increase %	4.99%	4.99%	4.99%	4.99%	4.99%	4.99%
Total Spending Adjustments as yet unidentified		0	-500	-1,500	-3,142	-5,435
Forecast Capital Spending	15,049	17,773	5,127	4,826	6,629	6,232
Remaining capital reserves EOY	1,574	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulated Borrowing EOY	0	15,099	19,326	23,451	29,380	34,912
Borrowing Costs	0	653	1,475	1,804	2,199	2,633
Interest received	-2,431	-1,164	-973	-774	-512	-366

A fuller summary including the corresponding figures for the whole Forecast Period is shown in **Annex A** whilst **Annex B** shows the draft MTP with the new proposed variations consolidated with those approved in February.

Further summaries and the new appraisal forms are available on the Council's website and via a link on the Member's section of the intranet. The final budget report in January will highlight those schemes that will require further approval from COMT or Cabinet before proceeding.

3.3 The Plan is based on two principles. Firstly, that revenue reserves should be used to spread the burden of identifying spending adjustments over a number of years to allow the most service focussed adjustments to be identified. Secondly, that Council Tax rises will be limited to 4.99%.

3.4 The total increase in spending between the 2008/09 budget and the 2009/10 draft budget of £2,775k (13.6%) is shown in the table below:

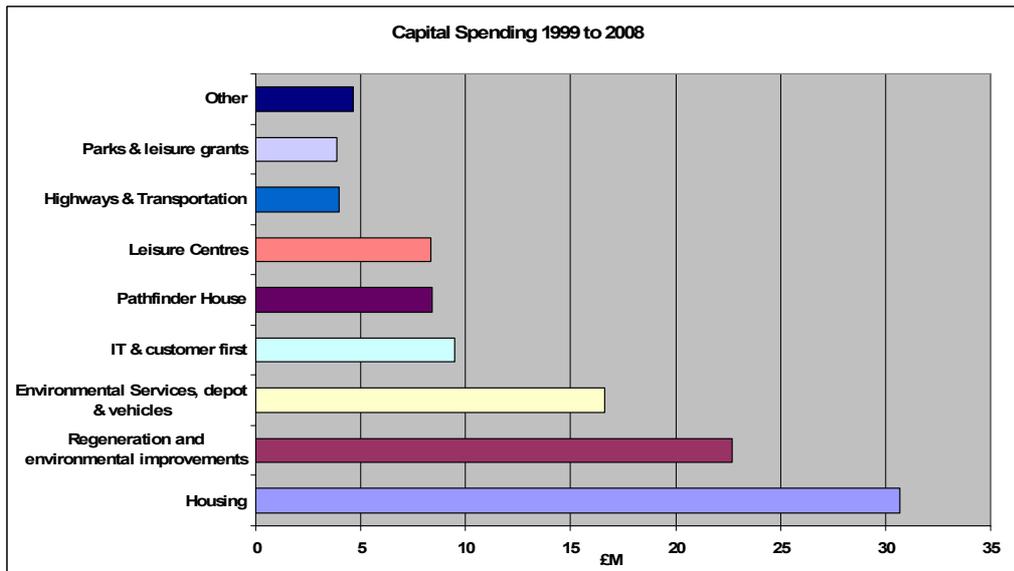
DRAFT SPENDING TOTAL	DRAFT BUDGET	
	2009/10	
	£000	£000
2008/09 Approved Budget		20,420
Proposed Variations		
Technical Items		
Inflation	1,333	
Reduced Interest	998	
Cost of borrowing	653	
VAT	-105	
Deferred schemes	175	3,055
Extra items Proposed (Annex C)		
Lost income	315	
A14 Inquiry	200	
Environmental	85	
Other	226	826
Rephasing		63
Savings		
Already approved (mainly Leisure centres)	-494	
Proposed (Annex D)	-374	-868
Other items		-301
TOTAL VARIATIONS		2,775
DRAFT SPENDING TOTAL 2009/10		23,195
% increase on 2008/09 budget		13.6%

3.5 The table highlights the fact that this major increase in net expenditure is due to inflation, reduced interest due to falling total reserves and the cost of borrowing.

4. The Key Elements

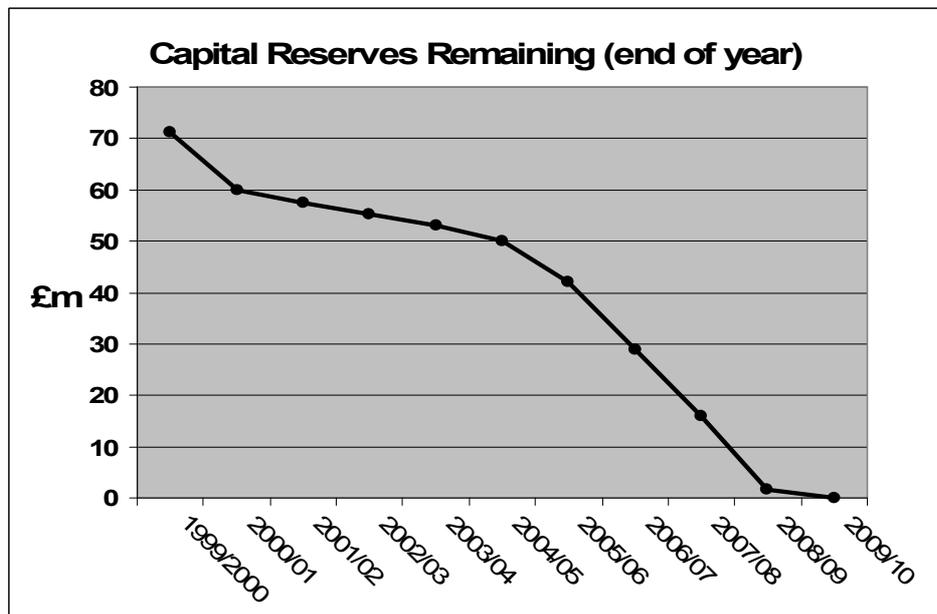
4.1 Capital Reserves

The Council received a large capital receipt when the housing stock was transferred to HHP in 2000 (£48M net) and has also obtained significant grants and contributions (£29M) and proceeds from sales of land and buildings (£35M). The chart below shows how we have spent £109M on capital projects for the benefit of Huntingdonshire residents over the last 9 years.



These projects include some which have given the Council a net revenue benefit, even after the impact of the lost interest is taken into account e.g. new/enlarged fitness studios at Leisure Centres.

- 4.2 The result of this spending is that whilst we still had £16M of capital reserves at March 2008, it is all planned to be spent by early in 2009/10 as shown below:



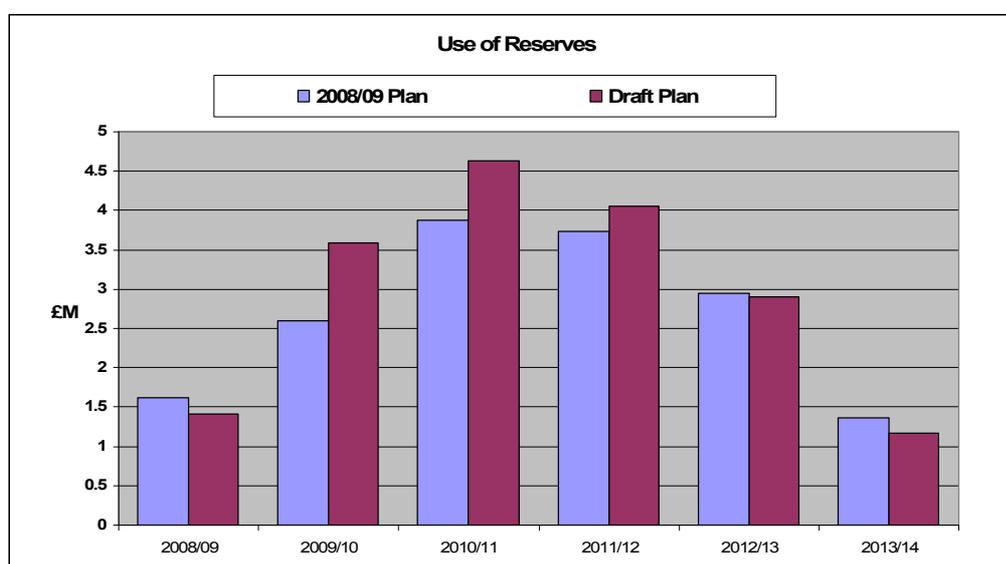
- 4.3 Borrowing to fund capital projects is based on the concept of sharing the cost of the project over the Council Tax payers that will receive the benefit over the life of the asset created. The majority of Councils have been borrowing for decades to fund projects because the alternative of funding them from revenue is generally impossible when programmes fluctuate between years, there are tight constraints on Grant increases and capping exists. Borrowing is more expensive than funding the project from revenue as the lender expects to make a margin over the rate of inflation. Similarly it is more expensive than simply forgoing the

interest on reserves and on average it is forecast that the cost of borrowing will be £88k per year per £1m borrowed.

4.4 The Government does not physically limit Council borrowing but it expects Councils to demonstrate that they will be able to afford to meet the repayments within its financial plans. Whilst this plan includes those repayments, the ability to comfortably repay is dependent on meeting the spending adjustments targets (see later).

4.5 Revenue Reserves

Revenue reserves will be used to ensure that the most appropriate spending adjustments are chosen. The following chart shows the remaining reserves for each year in the approved MTP compared with the proposed profile in this draft MTP. It is considered that reserves should not fall below £3M and indeed should probably climb to £4M later in the forecast period as spending increases.



4.6 Additional spending

Whilst it has been possible to reduce some of the items identified in the September report others have emerged. **Annex C** shows the Extra Cost items.

4.7 Savings

Annex D shows the “No extra cost and savings” items that Heads of Service have successfully identified. In addition to these a number of capital schemes have been deferred (included in Rephasing) and, included in the Technical items are some changes to inflation and an assumption that the VAT moratorium that allows us to recover all our VAT will become permanent.

The inflation changes are:

- Reduction in the provision for fuel costs in the light of the market falling back in recent weeks.
- The revenue inflation provision for 2009/10 has been limited to pay and other unavoidable items such as fuel, electricity, gas, NNDR, land drainage precepts, audit fees, and concessionary fares.

- The capital inflation provision for the whole MTP period has been limited to maintenance and replacement items and statutory Disabled Facilities Grants.

Annex E shows the future profile of Spending Adjustments still to be identified together with a reminder of the previous ones that are not yet guaranteed.

4.8 Risks

There are an increasing number of risks to the successful achievement of the proposed MTP which reflect the tighter financial constraints. The main risks are:

- The impact of services not being able cope with revenue inflation not being included on certain budgets in 2009/10
- The impact on services of only certain capital budgets receiving inflation during the MTP period.
- The potential for the statutory Disabled Facilities Grants budget to be exceeded now that occupational therapists are reducing the backlog.
- The uncertainty in achieving the spending adjustments relating to Additional Grants, Leisure Centre savings and the new small general provision for staffing reductions.
- The possibility that the VAT moratorium will not continue.
- The continued uncertainty on Concessionary Fares together with the question of whether it will, in due course, become a County function and the potential impact of the guided bus on this budget and the car parking budget for St Ives.
- Uncertainties on the economic position and the Government reaction relating to grant and capping levels.
- The potential significant impact of lower equity prices on the employers' pension rate following the next pension revaluation.
- Other potential variances were illustrated in the Forecast report and risk will be considered again in the January report.

4.9 Council Tax Level

The plan is based on Council Tax rises being retained at 4.99% as historically this would have avoided capping and would probably still lead to a below average Council Tax at the end of the forecast period. There will need to be careful consideration of the Government's reaction to the economic position over the coming months before a final decision can be made about the Council Tax level for next year.

5. Other Items

Given that provisional Grant settlements were announced for 2009/10 and 2010/11 last year there may be no confirmation of any final adjustments to the figures until the new year. This is more problematic for Authorities like Huntingdonshire because of the uncertainty as to how much of the grant we are due will be withheld to support other authorities. There are likely to be significant changes in grant levels every three years as changes in the grant formula are being held until that time i.e. 2011/12, 2014/15 et seq. The question of the Area Cost Adjustment will be considered in 2011/12 and any changes are likely to result in a loss.

Concessionary Fares may transfer to Counties at that time and it is unlikely that the changes in grant to reflect this will be a fair reflection of our costs because they are likely to be based on a standard formula.

The Government's attitude to capping in the light of the economic situation will be important. They have a difficult decision as, on the one hand, they could signal capping at lower levels than previously resulting in major service cuts, or, alternatively they can retain similar levels as in the past but be accused of the resulting rises not being affordable.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1** The Council's capital reserves will run out early in 2009/10 and the revenue reserves are planned to be used by 2013/14 to allow a staged identification of the further spending adjustments required.
- 6.2** Spending next year will be higher than previously planned because of a number of unavoidable impacts from higher inflation and the economic situation reducing demand for various services which provide a significant portion of the Council's income.
- 6.3** A significant level of spending adjustments has been achieved to mitigate these extra costs but the net impact is that the additional reserves resulting from the beneficial 2007/08 outturn will need to be used to cover the net impact.
- 6.4** The Council will need to be comfortable with the level of risk inherent in the MTP (including the achievement of the spending adjustments) when it considers its prudential borrowing limits in February.
- 6.5** The Government's attitude to capping in the light of the economic position will be significant and the Council will need to consider any statements carefully before determining the Council Tax in February. The draft plan assumes the continuation of the policy of increases of 4.99%.
- 6.6** The current volatility in the economy means that interest rates and the impact on services will need to be monitored over the coming weeks and may result in amendments being proposed to this draft plan before it is formally adopted in February.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** Cabinet are asked to:
 - Recommend this draft Medium Term Financial Plan to Council as the basis for the production of the 2009/10 budget, the revised MTP for 2010/11 to 20013/14 and the financial plan to 2023/24.

Annexs

- A Financial Summary
- B Draft MTP
- C Extra cost items
- D “No extra cost and savings” items
- E Spending Adjustments

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT 1985

Source Documents:

1. Working papers in Financial Services
2. 2008/09 Revenue Budget and the 2009/13 MTP
3. Financial Strategy Report

Contact Officer:

Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services ☎ 01480 388103

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000
	Joint Leisure Centres																		
806	Additional Holiday Pay		36	36	36	36	36												
718	Additional Holiday Pay	31	31	31	31	31	31												
	Exercise Referral Officer (net nil)																		
	Savings Target	-160	-750	-900	-900	-900	-900												
	Savings adjustment to balance MTP variations	-35	7	2	15	23	49												
	Community Facilities																		
803	Community Facilities Grants	46	60	60	60	60	60	89	105	69	69	69	69						
	Community Safety																		
670	Emergency Planning Contribution	24	24	24	24	24	24												
814	Crime and Disorder - Lighting improvements							47	23	24	23	24	25						
818	CCTV - Camera replacements	-8	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	117	81	81	81	81	75						
384	CCTV Extension of coverage							53											
815	Huntingdon Skateboard Park	1						20						60					
	Housing Services																		
702	Mobile Home Park, Eynesbury								-168						168				
	Private Housing Support																		
717	Disabled Facilities Grants							999	800	800	800	800	800	448	335	335	335	422	422
70	Housing Needs Survey	5	5	5															
837	Repairs Assistance							150	200	200	200	200							
730	Housing Need Study				55														
809	Decent homes - Insulation Works													18	180	86			
	Decent Homes - Insulation Grants														94	73			
811	Social Housing Grant							1,048	991	1,547	1,547	1,547	1,075	1,034	350				

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Homelessness																		
443	Common Housing Register/ Choice Based Lettings	5	5	5	5	5	5	7											
	Priority Needs Scheme (end of saving)				42	42	42												
	Housing Benefits																		
626	Wireless Working (Benefits and Revenues)							72											
668	Automated Forms Processing in Benefits (deletion)																		
812	Local Housing Allowance	23																	
813	Reduction in Benefits Admin Grant	45	91	136	182	228	228												
	Reduction in benefits cost net of grant	-80	-95	-95	-95	-95	-95												
	Transportation Strategy																		
816	Local Transport Plan							122	93	83	91	91	90						
817	Safe Cycle Routes							374	93	93	93	93	95						
250/B	St Neots Transport Strategy																		
	St Neots Transport Strategy Phase 2								90	90	90	90							
472	Accessibility Improvement /Signs in footpaths and car parks							63	35	35	35	35	35						
351	St Neots Pedestrian Bridges								537										
361	Huntingdon Transport Strategy							75	80	80									
362	St Ives Transport Strategy							140	82										
363	Ramsey Transport Strategy								45	45	45								
	A14 Inquiry	50	200																
	Public Transport																		
818	Railway Stations - Improvements								29	26									
819	Bus Shelters - extra provision	15	18	25	28	28	28	105	41	41	41	42	42						
625	Huntingdon Bus Station							50	900	-150	-150					150	150		

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Highways Services																		
844	Street naming and numbering	15	10	5	5														
	Car Parks																		
166	St Neots - Cambridge Road Car Park		4	4	4	4	4		89										
461	Car Park Repairs							56											
480	Implementation of car park strategy	-348	-581	-582	-582	-582	-582	385				512	1,333						
673	Riverside Car Par St Neots - Barriers	1	1	1	1	1	1												
	Environmental Improvements																		
49	Huntingdon Town Centre 2 - High St etc	2	2	2	2	2	2	12											
51	Ramsey Great Whyte Phase 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0										
52	St Ives Town Centre 2 - Completion							32	425	642									
820	Small Scale - District Wide Partnership							76	79	79	79	79	80	10	10	10	10	10	10
821	AJC Small scale improvements							84	86	86	86	86	90						
822	Village Residential Areas							55		57	57	60	60				10	10	
703	Heart of Oxmoor	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-1,383	-300					1,550	300				
489	St Neots and Eynesbury							102											
823	Environment Strategy Funding	50	55	55	55	55		50	50	50	55	55							
	Sustainable Homes Retrofit		15	15				530	120		-550								
	Climate Change Adaptation Study		15																
	Energy and Water Efficiency		25																
	Decentralised and Renewable Energy - District Appraisal		25																

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000	2008/ 2009 £000	2009/ 2010 £000	2010 2011 £000	2011 2012 £000	2012 2013 £000	2013 2014 £000
Bid No.	Scheme																		
	Administrative Services																		
676	Taxi Survey		20																
824	Land Charges - Extra net cost	213	260	211	162	162	162												
	Standards Investigations	5	10	10	10	10	10												
	Licensing Income	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20	-20												
	Electoral Reviews	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5	-5												
	Corporate Management																		
	Pensions Increase savings				-18	-18	-18												
	Democratic Representation																		
675	District Council Elections - All out	-10	-67	0	50	-80	-80												
825	Members Allowances Review			5															
676	Electoral Administration Act	8	8	16	8	8	8												
	Additional Cabinet Member (approved by Cabinet)	9	9	9	9	9	9												
	Operations Division																		
731	Vehicle fleet replacements.	-224	-224	-224	-224	-224	-224	299	654	218	768	1,249	857						
738	Driver Operating Scheme		10	10	10	10	10												
840	Transport Legislation - Drivers Hours	14	11	11	11	11	11												
	St Ives TC Grounds Maintenance	4	4	4	4	4	4												
	Markets income - Reduction	25	25	25	25	25	25												
	Bin storage transferred to EFH		-25	-25	-25	-25	-25												
	Offices																		
300A	Eastfield House	3	-1	3	3	3	3	85											
300B	Headquarters	-101	-136	55	140	140	140	6,419	5,002	-740	-248								

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	IT related																		
494	Voice and data infrastructure	35	60	60	60	60	60	242	13										
	VOIP Data Switches	-90						90											
495	Corporate EDM	10	10	10	10	10	10	128	132										
600	Network and ICT Services	167	207	176	170	170	170												
828	Business Systems	41	41	41	58	58	58	137	184	184	167	167	157						
634	Customer First	702	702	702	702	702	702	102	73										
733	Flexible and Mobile Working Systems	51	51	51	51	51	51	35											
841	Building Control - Public Access System	6	6	6	6	6	6	15	15	15									
842	Resourcelink - Recruitment Module							12											
830	ICT for new accommodation	8	47	47	47	47	47	406											
843	Business Continuity (Application Servers)	30	30	30	30	30	30												
736	Corporate ICT Systems Officer	33	33	33	33	33	33												
829	Business Transformation	43	43	43	43	43	43												
	Server Virtualisation and Network Storage		-33	-33	-33	-33	-33		215										
	Working Smarter							191	174	109									
	Government Connect				22	22	22		35										
	VoIP Telephony for Leisure Centres		8	8	8	8	8		70										
	VOIP Virtualisation		-52	-52	-52	-52	-52												
	Public access to internet	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6												
	Web advertising income		-30	-30	-30	-30	-30												
	Other																		
835	Additional Training Provision	20	20	20	20	20	20												
836	New Post of HR adviser	30	30	30	30	30	30												
831	Technical Services Restructuring	17	18	19	-23	-62	-62												
380/B	Replacement Printing Equip.								315										
832	Replacement Equipment Document Centre							35	26	29	29	36	161						

DRAFT MTP		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Other																		
834	Multi-functional Devices	-4	-18	-18	-18	-18	-18	68	33	16	67	33	17						
450	Photocopier Replacement	1	1	1	1	1	1												
455	Replacement Colour Plotter			8															
457	Replacement Plan Printer	-4						20											
713	Postal Dispatch Arrangements	13	13	13	13	13	13	131											
	Financial Services savings		-10	-10	-10	-10	-10												
	Roundings	1	-5		-3	-5	-1												
	Technical																		
	Capital Inflation									55	132	218	262						
20	Revenue staff charged to capital	-154	-100	-50				154	100	50									
	Provision for capital deferrals (net)							-700				200							
	Commutation Adjustment	-102	-18					102	18	0	0								
	Cost of borrowing		653	1,475	1,803	2,199	2,632												
	Interest	-2,431	-1,164	-974	-774	-513	-366												
	Revenue Inflation	6,424	7,649	9,521	10,464	11,577	12,474												
	Temporay Spending adjustments (Contingency)		22	28	28	28	28												
	Temporary Spending adjustments (Recharges)		74	64	67	67	67												
	Temporay Spending Adjustments still to be identified			-500	-1,500	-3,141	-5,435												
	Schemes brought Forward (net)	35																	
	Need to accrue untaken leave in accounts			150															
	VAT Partial Exemption	-105	-105	-105	-105	-105	-105												
	Provision for staff savings		-25	-50	-50	-50	-50												
	Forecast Outturn adjustment	-391																	
	REVISED TOTAL	20,206	23,195	24,943	25,365	25,234	24,294	15,049	17,773	5,127	4,826	6,629	6,232	5,203	5,274	3,564	685	563	563

ANNEX C

EXTRA COST		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Planning Policy and Conservation																		
	Planning Fees - reduced income	75	50																
	Economic Development																		
239	New Industrial Units	15	30	-7	-35	-35	-35	-196	935						285				
657	Creative Industries Centre, St Neots	5	15	16	17	17	-13	176						562					
	Huntingdon West Development (Housing Growth Fund)													700	2,200	2,800			
	Empty Property Rates on Council Units	30	30	30	30	30	30												
	Corporate Commercial Property Advice	15	15	15															
	Huntingdon Town Hall	10	10	10															
	Parks and Open Spaces																		
21	Play Equipment & Safety Surface Renewal												67						
	St Neots Green Corridor (Housing Growth Fund)													95					
	Joint Leisure Centres																		
	Sawtry Car Park							-12	52										
	St Neots LC Development	1	-5	-47	-47	-47	-47	-11	528										
	Huntingdon LC Development	154	37	35	29	28	-21	1,191	-162				250						
	Huntingdon LC Car Park Extension								85										
	Huntingdon LC Reception Modernisation								50										
	Future maintenance											-121	392					121	121
	Exercise Referral Officer (net nil)																		
	Community Facilities																		
803	Community Facilities Grants	46	60	60	60	60		-46	-60	-60	-60	-60							
	Community Facilities Grants						60						69						

EXTRA COST		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Community Safety																		
	Crime and Disorder - Lighting improvements																		
	CCTV - Camera replacements									-5	81	81	81	75					
	Private Housing Support																		
	Disabled Facilities Grants													778					422
	Repairs Assistance													200					
	Decent Homes - Insulation Grants														94	73			
	Social Housing Grant												1,075						
	Homelessness																		
666	Invest to Save Scheme - Deleted	5	7	7	7	7	7												
	Transportation Strategy																		
	Local Transport Plan																		90
	Safe Cycle Routes																		95
	St Neots Transport Strategy Phase 2									90	90	90	90						
	Accessibility Improvement /Signs in footpaths and car parks									35	35	35	35	35					
	Huntingdon Transport Strategy (Phase 2)									80	80								
	A14 Inquiry	50	200																
	Public Transport																		
	Bus Shelters - extra provision												42	42					
625	Huntingdon Bus Station							-268	743	-150	-150				-150	-150	150	150	

EXTRA COST		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Offices																		
300A	Eastfield House							-133											
300B	Headquarters							-56	419	-1,547	-10								
	IT related																		
	Business Systems												157						
	Government Connect				22	22	22		35										
	Leisure Centre and other satellite offices VOIP		8	8	8	8	8		70										
	Other																		
	Replacement Equipment Document Centre											36	27						
	Multi-functional Devices Replacement												17						
24		638	826	328	469	348	271	1,025	3,065	-1,421	-509	218	4,481	1,207	2,335	3,044	223	131	563

No extra cost and savings items		REVENUE						NET CAPITAL						GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS					
		2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014
Bid No.	Scheme	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Operations Division																		
	Bin storage transferred to EFH		-25	-25	-25	-25	-25												
	IT related																		
	Server Virtualisation and Network Storage		-33	-33	-33	-33	-33		215										
	VOIP Virtualisation		-52	-52	-52	-52	-52												
	Public access to internet	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6												
	Web advertising income		-30	-30	-30	-30	-30												
	Other																		
	Financial Services savings		-10	-10	-10	-10	-10												
	Technical																		
	Provision for staff savings		-25	-50	-50	-50	-50												
		-121	-374	-415	-420	-415	-415	-270	399	-149	-149	22	22	613	1,000	0	0	0	0

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CABINET

20th NOVEMBER 2008

**GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT:
INITIAL ISSUES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES**

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

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To agree the consultation document addressing the issues arising for the preparation of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Local Development Scheme 2007 proposes a DPD to allocate sites for Gypsies and Travellers.
- 2.2 A Steering Group has been set up to oversee the DPD's preparation. It includes representatives from Planning Services (Planning Policy, Development Control and Enforcement), Environmental Health, Housing Services, the County Council and Luminus and can also take advice from other organisations such as Go-East and the Police. The Executive Member for Planning Strategy and Transport is informed of the matters considered by the Steering Group.
- 2.3 The DPD will need to conform to the policy in the East of England Plan. The Examination into the draft policy took place in the week beginning 20th October 2008. Cabinet agreed the Council's response to the draft policy at its meeting on 24th April 2007. The Council has submitted additional written statements and has participated in the Examination to safeguard Huntingdonshire's interests.
- 2.4 The Draft RSS policy requires Huntingdonshire to provide an additional 20 pitches by 2011, and using the suggested growth rate of 3% pa, it would mean a further 18 pitches for the period 2012 - 2021. The inspector's report followed by the Secretary of State's proposed changes is expected in 2009.

3 THE ISSUES REPORT

- 3.1 This consultation document is the first public step in discussing the issues which arise and seeking views on them which will help to guide the preparation for the DPD. It is proposed to publish the document in January 2009 for a six week period. A copy of the Issues Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The results of the consultation will inform the next stage which will be to identify the various site options which could be allocated to make provision for the additional pitches required. It is envisaged that the document with site options would be the subject of further consultation in the summer of 2009. The Council would then need to assess the results of that consultation in order to come to a view as to which sites are the most suitable to be allocated in the DPD. The Council will then need to agree a draft plan will be subject to participation ahead of being submitted in mid 2010 to the Secretary of State for Examination.
- 3.3 The Issues report is in two parts – ‘Background’ about the various framework documents and assessments which are being used to inform the policies; and ‘The Issues’ which lists the issues and asks questions.
- 3.4 A vision and objectives are drafted for comment to make it clear what the aims of the DPD are (Issues 1 and 2). These will also help in the testing required for sustainability appraisal and for monitoring.
- 3.5 The criteria for the location of Gypsy and Traveller sites as set out in the Core Strategy are listed, together with questions about whether there is a need to add further criteria or identify particular geographical areas as having more need than others (Issue 3).
- 3.6 The proposed timeframe of up to 2021 is noted at Issue 4 with questions about whether this is the appropriate date and whether criteria can be used for part of the period rather than identifying sites for the full period.
- 3.7 The size of site, both in terms of numbers of pitches and the size of each pitch, is discussed at Issue 5.
- 3.8 Officers are undertaking analysis of public land and other land that is currently used by gypsies and travellers for the next ‘Site Options’ document. Issue 6 asks whether consultees know of any other land that should be considered.
- 3.9 Issue 7 asks about who might own gypsy and traveller sites in order that they be brought forward according to the timeframes in RSS.
- 3.10 Site specifics are thought to be largely covered in the recently released government Good Practice Guide. Issue 8 asks about these specific design issues.
- 3.11 The future of the site owned by the County Council and managed by Luminus at St Neots is raised at Issue 9.

- 3.12 The needs of Travelling Showpeople and the need for transit sites and emergency stopping places complete the report (Issues 10, 11 and 12).

4 CONSULTATION STRATEGY

- 4.1 The DPD will be prepared in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement. However, this is a specialised planning document and it will be important to engage effectively with the local Gypsy and Traveller community, including the existing residents of the St Neots site. An initial discussion with the local Gypsy and Traveller community has taken place to ensure that the approach being taken in drafting the Issues consultation document is appropriate.
- 4.2 Discussions have taken place with the Diversity Officer in order to progress a consultation strategy to enable effective participation by all stakeholders.

5 INTERIM SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)

- 5.1 Given the specific nature of the DPD, the Scoping Report which forms the basis of SA may need to be augmented to ensure that is appropriate for the purpose of assessing this particular DPD. Officers are therefore considering an addendum to the Scoping Report which will be pertinent to the assessment of this DPD. This will be subject to consultation with the key environmental bodies, and bodies with a particular interest in Gypsy and Traveller issues.
- 5.2 The Interim SA will need to be published for consultation as a supporting document to the Issues report in January. Cabinet is therefore asked to agree that the Interim SA be finalised by the Head of Planning Services and the Head of Housing Services in conjunction with the Executive Member for Planning Strategy and Transport.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
1. Agree the Issues report for the Gypsy and Traveller sites DPD for the purposes of consultation;
 2. Agree that the Interim SA be finalised by the Head of Planning Services and Head of Housing Services after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport; and
 3. Agree that illustration and any minor additional editing and updating which may be needed prior to publication be agreed by the Head of Planning Services and Head of Housing Services after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ODPM Circular 01/2006 Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Caravan Sites (February 2006)
CLG Circular 04/2007 Planning for Travelling Showpeople (August 2007)
RSS Single Issue Review: Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation in the East of England, Draft Policy (February 2008) and submissions to the Examination into that policy
CLG Designing Gypsy & Traveller Sites – Good Practice Guide (May 2008).
Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment (May 2006)

**Contact Officer: Steve Ingram, Head of Planning Services
(01480 388400)**

APPENDIX 1

Huntingdonshire Gypsy & Traveller Sites Development Plan Document

Initial Issues Consultation Document: Principles and Processes

October 2008

Foreword

Huntingdonshire District Council has a duty to ensure that appropriate accommodation is made available for its Gypsy and Traveller community in accordance with the East of England Regional Plan. It is important that we remember that travelling and living in a caravan is the cultural heritage of that community. Gypsies and Travellers are often more disadvantaged than other ethnic minority groups in opportunities for access to health-care and education.

There are advantages in making adequate provision on sites which are well designed with appropriate facilities. There should be fewer unauthorised encampments and developments, less conflict between the travelling and settled communities and less social exclusion, leading to a greater understanding and respect between communities.

This document is the first in a series of documents which will result in a plan identifying sites to provide residential accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Huntingdonshire. It will be followed by a further consultation document which will set out a number of potential sites which could be identified as possible allocation sites. In turn, this will be followed by a document which sets out the sites which the Council think best meet the identified need in Huntingdonshire.

As this is a Development Plan Document, the Draft Plan will be subject to an Examination by an independent planning inspector before it is finally adopted in 2010.

The District Council wants all stakeholders, from both the settled community and the Gypsy and Traveller community, to take an active part in this process and so your responses at each stage are important.

Councillor Peter Bucknell
Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport

Part 1 Background

1. The Local Development Framework

1.1 The District Council is preparing a number of planning policy local development documents which will make up the Local Development Framework (LDF). Such documents are either Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which form the statutory Development Plan and have been subject to public Examination by an independent Inspector, or Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which although they have been subject to public participation do not need to go through the Examination process.

1.2 As part of this process, the Council is preparing a DPD to provide additional permanent residential sites for Gypsies and Travellers. It is required to be a DPD because it allocates land for development. It will need to be consistent with the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Submission Draft Core Strategy which was submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2008.

1.3 In parallel, the Council is preparing a Planning Proposals DPD which will identify housing sites for the settled population. The documents which the Council proposes to prepare, together with a timetable for preparation, are set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The Council's formal LDS dates from March 2007. This has been informally revised to take account of changes in circumstances, particularly changes in the timetables. The Council has published an update and will revise the LDS formally when new legislation from the Government allows.

2. Government Guidance

2.1 Government policy is set out in Planning Policy Statements (which are replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes), Circulars and other advice such as Ministerial statements. Highly relevant is "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites" ODPM Circular 01/2006, which requires local authorities to allocate sufficient sites for Gypsies and Travellers in site allocation DPDs and sets out a broad set of criteria to be taken into account when allocating sites.

2.2 Specifically the Circular says: 'The number of pitches set out in the RSS must be translated into specific site allocations in one of the local authority's DPDs.'... 'Criteria must not be used as an alternative to site allocations in DPDs where there is an identified need for pitches. Local planning authorities will need to demonstrate that sites are suitable, and that there is a realistic likelihood that specific sites allocated in DPDs will be made available for that purpose. DPDs will need to explain how the land will be made available for a gypsy and traveller site, and timescales for provision.'

2.3 The Circular also sets out a clear definition for Gypsies and Travellers:

“Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family’s or dependants’ educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling show people or circus people travelling together as such.”

3. The Sustainable Community Strategy

3.1 Huntingdonshire’s Draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 (SCS) has been prepared by the District Council and its partners. It is an important base for the Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD.

3.2 The SCS recognises the need to provide accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers as required by the emerging policy in the RSS as part of the objective of providing sufficient housing to meet future needs.

3.3 The SCS also recognises the needs of migrant workers and non settled communities including Gypsies and Travellers as part of the objective of achieving inclusive safe and cohesive communities.

4. The East of England Plan (the Regional Spatial Strategy)

4.1 The East of England Plan (the RSS) was approved in May 2008, but the key policy for Gypsies and Travellers is subject to a single policy review. The East of England Regional Assembly submitted a draft policy to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 25 February 2008, and the consultation period closed in May 2008.

4.2 The draft policy requires at least 1,187 net additional permanent residential pitches to be provided over the period 2006 to 2011. This number of authorised pitches in the Region would consequently rise from 1,836 in 2006 to 3,023 in 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.

4.3 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. Huntingdonshire’s share is to be based on the increase required between 2006-2011, this translating 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.

4.4 The Examination into the draft policy is scheduled for October 2008. The Examination Panel will make recommendations on any changes. The government will then decide and publish any changes for public consultation prior to finalising the review.

5. The Cambridge Sub-Region Local Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

5.1 The Housing Act 2004 requires local housing authorities to carry out a “Gypsy and Traveller Housing Needs Assessment” (GTAA), in line with the duty to carry out a general Housing Market Assessment every three years.

5.2 The housing authorities, with Cambridgeshire County Council, agreed to carry out a joint study across the Cambridge Sub-region - the Cambridgeshire districts plus Forest Heath, King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, and St. Edmundsbury. This allowed a larger survey to be carried out than would otherwise have been possible and provided the opportunity to explore education and health issues.

5.3 The study, which has been cited by Government as an example of best practice, was carried out by Anglia Ruskin University and Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College. It found that between 405 and 535 pitches were needed in the County by 2010, of which between 15 and 25 additional pitches were required in Huntingdonshire.

5.4 In Huntingdonshire at the time of the GTAA survey (2005) there were 20 pitches (with some 36 caravans) on the County Council owned site at St. Neots, while the average number of unauthorised caravans, excluding those on unauthorised roadside encampments, for 2002-2004 was 14 caravans.

6. Strategic Market Housing Assessment

6.1 Sub-regional Strategic Housing Market Assessments (SMHAs) are now required by Government (Planning Policy Statement 3). Their purpose is to set out the evidence of need and demand for market and affordable housing. They will replace local Housing Needs Assessments as they relate to affordable housing and provide evidence as to the likely profile of household types requiring market housing.

6.2 A SMHA was published in April 2008 for the Cambridge Sub-Region which includes the five Cambridgeshire and two of the Suffolk authorities.

6.3 The section dealing with Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation draws strongly on the GTAA prepared for the Cambridge Sub-Region in 2006. As well as reflecting the GTAA’s assessment of need, it draws attention to the survey which found that:

- Types of work have changed in recent years, with a decline in traditional farm work, and increased competition from cheaper immigrant labour, contributing to severe economic disadvantage and social exclusion.
- Family networks and informal reciprocal arrangements are important for encouraging and sustaining economic activity
- Seasonal social security benefits are important income sources, especially for those on council sites.

6.4 Since the survey, the SMHA notes that further research has shown family networks to be influential in accommodation arrangements and preferences. This is the case for both movement on to privately developed sites on purchased land, and for movement between Local Authority sites.

6.5 The SMHA indicates that Local Development Plan Documents will determine the criteria to be used within each district, and work is ongoing to inform this process.

7. Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Appraisal

7.1 The DPD is required to consider how it can help achieve sustainable development. The Government's principles for sustainable development (from 'Securing the Future' 2005) are:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

7.2 A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC, while the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be undertaken to look at the full range of environmental, social and economic impacts. These processes, which are very similar and have been combined, are required for all stages of plan preparation. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has been prepared for the Huntingdonshire Local Development Framework which covers the main economic, social and environmental issues to be considered.

7.3 The European Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an Appropriate Assessment to consider the potential significant impacts of the Plan on natural habitats of European importance. As this consultation document does not identify sites for development at this stage, it is considered that no significant impacts can be identified, but this will need to be reviewed at the next stage when site options are considered.

Part 2

The Issues

1. A Vision for the Future

Issue: What should be our Vision for the future?

1.1 The DPD should consider an overall vision to consider how its proposals will affect the lives of both the Gypsy and Traveller community and those living in our settlements. The following draft Vision has been prepared:

By the end of the Plan period in 2021, Huntingdonshire will provide sufficient well located, sustainable and high quality sites to meet the needs of the local Gypsy and Traveller communities. There will be a reduced incidence of unauthorised encampments and developments and increased respect and understanding between the Gypsy and Traveller community and the settled community leading to greater integration and social inclusion.

Issue 1: Draft Vision

Q1: Do you agree that this is the appropriate Vision to guide the development of a DPD which will identify sites for permanent residential accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers? Or is there a reasonable alternative Vision which has not been put forward?

2. Objectives

Issue: What are the objectives which should guide the preparation of the DPD?

2.1 The following draft objectives have been drawn up to support the Vision and to guide the development of appropriate policies and the identification of sites:

1. *To provide sufficient permanent residential pitches to meet the numbers required by the East of England Plan*
2. *To provide pitches on sites which meet the criteria set out in the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy*
3. *To ensure that the design of all sites is considered against the standards set out in the Government's design guidance (Designing Gypsy & Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide, May 2008.)*
4. *To engender social inclusion and reduce the social exclusion and disadvantage suffered by the Gypsy and Traveller community as an ethnic minority*
5. *To promote greater respect and understanding between the settled and Travelling communities*
6. *To safeguard the local environment, the operations of adjoining activities and the amenity of residents in settled communities*
7. *To reduce the incidence of illegal and unplanned Gypsy and Traveller encampments and development*

Issue 2: Draft Objectives

Q2: Do you agree that these draft objectives are appropriate? Or are there reasonable alternatives which have not been identified?

3. Criteria for Selecting Sites

Issue: What criteria should be used to select and assess sites?

3.1 The Core Strategy which was submitted to the Secretary of State in July 2008 includes a policy on Gypsy and Traveller sites as required by Government guidance. Circular 1/2006 states that:

“The core strategy should set out criteria for the location of gypsy and traveller sites which will be used to guide the allocation of sites in the relevant DPD. These criteria will also be used to meet unexpected demand.”

3.2 The submitted Core Strategy policy states:

Policy CS 6 Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Account will be taken of the need to ensure that Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople are accommodated in sustainable locations where essential services such as water and sewerage are provided and with good access by foot, cycle or public transport to services such as education and health. Account will also be taken of the rural nature of Huntingdonshire where the availability of public transport is limited.

Providing sites in appropriate locations will help prevent the social exclusion of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople and conflict with settled communities. Consideration will be taken of the preference of many Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople for a rural location with a degree of separation from the settled community.

The number of pitches should be appropriate to the size of the site and the availability of infrastructure and services and facilities in accordance with the general principles set out in the settlement hierarchy. The following criteria will guide the provision of sites:

- there would be no significant adverse effect on the amenity of nearby residents or operations of adjoining land uses; the development should not adversely impact on the character of the landscape and appropriate landscaping and boundaries should be provided;***
- adequate schools, shops and other community facilities are within reasonable travelling distance, and can be reached by foot, cycle or public transport;***
- the site is served (or can be served) by an adequate water supply and appropriate means of sewage disposal which meets national standards;***

- ***the health and safety of occupants are not put at risk including through unsafe access to sites, poor air quality and unacceptable noise (as for example close to trunk roads) or unacceptable flood risk so that the quality of the environment is at the same acceptable standard as for the settled community;***
- ***there should be adequate space for operational needs including the parking, turning and servicing of vehicles.***

Issue 3 - Criteria

Q3A: Are the criteria in the Core Strategy sufficient to enable the DPD to assess sites which could be allocated for permanent residential Gypsy and Traveller pitches, or is there a need for an additional level of more detailed criteria in this DPD?

Q3B: If you consider there is a need for more detail, what additional detail do you suggest?

3.3 The East of England Plan and the Huntingdonshire Core Strategy consider the District as a whole and make no reference to the distribution of provision within its boundaries. Comments from the Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA suggest a need for more pitches anywhere in the sub-region. However, there may be a spatial pattern of need in Huntingdonshire. The St Neots site is oversubscribed which may indicate a desire for additional provision in that area. There might also be a greater demand in the east of the District within and close to the tradition of seasonal agricultural work on fenland farms. Where Gypsy and Traveller families currently live in “bricks and mortar” housing but seek to relocate to caravan sites close to their existing networks, there could also be a particular geographical need. Alternatively, the view could be taken that what is needed is more sites and that the opportunities for sites are limited and therefore anywhere in the District should be considered as long as it has a reasonable fit with the criteria.

Q3C: Is it appropriate to consider whether there are particular parts of the District where the need for additional sites is greater than other areas?

4. Numbers and Timing

Issue: How should the DPD approach selecting sites over the whole plan period?

4.1 The LDS proposes that the DPD looks to make provision up to the year 2021. However, the RSS Draft Policy only gives specific guidance to 2011 as GTAA's have difficulty in identifying need over a longer term.

4.2 For the longer period, the RSS 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. It should be noted that a pitch can accommodate more than one caravan to meet the needs of the family; for example, the St. Neots site of 20 pitches currently accommodates some 38 caravans.

4.3 Thus, based on the RSS draft policy, the DPD would need to identify:

Existing pitches 2006	2006 – 2011 (total in brackets)	2011-2016 (total in brackets)	2016 – 2021 (total in brackets)
20	+20 (40)	+8 (48)	+10 (58)

4.4 It should be noted that there is greater uncertainty over need for the periods beyond 2011 as it is not covered by a needs survey. There is little firm evidence to support the assumption in the draft RSS policy of an annual 3% increase which attempts to take into account projected changes in household size, birth rates etc within the Gypsy and Traveller communities.

4.5 Given that there is some uncertainty surrounding the longer-term need, it may be difficult to justify the allocation of sites for the period up to 2021 envisaged. An alternative would be to allocate sites for a shorter timeframe and use a different approach for the longer period.

Issue 4 – Numbers and Timing

Q4A: Should the DPD allocate sites for the period to 2011 only, based on the evidence of the GTAA and consistent with the figure set out in the East of England Plan draft policy - and then give a general indication of how criteria would be applied to bring forward sites in the longer term future?

Or

Q4B: Should the DPD allocate sites fully for the period to 2021 based on the 3% pa increase overall across the Region as set out in the East of England Plan draft policy?

Or

Q4C: Should the DPD allocate sites for a period between 2011 and 2021, such as 2016, where there is some degree of clarity of need, and then follow the approach set out in Q4A for the remainder of the Plan period?

5. Site Size and Pitch Size

Issue: Is there an optimum size for sites and pitches?

5.1 The current provision in Huntingdonshire includes one site, at St Neots, owned by the Cambridgeshire County Council and managed by Luminus for rent (following stock transfer from Huntingdonshire District Council in 2000) which has 20 pitches. Since 2006 some additional provision has been made by way of planning permissions on four sites. These four private family sites near Somersham, Pidley, St Ives and Catworth are of various sizes from 1 to 10 pitches altogether providing for some additional 17 pitches, although all except for one of these is a temporary permission. Details are set out in Appendix 1.

5.2 The Department of Communities and Local Government published a Good Practice Guide for Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites in May 2008. It states at paragraph 1.12 that:

“Local authorities and registered social landlords will need to take decisions on design on a case by case basis, taking into account local circumstances such as the size, geographical and other characteristics of the site or prospective site and the particular needs of the prospective residents and their families.”

5.3 This suggests that the DPD should consider the appropriate size or ranges of sizes of sites which might be appropriate for Huntingdonshire.

5.4 At paragraph 3.7, the Guidance notes that:

“..... small scale sites of three to four pitches.... are known to work well for single extended families.”

5.5 The DPD will need to convert the number of pitches into land allocations and so there has to be an understanding of how much land a pitch will occupy. There is little guidance on this matter, which would vary depending on servicing and whether additional land is required for grazing animals or for business activities. A pitch should be able to accommodate two caravans, and an amenity building and parking and turning space. The exact size of pitches may vary depending upon local circumstances and the applicant’s stated personal needs. On private sites, a large area of land may be bought simply to provide for separation from neighbours.

Q5A: What is the optimum size of site to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in Huntingdonshire?

Q5B: Should there be a maximum size of any new site?

Q5C: What is the appropriate size for pitches?

6. How to identify sites

Issue: What opportunities are there to identify sites?

6.1 Circular 1/2006 at paragraph 35 identifies the various ways in which sites can be identified and be made available:

- “a) Local authorities have discretion to dispose of land for less than best consideration where it will help to secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area, as set out in ODPM Circular 06/03.***
- b) Authorities should also consider making full use of the registers of unused and under-used land owned by public bodies as an aid to identifying suitable locations. Vacant land or under-used local authority land may be appropriate.***
- c) Authorities should also consider whether it might be appropriate to exercise their compulsory purchase powers to acquire an appropriate site.***
- d) Cooperation between neighbouring authorities, possibly involving joint DPDs, can provide more flexibility in identifying sites. Such cooperation is***

particularly important where an authority has strict planning constraints across its area.”

6.2 The District Council has engaged with the County Council and the other Cambridgeshire Districts in the preparation of a study of County Council owned land which could be used to provide sites. The project has been undertaken by consultants and funded by Cambridgeshire Horizons. The project established a set of criteria which has been tested against County Council owned land. Further discussions with the County Council are expected with a view to including some County Council owned land in the site options document in 2009.

6.3 The registers of other publicly owned land may also provide opportunities. The District Council has very limited land holdings and most of them are provided for other uses such as sports pitches, play areas and amenity land, but there may be other opportunities presented by the land holdings of other organisations. Contact has been made with public land owners in order to include land not needed for other uses in this study, so that any suitable land can be included in the site options document.

6.4 The Circular points to the potential use of Compulsory Purchase Orders, but this is generally used only as a last resort, as wherever possible, willing landowners are sought and compulsory purchase is a very lengthy process.

6.5 Suitable sites which are privately owned could also be allocated for gypsy and travellers sites where the landowner has indicated a willingness to release the site for this purpose. One of the aims of the participation process is to identify such opportunities. In some cases the sites may already be owned by members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

Issue 6 How to Identify Sites

Q6A: Are you aware of any land owned by a public body which could be allocated for a Gypsy and Traveller site?

Q6B: Do you agree that Compulsory Purchase Powers should only be used as a last resort in bringing forward sites for Gypsy and Travellers?

Q6C: Are you aware of any privately owned land which might be appropriate to be allocated for a Gypsy and Traveller site?

7. Providers

Issue: what are the best ways of bringing forward the selected sites for development?

7.1 Sites can be allocated in the Plan but it will be important that they are available and can be developed for the required purpose. Sites can be in public or private ownership. If privately owned, the willingness of the site owner to sell is important to ensure that the site does come forward for development in the Plan period rather than being sold or retained in order to achieve an alternative type of development such as housing for the settled community. The Plan will need to make it clear that an allocated

site only has the development potential for the allocated use and that this will be the subject of any planning permission granted.

7.2 The consultation process has an important part to play in ensuring that landowners are aware of the search for sites and are encouraged to consider whether they hold land which could be suitable and which they are willing to release for this purpose.

7.3 In terms of tenure residential sites for Gypsies and Travellers can be:

- Privately owned for owner-occupation by a single or extended family
- Privately owned and managed to be rented by Gypsies and Travellers
- Publicly owned and managed by a Registered Social Landlord.

7.4 Whilst some members of the Gypsy and Traveller community may be able to buy and develop sites, others will be reliant on renting. The District Council might be able to assist this process through the purchase of sites and then selling to individuals or a Registered Social Landlord to develop. Registered Social Landlords can also purchase sites themselves. There is currently an opportunity to bid for Government funds to facilitate this. Funding could be used as a “rolling fund” for the Council to own, lease or sell on.

7.5 Housing developers can contribute to the provision of gypsy and traveller sites. Such provision might occur where there is a particular need in the area and the contribution is needed along with other contributions agreed under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act.

Issue 7 Providers

Q7A: Are you aware of particular advantages or disadvantages for any of the forms of tenure?

Q7B: Is a mix of tenures appropriate to meet the needs of different Gypsy and Travellers?

Q7C: Should the District Council take a proactive role, perhaps with Registered Social Landlords or housing developers, to ensure that land comes forward for the required purpose?

8. Site Specifics

Issue: what should the DPD say about design?

8.1 Government guidance “Designing Gypsy and Traveller Sites: Good Practice Guide” was published in May 2008. It is intended to provide potential developers and existing site owners with an understanding of the design features needed to help ensure a site is successful, easy to manage and maintain, including site location, layout, size and the services and facilities need to make it operate effectively. As Government guidance the District Council can take it into account as a material planning consideration when determining planning applications. As it is a comprehensive

document it may not be necessary for the DPD to include policies on the matters covered.

8.2 It is noted that paragraph 7.21 of the Good Practice Guide states that any opportunities for using energy from renewable sources should be considered in respect of amenity buildings. It may be that there are opportunities for on-site renewable energy to cater for all uses on the site and a further design policy could be considered to meet regional obligations for increasing the amount of renewable energy used in new developments.

Issue 8 Site Specifics

Q8A: Do you consider that there is no need to include design guidance in the DPD as this is adequately covered by Government guidance?

Or

Q8B: Would you like to see additional design policies, for example about renewable energy, included in the DPD?

9. The St Neots site

Issue: What is the most appropriate future for provision in the St. Neots area?

9.1 The largest and longest established Gypsy and Traveller site in Huntingdonshire lies south of Cambridge Road on the eastern outskirts of St. Neots, close to the Main East Coast Railway. There are 20 pitches on the site, currently occupied by 38 caravans. There is a waiting list should pitches become available. The site is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and managed by Luminus as a Registered Social Landlord. It lies in a larger tract of land bounded by the A428 to the east and the railway to the west. It therefore has immediate access to open countryside. The location has the advantage of being close to the services and facilities in St Neots.

9.2 A new housing neighbourhood is currently under construction at Love's Farm, immediately to the north of Cambridge Road and opposite the Gypsy and Traveller site. The outline planning permission covering this site is for 1,250 dwellings.

9.3 The Core Strategy envisages a potential major urban extension to St. Neots on land east of the Railway. Although its exact extent and location will need to be determined through a Planning Proposals DPD, it is likely that the Gypsy and Traveller site's surroundings will dramatically change. Instead of being on the edge of the urban area, the site would be embedded within a large scale urban extension.

9.4 Consideration needs therefore to be given to the future of provision for Gypsy and Travellers in this general location. During this residential development process there is an opportunity to potentially relocate within the vicinity. With careful planning, it should be possible to create both a good residential environment for the settled community and improved premises for Gypsy and Travellers.

Issue 9 – The St Neots Site

Q9A: Who needs to be involved in the process of deciding the future of the St Neots site in addition to the local Gypsy and Traveller Community, the County Council as landowner, Luminus as landlord, the Huntingdonshire District Council and St Neots Town Council?

Q9B: Should additional or improved alternative provision be made in the vicinity of the existing St Neots site?

10. Travelling Showpeople

Issue: How should the DPD address the needs of Travelling Showpeople?

10.1 The needs of Travelling Showpeople are not included in the provision suggested by the East of England Plan draft policy, which covers Gypsies and Travellers only (as defined by Circular 1/2006). Travelling Showpeople are defined in Circular 04/2007 as:

“Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family’s or dependants’ more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excludes Gypsies and Travellers as defined in ODPM Circular 1/2006.”

10.2 As with Gypsies and Travellers, Circular 04/2007 requires local planning authorities to take account of the needs of Travelling Showpeople. The East of England Plan draft policy makes no specific provision to expand on this, instead indicating that the issue is the subject of ongoing research. The Cambridgeshire Sub-Region GTAA also does not deal with Travelling Showpeople. Accordingly, the Council’s own Local Development Scheme does not extend the scope of the DPD to address these needs. It is likely that any provision for Travelling Showpeople in Huntingdonshire would be on a limited scale and could be addressed through individual planning applications. There are currently no sites with permissions for use by Travelling Showpeople on a permanent basis. Planning applications would be mainly for the use of land as winter quarters, including the storage of fairground vehicles and equipment, as this is not defined as permitted development within the General Permitted Development Order.

10.3 Circular 04/2007 refers to a “plot” as meaning a pitch for Travelling Showpeople to reflect the term traditionally used by them and to differentiate between residential pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, and plots for Travelling Showpeople which may need to incorporate space to allow for the storage and maintenance of equipment.

Issue 10 Travelling Showpeople

Q10A: Do you agree that the scope of the DPD should not include provision for Travelling Showpeople given that there is no evidence of need available?

Or

Q10B: Do you have evidence of need for sites in respect of Travelling Showpeople?

11. Transit Sites

Issue: Should the DPD make provision for Transit Sites?

11.1 The emerging East of England policy covers the need for permanent residential pitches but not either transit sites or emergency stopping places. The Cambridgeshire Sub-Regional GTAA found that there was an acute need for more pitches but that transit sites were not favoured by the Gypsy and Traveller community who expressed a preference for permanent residential sites.

11.2 Transit sites may be in continual use but are not designed to be used as permanent accommodation. The danger is that if there is a shortage of permanent sites they can become permanent sites despite the level of facilities being lower than for permanent residential sites. There can also be problems associated with the fact that their users have no vested interest in maintaining the site and therefore a high level of management is needed, with a resident manager.

11.3 One way of providing transit pitches is to locate them within or adjacent to a residential site, but this may be inconsistent with the needs of the residents on the permanent site.

Q11A. Do you think that the DPD should concentrate on permanent residential pitch provision rather than including transit sites?

12. Emergency (or Temporary) Stopping Places

Issue: Should the DPD make provision for Emergency/Temporary Stopping Places?

12.1 Temporary stopping places can accommodate the occasional need for a pitch. They are not intended to be in continual use but are intended to deal with times of increased demand, such as fairs or cultural event. The level of facilities provided is minimal, and so are not at all suitable for long-term occupation. However, they should be located with safe road access, cause minimum disruption to surrounding communities and take account of any risk arising from adjoining land uses.

Q12. Do you think that the DPD should concentrate on permanent residential pitch provision rather than including temporary stopping places?

13. Other Issues?

Issue: Are there other issues which the Council should take into account when preparing the DPD?

13.1 The Council believes that the issues put forward in this document are the main ones which will need to be addressed in order to prepare a sound DPD. However, the purpose of this document is to ensure that all relevant issues are taken into account and therefore this document allows the opportunity for other issues to be raised.

Q12. Do you consider that there are any other issues which the Council should take into account in determining which sites should be allocated in the DPD?

APPENDIX 1

Existing Provision for Gypsies and Travellers at 2/9/08

Permanent residential pitches

20 pitches (currently some 38 caravans) at the St Neots site owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and managed by Luminus

Planning Permissions Granted

Parkhall Road, Somersham.

0400062FUL

A full personal consent granted on appeal (02.02.2006). The number of caravans is not restricted, although it is assumed to be 1 pitch.

Corner of St Ives Road and Pidley Sheep Lane, Pidley.

0701841FUL

A temporary 3yr personal consent granted (21.11.2007) for the siting of 2 caravans until 21.11.10. This is for one family and therefore assumed to be 1 pitch.

Somersham Road, St Ives.

070959FUL,

A temporary 3yr personal consent granted (22.05.2007) for the siting of 8 caravans until 22.05.10. This is for four families and therefore assumed to be 4 pitches.

Brington, Catworth

0702731FUL

A temporary 4yr consent granted on appeal (15.08.2008) for 10 pitches for the siting of 20 caravans until 15.08.12.

Planning Applications Being Pursued

Chatteris Road, Somersham

0702530FUL

6 pitches – Refused Nov 07.

0704185FUL

6 pitches - pending

0801685FUL

2 pitches – Refused July 2008.

Glossary

Amenity Building

Presently there is no single definition of an amenity building. This aside, the overall size will depend on the size of the family, while draft government guidance states that at a minimum they should include: hot and cold water; electricity supply; separate toilet; a bath/shower room and a kitchen and dining area.

Caravan

A caravan is any structure designed or adapted for human habitation that is capable of being moved from one place to another. Twin unit caravans are included in the definition although they cannot be moved when assembled. Maximum dimensions are 20m x 6.8m x 3.05m.

Family Site

A private caravan site owned and occupied by an (extended) family. Broadly equivalent to owner-occupation in mainstream housing.

Gypsy (or English Gypsy)

Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain. Romany Gypsies trace their ethnic origin back to migrations, probably from India, taking place at intervals since 1500. Gypsies were recognised as an ethnic group in 1989.

Gypsy and Traveller

In this document, the term used to include all ethnic Gypsies and Irish Travellers, plus other Travellers who adopt a nomadic way of life. It does not include Travelling Showpeople.

Irish Traveller

Member of one of the main groups of Gypsies and Travellers in Britain. Irish Travellers have a distinct indigenous origin in Ireland and were recognised as an ethnic group in England in 2000.

Local Development Framework (LDF)

A LDF sets out the planning framework for the local area. LDF's replace Local Plans.

Pitch/Plot

Area of a Gypsy/Traveller site where a single household live in their caravans (trailers). Pitches may vary between large enough for one residential trailer (or mobile home) and

one touring (small) trailer to spacious enough to hold one or two large mobile homes and several 'tourers' as well as working vehicles.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

Sets out the long term strategic planning strategy for how a region should be developed. In the case of South Gloucestershire, the relevant document is the South West Regional Spatial Strategy, which covers the period between 2006 and 2026.

Registered Social Landlords (RSL)

Not-for-profit organisations that can bid for regional funding to establish and run Gypsy and Traveller sites.

Residential Site/Pitch

A site/pitch intended for long-stay use by residents. No maximum length of stay is set unless the permission is temporary.

Site

An area of land laid out and used for Gypsy and Traveller caravans. Sites vary in type and size and can range from one-caravan private family sites on Gypsy and Traveller's own land to large local authority sites.

Transit site

Authorised Gypsy and Traveller site intended for short-term use by those in transit to other areas. The site is permanent, but people who stay on it may only do so for a temporary period (normally up to three months). Normally these sites have fewer facilities than permanent residential sites.

Unauthorised Development

A Gypsy and Traveller site established on Gypsy and Traveller owned land without appropriate planning permission or site licence.

Unauthorised Encampment

A piece of land where Gypsies and Travellers reside without planning permission. The land is not owned by those involved in the encampment and is often located on the edge of roads/carparks or in other unsafe or unsuitable environments.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
(SERVICE DELIVERY)**

4 NOVEMBER 2008

CABINET

20 NOVEMBER 2008

HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION (Report by the Head of Housing Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek endorsement of the Housing Strategy for the Cambridge sub-region 2008-11.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Cambridge sub-region comprises the seven local authorities of: Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, working together on housing issues. It is one of nine sub-regions within the East of England.
- 2.2 This is the third joint Housing Strategy for the sub-region. It is an important document because increasingly, local authorities are being encouraged to work on housing market areas which span local authority boundaries. The Strategy has two main implications: implications for funding and implications for any future inspections we may be the subject of.
- 2.3 The Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel at EERA are responsible for allocation of the Regional Housing Pot. This multi-million pound programme funds new affordable housing and Decent Homes. The Regional Housing Strategy 2005-2010 sets the policy platform for investment and it was written with much involvement at the sub-regional level. It is based on a collation of all sub-regional housing strategies. The Regional Housing Strategy sets the investment priorities for the Region which drive the Housing Corporation's investment programme. When considering the allocation of funds, the Housing Corporation considers the strategic fit with the priorities set out in the sub-regional strategy.
- 2.4 The Strategic and Enabling Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE) which the Audit Commission would scrutinise if we were inspected describes an organisation delivering an excellent service as:
- The council has a thorough understanding of the dynamics of the housing market in its area, sub-region and region. It works closely with its neighbours to understand where there is an imbalance between supply and demand, the scale of this imbalance and the actions necessary to tackle this.
 - The council has a high quality and excellent Housing Strategy (which may form part of a sub-regional housing strategy) which

is clearly based on extensive stakeholder and service user consultation as well as the research that supports its understanding of the housing market.....

- The strategic approach (to working together to tackle the problems set out in the housing and other strategies) where by all sections of the council, neighbouring councils and the council's partner agencies are working together is very effective
- Its strong and close working with neighbouring councils and parish councils has enabled the provision of high quality affordable and/or specialist housing across boundaries that meets needs locally and sub-regionally.

2.5 This KLOE is under review and at a recent housing event hosted by GO-East, the Audit Commission's Housing Lead Inspector reported that the emphasis on sub-regional working will be further strengthened in the next Strategic / Enabling KLOE. At the same event, the Communities and Local Government official confirmed that they are '*looking for councils to incorporate their contribution to sub-regional housing strategies into Sustainable Community Strategies where possible*' and that '*..alliances, partnerships and sub-regional working are vital*'.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The document aims to set out the issues facing the sub-region and the Councils' plans to work together to jointly tackle these issues. This document does not replicate this Council's individual Housing Strategy and it only deals with the issues that benefit from a joint approach. Specifically, the Strategy:
- Describes why housing is important and how housing contributes to the strategic priorities for Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, including the LAA targets;
 - Sets out how the Strategy fits in the national, regional and local strategic context;
 - Describes the housing markets in the sub-region including analysis of house prices, affordability and housing need, as set out in the sub-regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment;
 - Describes housing's impact on the environment, the economy, the growth agenda, existing communities, housing options and choice, vulnerable people and those in need of supported housing, and Gypsies and Travellers;
 - Sets out investment that has been secured up to 2011; and the investment priorities for the sub-region; and
 - Highlights priorities for action for 2008-11.
- 3.2 The housing investment priorities are taken into account by the Housing Corporation when they assess housing associations' bids for funds to build new homes. The investment priorities set out in the Strategy are:

- Meet the challenge of significant housing growth to create mixed, balanced and sustainable communities across the sub-region while respecting our environmental assets.
- Plan for and respond to the sub-region's changing demography, particularly the needs of a growing number of older people.
- Invest in rural homes to support vibrant, sustainable communities.
- Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers and hard-to-reach groups.
- Tackle both housing and support issues for people who are most vulnerable.
- Make best use of existing homes and extend housing options by improving housing conditions, reducing risk, updating sheltered housing and bringing empty homes back into use - focusing on those who are vulnerable and live in private housing.
- Prevent and tackle homelessness, help reduce deprivation and improve health and social inclusion.

3.3 Huntingdonshire District Council, together with housing association partners, has generally been very successful in attracting Housing Corporation investment into the district, and this success continues in the investment period 2008-11. The following homes have already been funded and the Housing Corporation's Continuous Market Engagement process enables more resources to be allocated to homes that come forward for development within the investment period.

	Homes	Grant
Camb City	98	£4,966,000
East Cambs	168	£6,772,806
Fenland	109	£4,334,353
Forest Heath	60	£1,134,000
Hunts	312	£8,353,680
South Cambs	185	£5,243,250
St Edmundsbury	159	£3,365,000

3.4 The action plan for this Strategy is based upon existing work streams. The action plan will be implemented by officers working in partnership across the sub-region. It will be monitored by the Sub-Regional Housing Board which is attended by the Head of Housing Services. There are no additional resource implications for the Council arising from this action plan that have not been previously considered.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 This is the third sub-regional Housing Strategy. It is an important document that sets out the housing issues facing the sub-region and the Councils' joint plans to work in partnership to tackle the issues. The Strategy is only concerned with joint projects, not the issues that

affect stand alone districts which will continue to be dealt with in District Council's own Housing Strategies.

- 4.2 The Strategy strengthens our sub-regional approach to tackling the housing issues and it will be monitored by the Sub-Regional Housing Board. It is important to assist us with bidding for funds which seek sub-regional strategic fit; and in delivering best practice in strategic housing services, as set out by CLG and assessed at time of inspection.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Cabinet is asked to endorse the Housing Strategy for the Cambridge sub-region 2008-11.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Huntingdonshire's Housing Strategy 2006-11
- Housing Strategy for the Cambridge sub-region 2004-8
- Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-10, EERA

Contact Officer: Jo Emmerton, Housing Strategy Manager

☎ (01480) 388203

Housing the Cambridge sub-region

A strategy for 2008-2011

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October 2008

1. More than just numbers

Housing plays a key role in peoples' lives.

A decent home at an affordable price which is easy, safe and cost-effective to live in makes a world of difference. It needs to be in the right place for work and for schools, to keep ties with friends, families and networks strong – and in the community where a person wants to live. This holds true whether a person rents or buys their home. The way it is paid for is not as important as feeling secure, of belonging.

A telephone, an address, a place to rest and recover, a place to belong, somewhere friends can visit all become more vital. Homelessness and rough sleeping are the extremes we must prevent wherever possible - but if it's unavoidable, we must work to reduce its impact.

Homes affect our environment, so we need them to make best use of the resources available to us - water, energy and land – and should help reduce car use, where there are alternatives. Part of this work involves the way people use their homes, and part of it involves how and where homes are built, and how they are run and maintained.

“A home is a place where you like to go back, a place you feel comfortable, a place you have your loved ones, a place you can rest.”

Why do we need a sub-regional strategy?

Housing directly affects issues like how safe people feel, the cost of living, a sense of community, and enabling people who are vulnerable to get the support they need.

This strategy aims to highlight links between housing and these other agendas, to show how partners can make more difference by working together. It focuses especially on the issues partners can work on together, across boundaries and across organisations. This will help us achieve efficiencies and better value on our most promising projects.

About this strategy

This strategy is the third to be produced: our first was published in 2003, our second ran from 2004 to 2008/9, and this one runs from 2008 to 2011. It:

- Provides a picture of housing across our sub-region and identifies areas for action where sub regional working can make a difference.
- Identifies resources for housing, and where there are gaps in resources.
- Highlights our priorities for action and investment.
- Sets out our plans for 2008 to 2011 to address these priorities.

Naturally, our action plans for 2008 and 2009 will be more robust than those for 2011, as they are more immediate. So the action plan will be monitored every 3 months and refreshed each year, to make sure we achieve our sub-regional priorities. In 2011 the whole strategy will be reviewed. The sub-regional housing board will manage the progress and delivery of this strategy, as it did for the 2004 action plan, outcomes of which are summarised in Appendix 1.

Each district council may continue to produce a local housing and homelessness strategy in the future, which will link closely with their Sustainable Community Strategies. All these strategies will be developed in consultation with local residents and are summarised in Appendix 2, 3 and 4 respectively.

To develop this strategy we have worked with a variety of partners and agencies who are listed in Appendix 5, through a special workshop in July 2007, through involvement in the sub-regional housing board and its sub-groups, and by developing the strategic housing market assessment.

The Cambridge housing sub-region

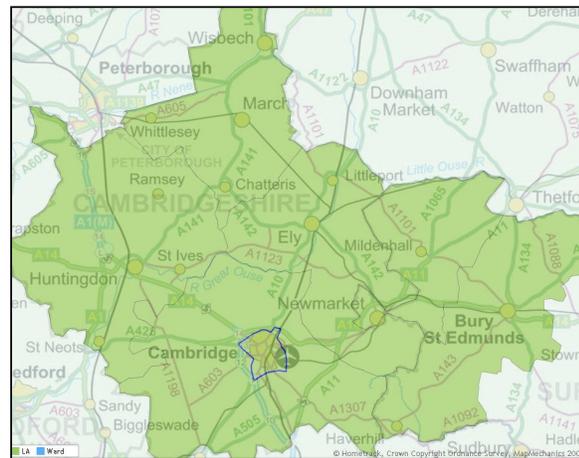
Cambridge is one of nine housing sub-regions across the East of England.

The sub-region works together to develop joint, collaborative approaches to strategic housing issues and the delivery of housing growth targets. To do this, a board of senior officers from each of the seven local authorities meets monthly. Partners include the Housing Corporation, GO-East, EERA, three RSLs representing the sub-region, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Horizons. More information about the Board is included in Appendix 6.



The maps on the right show the area covered by the housing sub-region: from the top, showing

- District boundaries for the seven local authorities.
- The geography of our sub-region.
- Housing and planning sub-regions and the boundary between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk counties.

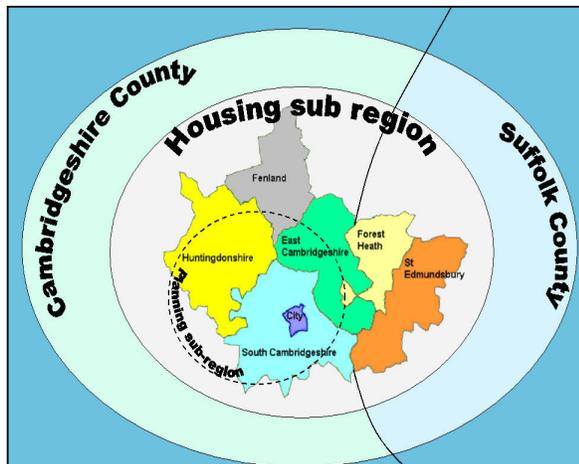


Our vision

In an area of significant housing and economic growth the Cambridge housing sub-region takes a positive, creative approach to building homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

For Cambridgeshire this includes high-quality, cost-effective public services that meet the needs of local people, tackling climate change, building sustainable communities and ensuring strong and inclusive communities.¹

For Suffolk it means creating outstanding environments and quality of life for all; a place where everyone can realise their potential, benefit from and contribute to Suffolk's economic prosperity, and be actively involved in their community.²



The following table shows how housing can help achieve these priorities...

¹ From *Cambridgeshire's Vision 2007-2021*

² From *Transforming Suffolk: Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028*

A summary of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk strategic priorities^{1, 2}	How housing delivers these priorities (with section to read for more detail in brackets)
Environmental sustainability	
<p>Building a sustainable environment includes reducing traffic congestion and promoting alternatives to car travel, through location of homes and employment, and through access to alternative and more sustainable transport methods. A sustainable environment also means protecting our natural and built environment, supporting local biodiversity and making sure homes are developed sustainability both in construction and in use.</p>	<p>We want to minimise commuting distances and car use, by locating new development well, close to facilities and with good transport links – growing the new town of Northstowe with a guided bus way to Cambridge, then the sites on the fringes of Cambridge City, then in market towns depending on their sustainability. Rural housing is developed to meet local need and to support our rural economies (Sections 5 and 8).</p>
A vibrant economy	
<p>Districts want to support economic development, made possible through careful location of homes to accommodate the workforce. Economic prosperity helps encourage people into work, supports innovation and enterprise locally, and enables prosperous and sustainable economies across the sub-region.</p>	<p>There are pilot projects running across the sub region to help us learn about sustainable and modern methods of construction. Major new sites can help people gain construction skills and help local employment – we need to take full advantage of this opportunity (Section 6). In our changing economic climate we also need to keep up with changes in the housing market (Section 7).</p>
Housing growth	
<p>Across the sub-region we want to ensure that growth benefits all residents, enhancing the environment and helping make sure more people can afford housing. This includes creating successful new communities which have a sense of place and purpose, developing the appropriate infrastructure (with funding) and ensuring developments use high quality, sustainable design.</p>	<p>Growth meets needs both of existing residents, and of people moving in to our area. It will help youngsters sharing homes with their families, struggling to find a place they can afford, and people who are in homes which are too small for their needs. Facilities like schools, transport improvements and new jobs created will all benefit both newcomers and existing residents. Careful design and planning of new developments can enhance feelings of safety and community, especially where communities are involved in the process (Section 8).</p>
Safe, healthy and inclusive communities	
<p>We want to help people to live healthy, independent lives, and to build a stronger sense of community. This includes improving access to services, especially for disadvantaged groups, planning for the needs of older people, and involving everyone (especially young people) in planning and delivering services. Strong and active communities can help reduce crime and the fear of crime, and through participation and information, help promote health and well-being.</p>	<p>Decent homes can support and improve health and well-being, reducing energy use while keeping residents warm. Decent homes make a significant contribution to the public health agenda. Ongoing work and investment to improve standards in existing homes, whether owned or rented, and to bring empty homes back into use, all help make the best use of our existing stock (Section 9). By offering residents choice about where they live and making the system open and transparent, we support stronger communities which accommodate the people who want to live there – tapping into work, family and support networks which all help to build safer, healthier and more inclusive neighbourhoods. By offering housing options to people who are struggling to remain in their homes, we want to prevent homelessness and, where it is inevitable, reduce its effects. The cost of homelessness is huge, particularly when measured in terms of a persons' health, happiness, opportunities and inclusion (Section 10).</p>

A summary of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk strategic priorities^{1, 2}	How housing delivers these priorities (with section to read for more detail in brackets)
	Housing options and choices are particularly important for hard-to-reach communities, including Gypsies and Travellers. We must make sure all communities are equally able to access the homes and support they need in the right locations, throughout the sub-region (Section 12). For people who may be vulnerable, support in the home can make the difference between a successful tenancy and homelessness, which is funded by the Supporting People programme (Section 11).
Learning and skills for the future	
Across the sub-region we want to improve skills and learning opportunities, closing gaps in levels of skills and education across communities. We want to encourage achievement in children and young people, and to support life-long learning for all.	Making sure education and community facilities are in place, in good time, on new developments makes sure they will be well used and provide a vital resource, not only for the residents but for surrounding communities too (Section 8).

Investment priorities for our sub-region are to:

- Meet the challenge of significant housing growth to create mixed, balanced and sustainable communities across the sub-region while respecting our environmental assets and existing communities.
- Plan for and respond to the sub-region’s changing demography, particularly the needs of a growing number of older people.
- Invest in rural homes to support vibrant, sustainable communities.
- Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers and hard-to-reach groups.
- Tackle both housing and support issues for people who are most vulnerable.
- Make best use of existing homes and extend housing options by improving housing conditions, reducing risk, updating sheltered housing and bringing empty homes back into use - focusing on those who are vulnerable and live in private housing.
- Prevent and tackle homelessness, help reduce deprivation and improve health and social inclusion.

All these priorities are important for our housing agenda, though the first is a “headline” for the Cambridge sub-region.

2. The national policy agenda

For links to each of the documents summarised, please see Appendix 7.

Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable

Published in July 2007, priorities in the housing green paper recognise the need to provide more homes for England's ageing, growing population. It set out long-term ambitions to deliver:

- A new housing target for 2016 of 240,000 net additional homes a year to address the serious affordability issues caused by a long-term mismatch between supply and demand.
- A target to deliver 3 million new homes by 2020 and 2 million by 2016.
- £8bn investment in affordable housing, delivering at least 70,000 more affordable homes a year by 2010-11.
- At least 45,000 new social homes a year by 2010-11 and over 25,000 shared ownership and shared equity homes a year.
- 200,000 homes to be delivered on surplus public sector sites by 2016.
- More sustainable homes – all new homes to be built to zero-carbon standards from 2016, introducing mandatory ratings against the Code for Sustainable Homes and new standards for water efficiency.

Facing the housing challenge: Action today, innovation for tomorrow gives an update one year on, showing progress on these commitments, including almost 200,000 additional homes delivered in 2006-07, provisionally around 30,000 social rented homes delivered in 2007-08, around 24,000 households were helped into low cost home ownership in 2007-08, suitable surplus land with capacity for some 140,000 homes were identified, and 104 out of 150 Local Area Agreements include housing supply as a priority and 102 with affordable housing as a priority.

The challenges ahead include:

- A changing economic backdrop to government housing plans. Economies across the world are now facing a more difficult environment, with international economic instability and continued disruption in global financial markets means that the UK economy.
- Over the past decade the UK economy has become increasingly resilient with an unprecedented period of growth and record levels of employment. Past increases in house prices mean that many home owners now have substantial equity in their homes. Employment levels remain historically high and interest rates low. And the long-term demographic drivers of demand remain strong. This strength puts the UK economy, and the housing market, in a good position to face the current challenges.
- The reduced availability of credit has increased costs for first time buyers and those remortgaging. The turbulence in the global credit markets is creating real problems in the housebuilding sector. As a result the government is taking action to assist first-time buyers, those needing high-quality rented accommodation, those with mortgages and the housebuilding industry.
- Action to assist these groups must be combined with work to enable us to meet long-term challenges. The impact of higher life expectancy and social change on housing demand will continue – and there remains substantial unmet need for housing in Britain. In a testing economic context, we must not lose sight of the need to act now to provide for the homes and communities of the future.

The Government's objectives over the next year are identified as:

- Provide greater help for first time buyers.
- Help existing homeowners facing difficulties due to problems in the international mortgage markets.
- Keep housing supply, particularly affordable housing supply, as high as possible to keep on track to meet our targets.
- Maintain capacity and create the right conditions for recovery and long-term growth.

This strategy highlights how the Cambridge sub-region is working to help meet these objectives.

National planning policy for housing

The Government's third planning policy statement, about housing (known as PPS3) published in November 2006 sets out the planning policy framework for delivering the Government's housing objectives across England. In PPS3, the Government's strategic housing objectives are to:

- Achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market, to address the requirements of the community.
- Widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, particularly those who are vulnerable or in need.
- Improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing.
- Create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural.

PPS3 sets our strategic planning outcomes which the planning system should deliver. These are:

- High quality homes, well-designed and built to high standards.
- A mix of market and affordable housing to support a wide variety of households in all areas: urban and rural.
- Enough housing supply to meet need and demand, and to improve choices.
- Housing developments in suitable locations offering a range of community facilities and access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.
- A flexible, responsive supply of land, including previously-developed land.

Sustainable communities: settled homes; changing lives

Published in March 2005, the government's strategy to tackle homelessness aims to expand housing opportunities, including for those who need additional support, and for disadvantaged sections of society. We will reduce homelessness by offering a wider range of preventative measures and increasing access to settled homes, halving the numbers living in temporary accommodation by 2010. This will be achieved by:

- Preventing homelessness.
- Providing support for vulnerable people.
- Tackling the wider causes and symptoms of homelessness.
- Helping more people move away from rough sleeping.
- Providing more settled homes.

Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods

Published in February 2008, this is the national strategy for housing in an ageing society published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions.

The ageing of the population will be one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century for housing. This strategy sets out our response to this challenge, our plan to create Lifetime Homes in Lifetime Neighbourhoods. The strategy outlines the government's plans to make sure there is enough appropriate housing available in future to relieve the forecasted unsustainable pressures on homes, health and social care services. It includes sections on:

- A better deal for older people today.
- The growing role of home improvement agencies.
- Providing for people with disabilities: modernising the disabled facilities grant, creating more flexibility and speeding up delivery.
- Ensuring the efficient use of existing accessible housing.
- Building homes to lifetime homes standards.
- Inclusive design excellence – homes, interiors and adaptations.
- Making the most of the planning system.
- Incentives and rewards: the role of housing and planning delivery grant.
- Neighbourhoods for a lifetime: present and future possibilities.
- The triangle of independence – housing, health and care.
- A new future for specialised housing.
- Where we want to be in five years time.

Creating strong, safe, prosperous communities

Published in July 2008, this statutory guidance sets out the government's thinking behind:

- A new relationship between central and local government, partners, citizens and community leadership.
- The role of Local Strategic Partnerships.
- A new duty for local authorities to involve local communities.
- The role of Sustainable Community Strategies and how they relate to other local plans and strategies.
- Establishing priorities through Local Area Agreements, and involving partners in co-operating when setting targets.
- Delivering outcomes.

Under the government's new performance framework set out in *Creating strong, safe, prosperous communities*, local authorities have adopted a new way of working together within county boundaries. The Cambridge housing sub-region includes five Cambridgeshire and two Suffolk districts, so we need to refer to two separate sets of partnerships and documents for this agenda. This framework includes:

- Forming and building local strategic partnerships (LSPs). These bring together the views of local private, voluntary and community sectors to create a sustainable community strategy, and turn this strategy into reality. LSPs can help services to be delivered in a more joined-up way by bringing together partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors. LSPs should also link neighbourhood level activity and influence strategic priorities and resource allocations.

- Creating a sustainable community strategy. This is a document setting out a long-term and sustainable vision for an area and its people, which aims to address economic, social and environmental needs. Section 4 summarises the relevant strategies.
- Forming local area agreements (LAA). Using the sustainable community strategy for its agenda, this sets out a 3-year agreement between a local area and central government. It describes how local priorities will be met by delivering local solutions, and contributes to national priorities set out by the Government. The agreement is negotiated between the local strategic partnership and the regional Government Office, and includes specific targets (see *Our LAA targets* on page 14).

Other important reviews

There are many reviews completed and in process which affect housing and which we need to respond to and act on as a housing sub-region. Many form the basis of the national and regional policies outlined in this strategy, links to the reports produced are included in the footnotes. The reviews include:

- The Taylor Review of rural housing and economy³
- The Callcutt Review of housebuilding delivery⁴
- The Barker Review of housing supply⁵
- The Cave Review of social housing regulation⁶
- The Hills report on the assessment of the aims of social housing⁷

³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/livingworkingcountryside.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.callcuttreview.co.uk/default.jsp>

⁵ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/E/4/barker_review_execsum_91.pdf

⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/319302.pdf>

⁷ <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/news.asp#SocialHousing>

3. The regional policy agenda

England is divided into nine regions. The Cambridge housing sub-region falls into the East of England region. The East of England's Regional Assembly (EERA) promotes the economic, social and environmental well-being of the region through a partnership of elected and stakeholder representatives. Along with the East of England's Development Agency (EEDA), EERA coordinates and produces a range of strategies guiding activity across a range of agendas.

For links to each of the documents summarised, please see Appendix 8.

Regional Spatial Strategy: The East of England Plan

By 2021 the East of England will be realising its economic potential and providing a high quality of life for its people, including by meeting their housing needs in sustainable inclusive communities. At the same time it will reduce its impact on climate change and the environment, including through savings in energy and water use and by strengthening its stock of environmental assets.

Regional Housing Provision 2001 to 2021

To summarise, local planning authorities are to facilitate delivery of at least 508,000 net additional dwellings between 2001 and 2021 across the Region. Taking account of completions of 105,550 between 2001 and 2006, some 402,540 homes still need to be built across the Region between 2006 and 2021.

District allocations (see table) are minimum targets to be achieved, rather than ceilings which should not be exceeded. Local planning authorities must plan housing delivery for at least 15 years from the date their development plan documents are adopted.

	Minimum dwelling provision 2001 to 2021		
	Min to build 2001 to 2021	Of which already built 2001 to 2006	Still to build 2006 to 2021
Cambridge City	19,000	2,300	16,700 (1,110 pa)
East Cambridgeshire	8,600	3,240	5,360 (360 pa)
Fenland	11,000	3,340	7,660 (510 pa)
Huntingdonshire	11,200	2,890	8,310 (550 pa)
South Cambridgeshire	23,500	3,620	21,380 (1,330 pa)
Forest Heath	6,400	810	5,590 (370 pa)
St Edmundsbury	10,000	1,960	8,040 (540 pa)

Affordable Housing

Within the overall housing requirement set out above, local Development Plan Documents should set appropriate targets for affordable housing taking into account:

- The objectives of the East of England Plan.
- Local assessments of affordable housing need, as part of strategic housing market assessments.
- The need where appropriate to set specific, separate targets for social rented and intermediate housing.
- Evidence of affordability pressures.
- The Regional Housing Strategy.

At the regional level, delivery should be monitored against the target for some 35% of housing coming forward through planning permissions granted after publication of the East of England Plan to be affordable.

A review of the Plan has now started, which considers its implementation up to 2031.

The Regional Housing Strategy

The vision of the regional housing strategy is to ensure everyone can live in a decent home which meets their needs, at a price they can afford and in locations that are sustainable. Among other aims, this means more, sustainable housing provision, in high quality homes and environments, creating inclusive communities. Themes covered by the strategy include:

- More, sustainable housing provision - bringing about a step-change in delivery and ensuring sustainable provision
- High quality homes and environments – outlines the quality deficit, the balance of quantity, quality and cost, achieving the decent homes standard in existing homes, quality environments and regeneration, empty homes, and how housing can improve health and well-being.
- Creating inclusive communities - including assessing need, inclusion and community cohesion, providing mixed communities and widening choice, factors for rural communities, homelessness and supporting people.
- Recommendations for public investment including the balance between investment in existing and new homes.
- Implementation, managing and monitoring the RHS - setting out priorities for delivery in the short-term and at a local level, how delivery will be managed and monitored, risk and contingency planning, and an action plan.

There are now plans to review and update the regional housing strategy in 2009.

Regional Housing Investment Plan

The Regional Housing Investment Plan sets out four work streams for significant investment from 2008-11, shown below:

▪ National Affordable Housing Programme	£711m
▪ Public sector decent homes	£38m
▪ Private sector renewal, regeneration and mixed communities	£49m
▪ Gypsy and Traveller site grant	£27m
▪ Total	£825m

The Housing Corporation has moved away from allocating all resources at the beginning of the national affordable housing programme but instead has introduced continuous market engagement so bidders can apply for funds to build new homes throughout the programme.

The total size of the cumulative 2008 to 2011 programme for the East of England to date is £247.1m, which will deliver 3,729 new rented homes and 3,682 new low cost home ownership homes (including 2,287 open market homebuy). Of these, some 6,227 homes will be completed in 2008 to 2011 and a further 1,184 in 2011 to 2013⁸.

The Regional Housing Investment Plan 2008/11 sets out the strategic framework for this new programme, indicating regional spatial and thematic targets and sub-regional priorities. The four themes for regional investment in new homes with guideline percentages are growth, rural, BME and supported.

Regional Economic Strategy

During 2006-08, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) has been leading the development of the new, regional economic strategy (RES) for the East of England 2008-2031.

⁸ Housing Corporation, September 2008

The strategy sets out a vision with bold targets and priorities so that we can drive forward as a globally-competitive region. The RES shows where we want to go and how we will get there. The strategy is owned by the region and will be delivered through the collective work of political, business and community leaders and institutions.

The vision for the region is for it to be:

- Internationally competitive with a global reputation for innovation and business growth.
- A region that harnesses and develops the talents and creativity of all.
- At the forefront of the low-carbon and resource-efficient economy.

And known for:

- Exceptional landscapes, vibrant places and quality of life.
- Being a confident, outward-looking region with strong leadership and where communities actively shape their future.

Housing and the RES

Highlights of the RES for housing include its key role in ensuring the region is an attractive place to live, work and do business; and in creating sustainable places for people and businesses, a priority which “focuses on the need for the region to have a balanced approach to the provision of homes and jobs to support economic growth and regeneration”. Housing’s key function in ensuring a strong, healthy and just society is acknowledged, and its importance in enabling the region to succeed as part of the Greater South East.

Housing and particularly affordability issues for our area are highlighted in the RES...

Greater Cambridge sub-region - global centre for learning, technology and life sciences: Overview

The Greater Cambridge economic footprint covers parts of no fewer than nine districts including Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland, St Edmundsbury, Forest Heath, Uttlesford and East Hertfordshire. The sub-region provides 365,000 jobs with an employment rate of 81%. Over 43,000 people are employed in an estimated 1,400 high-technology companies, and Greater Cambridge attracted over 18% of all UK venture investment in 2007. The resident population has grown by 6% since 2000, considerably above the national rate of 2.5% for the same period. Success has brought with it the pressures of growth, notably deteriorating housing affordability and congestion. There are also warning signs that the constraints in Greater Cambridge are beginning to erode competitiveness, with minor contraction of the cluster and increased competition to the world-leading status of the University of Cambridge. Despite this, Greater Cambridge remains a learning and innovation centre of global repute.

From RES for the East of England, final draft submitted to government June 2008, page 52

What's next?

EEDA is now working in partnership with the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) and Government Office for the East of England (Go-East) to develop a joint implementation plan for the regional economic and spatial strategies. This implementation plan will set out how both strategies can be turned into action and will:

- Define a way forward in delivering current and agreed policy aspirations, focussing on 2021 and beyond.
- Evidence the overall scale of ambition relative to current and planned activity, and identify what is needed to fill any gap.
- Create programmes of regional-scale activity as the route map to move forward.

Housing is one of the seven themes to be developed in the implementation plan, which will initially focus on:

- Delivering a minimum of 508,000 net additional dwellings by 2020⁹
- Delivering the 35% affordable housing target¹⁰
- Improving the resource efficiency of new and existing housing stock¹¹

The implementation plan will be developed in partnership with a wide group of stakeholders, including the Regional Housing Board and its Advisory Group. Plans are in place to finalise the plan early in 2009, and we look to this process as a forerunner of the process to develop our future Single Integrated Regional Strategy.

Supporting People East of England Regional Strategy

Housing-related support works with a range of vulnerable groups to help them live independently. There are twenty one different Supporting People client groups ranging from the young single homeless to older people. Some individuals have complex needs and meet the criteria for more than one client group.

Supporting People grant is used to pay for services aiming to help vulnerable people live independently in their homes, and can include:

- Life skills training, such as support to acquire domestic skills.
- Assisting people with dealing with others such as landlords, neighbours, and a range of professionals.
- Assisting people with personal budgeting.
- Support with moving to more independent accommodation.

Strategic objectives for supporting people across the Eastern Region are to:

- Raise the profile of supporting people.
- Ensure supported housing services meet future needs.
- Secure access to housing support services for vulnerable people.
- Support the development of shared practices across the region.
- Ensure supported housing services meet future demographic changes.
- Ensure service users have equal access to services across boundaries.
- Support providers & service users to adapt to changes in models of service.

The SPERG strategy links with other key strategies including the Regional Housing Strategy, Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Strategic Plan for Reducing Re-offending.

More detail is provided in section 11, and actions for housing sub-regions detailed in the SPERG strategy are included in this strategy's action plan in section 13.

Objectives

- 3.1 Contribute to implementing the sub-national review, supporting the move of funding and governance from EERA to EEDA
- 3.2 The new integrated regional strategy will affect, and be affected by housing issues although its initial focus is on economic and spatial issues. We need to ensure housing contributes fully to the debate.

⁹ Policy H1 from the East of England Plan

¹⁰ Policy H2 from the East of England Plan

¹¹ The RES resource efficiency goal

4. Sustainable community strategies

For links to each of the documents summarised, please see Appendix 9.

Cambridgeshire's Vision 2007-2021

Cambridgeshire's Vision is for high-quality, cost-effective public services that meet the needs of local people. Priorities are structured around five areas: growth, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, equality and inclusion, and communities.

From *Cambridgeshire's Vision*

At a time of major growth in the economy and housing needs of Cambridgeshire, sustainability is key for the county to meet the pressures development puts on the environment, infrastructure and other supporting services such as schools and health services.

A 40% increase in the delivery rate of new housing and the doubling of affordable housing is needed to support growth. Investment in social infrastructure must also meet the demands of growth in development in order to tackle social deprivation. In addition, the potential effects of climate change are of particular significance with many areas at risk of flooding.

Cambridgeshire has already embraced a strategy for increasing the rate of housing development as set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003, reiterated and strengthened in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS – the East of England Plan). The increase has already been witnessed by the actual housing completions of recent years.

Cambridgeshire is part of the London – Stansted- Cambridgeshire – Peterborough growth area. The strategy for growth specified in the Structure Plan and draft RSS seeks to deliver 73,300 homes between 2001 to 2021, concentrated in and around Cambridge and in the county's market towns.

Planning new communities in Cambridgeshire is fully integrated, combining infrastructure provision, housing strategy and economic growth. We have implemented a new programme designed to ensure progress is kept on track and issues are tackled in a timely manner. Partnership working between agencies is coordinated by Cambridgeshire Horizons, the local delivery vehicle.

Cambridgeshire is the home to one of Europe's leading and most dynamic high technology clusters that is also the focus of economic growth in the East of England.

Transforming Suffolk: Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028

By 2028 we want Suffolk to be recognised for its outstanding environment and quality of life for all; a place where everyone can realise their potential, benefit from and contribute to Suffolk's economic prosperity, and be actively involved in their community. This ambition will be achieved through four themes: a prosperous and vibrant economy; learning and skills for the future; the greenest county; safe, healthy and inclusive communities

From *Transforming Suffolk: Affordable, quality housing for all*

The East of England is the most affordable region for housing in the south of the UK, but this is declining. In Suffolk the average house price is now 7.9 times the annual income (up from 7.6 in 2005). The Regional Spatial Strategy states that affordable homes should constitute at least 30% of the total housing completions. In 2005/06 Suffolk completed just 17.4%. There is however huge variation across the county with Forest Heath exceeding the target at 39.5%.

In 2004 consultation through Suffolk Speaks Community Panel found that 47% of people strongly agreed that there area needs more affordable housing. 45% strongly agreed that prices are too expensive for local people and 55% strongly agreed that local young people could not afford housing.

Appropriate accommodation for vulnerable people and specific groups was identified as an issue through consultation responses, particularly for:

- migrant workers
- young people
- single parents
- older people
- gypsies and travellers.

The prevention of homelessness and improving the availability and quality of housing for vulnerable young people are particular concerns for young people. The links between housing and the economy, health and well-being of individuals was highlighted through the consultation process. There are also strong links between poor housing and crime levels. Affordable housing will play a part in achieving other Community Strategy outcomes, particularly in relation to Safe, Healthy and Inclusive Communities. Access to childcare, employment and training for parents was identified as a barrier to developing our economy for the benefit of local people and communities.

Growth in the population in Suffolk is set to increase by 9.5% by 2021 and housing development set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy is 61,700 new homes by 2021. This provides a real opportunity to ensure that these new developments include more affordable homes in line with the regional standard. The county, district and borough councils will need to work together to ensure that approximately 20,000 new affordable homes are delivered across the county and this will be the key focus for Suffolk over the coming years.

Good quality accommodation is important for people from all walks of life. Supporting people with specific needs and requirements will be important to ensure everyone has access to good quality accommodation and can make informed and realistic choices about where they live.

According to the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), there are approximately 4,000 caravans in the region, which accounts for a quarter of all Gypsy and Traveller caravans in the UK. In Suffolk, assessments have revealed that between 109 and 138 additional pitches should be identified by 2011, many of which have already been planned by local authorities.

Our LAA targets

From a government list of 198 targets, both Suffolk and Cambridgeshire strategic partnerships have agreed on 35 top targets for their areas. All 198 are monitored, but the top 35 are a special focus on to measure and monitor, to judge the success of the local strategic partnership and of the Sustainable Community Strategies. Some of the key indicators which link to the housing agenda are shown below:

	Cambridgeshire	Suffolk
NI154: Net additional homes provided		
Baseline	3,451	2,204 (of which, 358 in St Ed's) ¹²
Target 2008/09	3,860	+2,125 (of which, 540 in St Ed's)
Target 2009/10	4,450	+2,125 (of which, 540 in St Ed's)
Target 2010/11	5,320	+2,125 (of which, 540 in St Ed's)

¹² Baseline and targets set for Ipswich BC, Suffolk Coastal DC, and St Edmundsbury only for NI154

	Cambridgeshire	Suffolk
NI155: Affordable homes delivered		
Baseline	759 (22% of 3451)	Not a key PI
Target 2008/09	888 (23% of 3,860)	Not a key PI
Target 2009/10	1,112 (25% of 4,450)	Not a key PI
Target 2010/11	1,436 (27% of 5,320)	Not a key PI
NI141: % vulnerable people achieving independent living		
Baseline	62.2%	65.65%
Target 2008/09	65%	66%
Target 2009/10	67.5%	68%
Target 2010/11	70%	70%
NI186: Per capita CO₂ emissions		
Baseline	9.0 tonnes per capita	8.5 tonnes per capita
Target 2008/09	- 2.5 to 3.0% annual year-on-year	- 4%
Target 2009/10	ditto	- 8%
Target 2010/11	ditto	- 12%
NI 188: Planning to adapt to climate change		
Baseline	Level 0 ¹³	Level 0
Target 2008/09	Level 1	Level 1
Target 2009/10	Level 1	Level 2
Target 2010/11	Level 2	Level 3

Each district also has its own local community strategy (see Appendix 2), its own housing strategy (see Appendix 3) and its own homelessness strategy (see Appendix 4). These help make the link between high-level objectives, districts priorities and the actions to help, support and strengthen local communities

Objectives

- 4.1 Support LSPs in delivering the visions set out in their Sustainable Community Strategies, helping deliver more sustainable communities in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, particularly through housing interventions

¹³ Some LAA partners will aim to achieve level 3 by 2010/11, the target noted is a realistic countywide target but does not prevent some districts from fulfilling their higher ambition during the lifespan of the LAA.

5. Environmental impact

It is vital that housing activities are assessed for environmental impact. Building homes, living in homes, creating and participating in local communities all have an impact, and as these are key themes of our sub-regional housing strategy it is crucial we consider the effect on the climate and our natural resources of each area of work outlined, and plan to reduce the impact.

The growth agenda provides a major opportunity to translate policy ambitions into deliverable actions against climate change. Despite an abundance of policy proposals there remains a gap between intention and impact. Without an understanding of how we can work together to achieve our goals and targets, policy proposals will remain ineffective.

Given challenging carbon reduction targets being set nationally and regionally, it will not be enough just for growth to be low carbon, we also need to make concerted efforts to reduce emissions from existing communities. It is estimated that over 90% of future carbon emissions will be from existing stock, and not new build homes. It is vital that the solutions we put in place in new communities help deliver low-carbon buildings, energy, water, transport, and waste, and can facilitate carbon reductions in existing communities, and that actions we take in peoples' homes contribute to this reduction.

Policy Context

The most significant international, European, national and regional policies on climate change which include the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Climate Change Conference committing the UK to reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 12.5% by 2012 and by 50% by 2050. The Stern Review concluded that mitigation against climate change is now an essential, economically justified, investment. The Review resulted in the Climate Change Bill, which will commit the UK to a statutory target of 26% lower CO₂ emissions by 2020 and 60% lower by 2050. The draft East of England Regional Economic Strategy sets a target of 80% reduction in emissions to be delivered through local area agreements, which include national indicators NI186 and NI 188 (see page 14).

Issues closer to home

The carbon footprint of Cambridgeshire was 5.3 million tonnes of CO₂ annually in 2005, and 6.5 million tonnes in 2008, which will grow to 7 millions tonnes annually by 2031 if growth follows a "business as usual" trajectory. The per head carbon footprint is 8.5 tonnes across Suffolk, and 9.0 tonnes across Cambridgeshire.

Construction is highly carbon-intensive. Development must be well planned to minimise the loss of green space and prevent unsustainable patterns of transport and consumption becoming entrenched. Careful design, use of efficient materials and well considered siting all help a more sustainable approach to growth.

Transport is responsible for more than a third of CO₂ emissions in Cambridgeshire, a percentage which will grow over coming years as population increases. One part of the solution to reducing transport emissions is to seek to locate jobs, social infrastructure and homes close to each other, or with well-connected by public transport options.

Energy used by homes, businesses and public buildings already contributes a substantial proportion of Cambridgeshire CO₂ emissions, approximately 60% in 2005, and "business as usual" would mean this will only increase as new communities are built. Nevertheless, a recent carbon appraisal of our Long Term Delivery Plan notes that the technical renewable energy potential of the county is almost seven times the capacity currently installed, giving us (with a strong high tech economy) an opportunity to lead the way in these sectors.

Balancing growth and carbon reduction

While growth poses major challenges and offers exciting opportunities, when viewed in isolation it is only a part of the much greater challenge to make sure existing communities can mitigate their impacts on the environment, and adapt to the climate change that is already inevitable. The Carbon Appraisal of Cambridgeshire's Long Term Delivery Plan notes that without substantial work with existing communities, Cambridgeshire's carbon footprint will increase by nearly 20%, even if all new developments are zero-carbon. This may be true of all communities across the country.

So a major challenge for all partners is how to engender changes to existing communities and behaviours. Possible changes can be demonstrated and promoted on strategic growth sites, though this will require a huge programme of innovative infrastructure for the new communities. Part of this change comes from investment, facilities, education and support to residents in existing homes on how they can help meet both climate and economic challenges.

Towards an action plan

Cambridgeshire County Council has produced a Climate Change and Environment Strategy to meet the challenge in Cambridgeshire. This includes an action plan for the County and how we can achieve our LAA targets, which the housing sub-region can contribute to through the actions set out in this strategy.

A further draft action plan has been drawn up by Cambridgeshire Horizons which considers both adaptation and mitigation to climate change. Although the action plan is still to be agreed between partner agencies and looks to be embedded within the LAA to support the delivery of the climate change targets, key issues which housing partners can act on are included in Section 13.

The sub-regional housing board and its sub-groups can help tackle the issue through existing and new housing projects. Many of these involve pilot schemes which we are committed to learn from and apply the lessons in districts across the whole sub-region.

Project: SmartLIFE modern methods of construction demonstration project

Geographical area covered: Fenland demonstration project

Partners: Fenland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Home Group, the Building Research Establishment, English Partnerships, EEDA, Housing Corporation and Inspace

Project dates: Results of SmartLIFE demonstration project by autumn 2008

Resources: £420,000 from FDC, £999,000 from the Housing Corporation, Home private finance

Key outputs:

Partners were keen to host a project which would deliver detailed understanding of the benefits and disadvantages of four different construction methods in relation to cost, time, waste and performance. We want to take the lessons learnt from the project to encourage future development in the region to raise the bar in terms of sustainable high quality housing.

The difference it will make:

- Use knowledge from the technical report comparing the different systems to influence an increased use of modern methods of construction (MMC) in Fenland in the future, across the Cambridge sub region and beyond.
- Encourage RSLs to use the appropriate MMC systems and encourage them to build partnerships as we remain concerned that the real cost benefits will not be seen without significantly increased volumes.
- Use the comparative data on energy efficiency and living costs to better understand the key contributors, and where further efficiency can be achieved at least cost.
- The views of people living in the homes will be key to understanding how to increase acceptability of MMC systems and energy efficiency features.
- Link the work to achieve higher Sustainability Code levels in future.
- Increase the level of community planning in preparing of planning applications. The consultation we did on SmartLIFE was tremendously useful to enable a more proactive planning process, this is a technique we will continue to use in future.

Objectives

- 5.1 Ensure homes are developed in the most sustainable way possible, and that their environmental impact of use is minimized
- 5.2 Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy
- 5.3 Minimise CO₂ emissions
- 5.4 Support water neutrality
- 5.5 Promote zero waste communities
- 5.6 Support sustainable construction and skills
- 5.7 Decrease the number of existing households in fuel poverty

6. A changing economy

The global economy is facing unprecedented challenges, especially tighter credit conditions and increases in global commodity prices, particularly oil.

“It must be remembered that the East of England is economically successful and has many strengths on which to draw.”

The East of England Economy

The East of England Economy

A briefing note *The East of England Economy* issued by EEDA, BERR and HM Treasury in August 2008 warned that we can expect difficult times for the UK economy in the coming months, and charged all regions to prepare themselves for a “more challenging economic climate”. It also highlighted that while times may be harder over coming months, the East of England region has sustained significant growth in recent years, and “the many strengths of the East of England economy will help it through this difficult period”.

The credit crunch is just one part of the story: high commodity prices, high fuel prices, high food prices, the low value of sterling and a shortage of credit at a higher cost, with lenders much more risk averse, all lead to major changes for householders, whether moving home, buying for the first time, or staying put.

In the first half of 2008, the note remarks that our region has “held up well to the challenges”. There was little indication of employment restructuring or increases in unemployment at the times of its publication.

However there has been a fall in business confidence across a range of measures, with many businesses expecting their rate of growth in turnover and profits to slow, and many indicating that new orders for goods and services are falling below 2007 levels.

The property market

We have seen redundancies in the construction sector, and some local offices closing down.

Volumes of transactions have decreased in line with the national situation - halved from 13,200 in July 2007 to 6,700 in May 2008 across the region. However regional average house prices have continued to increase in the past year, partly because many lower value sales have stalled while higher value sales, where buyers have existing equity and can raise deposits, have completed.

Market uncertainty and tightening credit availability is affecting the viability of new property deals, and there are examples of developments stalling. The commercial office market has continued to experience low growth in rental and yield levels. However, growth is static or slight in the retail and industrial markets.

The labour market

The East of England labour market remained remarkably robust in the first half of 2008. Despite some increase in redundancies and jobs at risk of redundancy, changes in economic conditions have yet to translate into the region’s main labour market indicators. Unemployment levels are stable within the region and there were no marked changes to levels of unemployment benefit claimants between February and August 2008.

“The East of England is an economic success story...”

Its strengths include:

- Significant economic growth in recent years.
- One of UK’s highest long-term economic growth rates.
- Among Europe’s three most R&D intensive regions.

- Share of people on key benefits well below national average at 10% - South Cambridgeshire is as low as 4%.
- Fastest-growing population, though bringing associated challenges.
- Higher than average businesses and start-ups.
- Important gateway to global markets.
- Below national average for skill levels, but increasing markedly.
- £110bn economy, the fourth largest in the UK.
- Country's top location for private sector research.
- Employment rate of 78% - one of highest in UK.

To keep up with a rapidly changing economy and housing market, we plan to continually update our SHMA to monitor house prices, availability and affordability, and the effect of national trends on our local housing markets. We are also planning a Housing Market Bulletin to summarise trends and provide comment on changes to our sub-regional markets.

Two specific projects aim to help residents improve their economic opportunities...

Project: New Horizons

Geographical area covered: Cambridgeshire

Partners: Cambridgeshire County Council, Long Road Sixth Form College, Greater Cambridge Partnership, East of England Development Agency, Cambridge Housing Society

Project dates: July 2007 to July 2009, further funding to be sought from Big Lottery and various other funding streams after July 2009.

Resources: £90,000 from EEDA; Skills for Life provision secured from Learning and Skills Council via LRSFC. Big Lottery application in June 2008.

Key outputs:

New Horizons comprises an integrated package of:

- (a) Access to ICT equipment and the internet
- (b) Home tuition in ICT
- (c) Referral into advice on learning and work
- (d) Referral into home tuition in literacy and numeracy.

The difference it will make:

Aimed at unemployed and economically inactive residents. Aims to equip people with the confidence, to pursue their medium to long term work goals

The project was launched July 2007. Up till April 2008, 95 people had benefited from the service.

83% of customers said it had increased their confidence; 47% said it had made them more ambitious; 38% said it had increased their chances of getting a job.

Project: New Horizons Saving and Loan Scheme

Geographical area covered: Cambridgeshire

Partners: Cambridge Building Society, Granta Housing Society and Wherry Housing Association in Cambourne.

Project dates: Ongoing, though widened access to the service in Nov 2007 to social housing tenants living in Cambourne.

Key outputs:

Delivery of affordable credit and enhanced saving accounts via a mainstream financial service provider.

The difference it will make:

Aimed at residents who have limited choices around affordable credit.

Objectives

- 6.1 Test relevance, usefulness and access to new CLG housing market measures for our sub-region and take full advantage of them
- 6.2 Improve s106 agreements in future, in light of market slow down
- 6.3 Learn lessons from new housing developments

7. Understanding our housing markets

In June 2008 our first strategic housing market assessment, or SHMA, was published. Covering the whole Cambridge housing sub-region, the assessment was created through a project team including district housing and planning colleagues, English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation, developers and land owners reps, GO-East, EERA, steered by a wider partnership group of around 120 stakeholders.

Three key outputs were:

- **Building Sustainable Communities:** understand the dynamics of our housing markets, guide investment in new housing across all tenures and build communities which people value and can afford to live in, in the long term
- **Powerful Evidence:** a powerful evidence base to plan and prioritise with, and to build upon in future
- **Working Together:** partner involvement to use and share the benefits as widely as possible

The SHMA enables us to provide more secure planning policy across the sub-region, and consistently evidenced decisions. It also provides a foundation of data, which we can grow and learn from in future. The SHMA contains 36 chapters and 16 appendices, each giving a wealth of detail about our housing markets, housing needs, past delivery of homes and plans for the future. We have gathered data across 7 districts, however in some cases data was only available and comparable across the 5 Cambridgeshire districts. Please go to Appendix 9 for a link to the full SHMA.

Key messages from the SHMA

Cambridge is a large, varied housing sub region, covering seven districts with a wide range of market characteristics—from isolated rural communities, through thriving market towns, to a major City.

Towns are relatively self-contained in terms of live-work areas, and Cambridge does not seem to show as large a commuter “pull” as people commonly believe.

There are nearly 316,000 homes across the sub-region of a variety of types, sizes and tenures. Detached homes make up the largest share by type and flats the smallest, except in the City. New information on stock condition will add to this picture.

Economy and demography

Economic plans for the sub-region are positive and ambitious. Employment forecasts aim for 86,500 more jobs across the sub-region between 2001 and 2021.

Demographic change will be significant in future. The forecast increase in population of over 134,000 in twenty years requires a faster rate of growth than experienced in the past. It is equivalent to a 19% increase compared to the 2001 ‘baseline’ population.

The predicted increase in households will include a mix of existing households growing and forming, alongside people moving into the area supporting economic growth.

There will be an increase in single person households, and older households, including the frail elderly.

Housing prices

Across the sub-region, housing affordability continues to create huge pressures. At current incomes rates, some 74% of existing Cambridge City residents could not afford to buy a lower quartile (that is, an entry-level priced) home. This percentage drops to 68% in South

Cambridgeshire, 60% in East Cambridgeshire, 56% in Fenland and 54% in Huntingdonshire - indicating significant pressures when trying to purchase a home.

House prices are high and have risen significantly between 2001 and 2006, though this data needs refreshing in the light of more recent market changes. Over these years, average prices have increased by between 55% in South Cambridgeshire and 118% in Fenland, with lower quartile prices rising even more sharply.

Average house prices reach 7.75 times average earnings in the City, and for new purchasers (at the lowest end of the house price and income ranges), the ratio varies between districts from 6.5 to 8.8 times.

Comparing prices in Spring 2006, the lowest average house price was found in Fenland at £144,510 and the highest in Cambridge City at £252,410 closely followed by South Cambridgeshire at £248,090. The average price across the sub region was £194,151.

Looking at current incomes and current prices, for most of the sub-region the average cost of shared ownership is greater than lower quartile private rents, but less than average private rents, which challenges the view that 'affordable' tenures by definition occupy the lowest price end of the market. This needs further investigation with our partners help.

Private renting

Across the sub-region, some 13% of households rent privately, though 22% rent privately in the City. The average private rent was £755 per month in late 2006, though this varied from £965 in Cambridge City to £566 in Fenland. The new Local Housing Allowance system which replaces the existing housing benefit system, is likely to affect the affordability of private rents.

The buy-to-let market has grown considerably, and in 2007 could have represented as much as 18% to 29% of sales across the sub region. We look forward to working closely with partners to monitor and analyse these trends in future.

Social housing

Some 15% of homes are socially rented - that is, from a council or a housing association. While overall housing stock has increased by 5% in the past 5 years, social housing has increased by just 0.3% in the same period. Meanwhile, the number of households waiting for these homes rose from 15,000 to almost 21,000, while relets held about steady at 2,586 in 2001/2 to 2,663 in 2006/7, an overall change of only 77 across the sub-region.

Homelessness

National policies expanding the definition of homelessness helped lead to an increase in the number of households being accepted, but due to an emphasis on homelessness prevention there has been a drop in the number accepted over the long term in most areas.

In the sub-region as a whole, households accepted as homeless represent between 0.3 and 0.5% of the district populations. This figure has been reasonably stable over the last five years, though the percentage is slightly higher in Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire.

The number of households in temporary accommodation has fallen or stayed roughly the same in all districts except Huntingdonshire. The number of people housed temporarily in bed and breakfast has fallen since 2002, as districts are using a range of temporary accommodation options to avoid using bed and breakfast.

Households accepted as homeless and in priority need account for between 5% and 9% of the total housing needs register. Over a quarter (27%) of new social lets in 2006 were to households who were accepted as homeless.

Housing need

Following CLG guidance the SHMA identifies high levels of need for affordable homes in the five districts fully assessed. These levels of need support current policies for delivering homes.

Using registers of expressed need, we have projected the affordable tenures needed in future. This will benefit from continual refinement and added new research in future.

The overall need for new affordable homes for the first 5 years (expressed per year) is

- 1,509 homes in Cambridge City.
- 797 homes in East Cambridgeshire.
- 639 homes in Fenland.
- 1,205 homes in Huntingdonshire.
- 1,424 homes in South Cambridgeshire.

On the sizes of homes needed, we are keen to support mixed and balanced communities. Housing registers show a large proportion of applicants needing of 1 and 2 bedroom homes, however it is interesting to note that the pattern of housing choice in Cambourne would emphasise less preference for 1 beds and more for 2 beds or more.

Further research is needed to compare this to English Partnerships' plans for new research into patterns of housing consumption, comparing the Cambourne survey to other new development surveys, initially in Huntingdonshire, and looking at the new information available through the HomeLink, our Choice Based Lettings system.

Specific groups

We acknowledge there is still more to do to look at housing issues for specific groups, bringing together existing evidence and setting a foundation for future research and analysis. We have identified housing data and issues for each specific group, including housing issues for black and minority ethnic populations, migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers, young people, students, older people, people with disabilities and finally, rural housing including Park Homes.

Response: Growth

Building plans aim to stem the increase in long-distance commuting into Cambridge, through the careful location of new homes. Housing development is proposed at a number of locations on the edge of the City, at a new settlement north-west of Cambridge (Northstowe) connected by the guided busway, and in existing market towns. Other village development is guided by measures of sustainability, linked to the range of services provided.

The delivery of new homes and communities depends on a number of factors, including the construction industry, builders and landowners; appropriate levels of infrastructure; a flexible and responsive planning system; land availability and macro economic factors. These are acknowledged in the SHMA and we need to do more work with partners to analyse their effects, in future.

Response: The future of the SHMA

Our first SHMA forms a firm foundation for future research and work with our partners. It has been developed in consultation with these partners, and we are confident it is a robust and credible assessment of our housing markets. The approach we have taken closely follows the clear steer from CLG to encourage and embed local knowledge, understanding and development of the SHMA over time.

Our first SHMA has led us to an ambitious and challenging work programme for the future, involving updates of secondary data, more consultation with our partners, new primary research and further analysis. Appendix 10 provides some key facts and figures from the SHMA.

Links to other needs information - Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a method of gathering information about the current and future health, care and well-being needs of the population. The information helps bring together the evidence on what support services are needed, and where. A JSNA is not about identifying the needs of an individual, but looks at the 'big picture' of the local population. It helps identify groups where support services are not being delivered to an adequate level, and which areas are doing better or worse than others. This way, health commissioning can be improved.

In Cambridgeshire there are three existing JSNAs around issues for children, mental health and older people. Further JSNAs are planned on learning disability, new communities and homelessness. In Suffolk one JSNA for 2008 to 2011 has been published which covers:

- Population.
- Health needs.
- Health and social care.
- Health inequalities and well being.
- Children and young people.
- Environment, transport and access to services.
- Voice (the views of people in Suffolk on key service issues).
- Key cross-cutting issues across rural and urban areas.

Housing colleagues will be working with partners in health who have produced JSNAs and who plan further ones, to ensure we link them with the SHMA and ensure housing and health agencies work together to support the best outcomes for all our residents.

Links to Suffolk and Cambridgeshire's' summary JSNAs are provided in Appendix 9.

Objectives

- 7.1 Continue to encourage and embed local knowledge, understanding and development of the SHMA over time
- 7.2 Improve information and information-sharing around the current economic slowdown
- 7.3 Good information on homes delivered across the sub-region
- 7.4 Work with partners to develop Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, highlighting the links and contribution housing and support can make to the health agenda.

8. New homes, new growth

Growth Areas work to achieve a better balance between housing availability and the demand for housing, including improving affordability, in all English regions while protecting valuable countryside around our towns, cities and in the green belt and the sustainability of towns and cities. In the East of England, these are

- London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough.
- Luton and Bedfordshire, part of the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Areas.
- The Thames Gateway.

To find out more about these areas, go to GO-East's website, click here: [Growth Locations](#)

The Cambridge sub-region falls within the London–Stansted–Cambridge–Peterborough growth area. The strategy for growth specified in the Regional Spatial Strategy seeks to deliver 73,300 homes between 2001 to 2021, concentrated in and around Cambridge and in the county's market towns.

We have already embraced a strategy for increasing the rate of housing development. This increase has been witnessed by actual housing completions over recent years. Growth Area Funding plays an essential role in ensuring delivery of large numbers of new homes in sustainable communities.

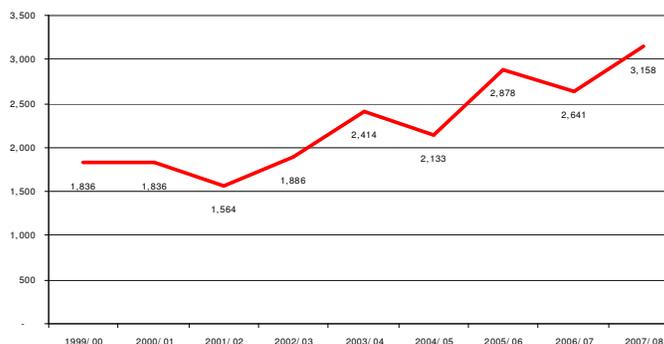
Cambridge is a major engine for growth, with a buoyant economy. Jobs have increased by 15,000 between 1999 and 2004, and are proposed to grow to 75,000 by 2021 placing further demands on local housing and infrastructure to support sustainable growth. The growth in jobs in the knowledge sectors, and in science and technology in particular, means that Cambridge and its

surrounding area are of regional, national and international significance. The continuing success of the local economy leads to job growth in other sectors, especially in service industries. This in turn has led to a strong demand for housing and related infrastructure. Climbing house prices, reducing affordability and difficulties accessing mortgage finance all add to the urgency to deliver new homes of a range of tenures and types, with appropriate support for first time buyers.

The overall aim for growth is to increase the provision of housing close to jobs and learning opportunities. A mix of private market, intermediate and social rented housing is planned. A key objective for new developments is to achieve very high standards of design and sustainability, improving the quality of life of both existing and new residents. To help achieve this, a Quality Charter has been prepared by the local partners and stakeholders. Please see Appendix 9 for a link to Cambridgeshire's Quality Charter.

Work has also been undertaken on renewable energy; provision and management of community facilities including civic buildings; and communications technology. We welcome steps taken by Government to improve the sustainability of new developments. Climate change is now widely acknowledged as a threat to future generations, and recent events have reinforced the need to address travel, air quality, energy, water and waste in particular.

Actual housing completions



From: Agenda Item 14, Cambridgeshire Horizons Board, 17 September 2008

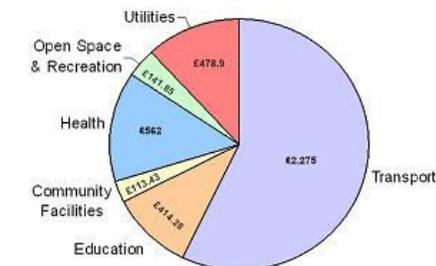
There are considerable opportunities for growth both on major strategic sites, our market towns and other major settlements; building on their existing strengths while requiring investment in and their infrastructure if they are to grow as sustainable communities.

Resources for infrastructure - the gap to 2021

In August 2007, Cambridgeshire Horizons and partners received a Long Term Delivery Plan from Deloitte which quantifies the scale of infrastructure provision needed to match housing and employment growth across the sub-region. Please see Appendix 9 for a link to the Plan.

It considers the infrastructure required to support development on sites over 100 homes including the five major schemes at Northstowe and the Cambridge urban fringes. It categorises findings into four areas: requirement to 2021, longer term requirements to 2031, strengthening our approach to funding infrastructure and considering a broad implementation framework.

The additional investment needed to support growth from 2001 to 2021 is shown in pie chart 1, and totals £3,985,700,000. On top of this, significant investment in affordable housing is required (estimated at around £1 billion).



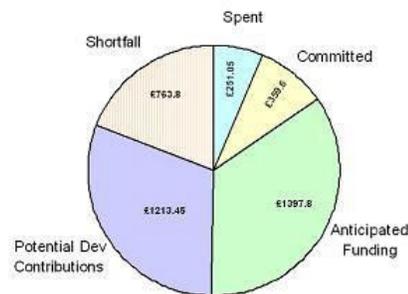
Pie chart 1

Pie chart 2 shows progress already made on meeting this gap. Some £251m was spent on infrastructure between 2000 and 2006, and on top of this some £83m was invested by the Housing Corporation for affordable homes.

Pie chart 2 shows a deficit of £763.8m, and assumes the sub region bids for and secures Transport Innovation Funding of around £500m. If this is not the case, the gap extends to a total of £1263m.

Housing Growth Fund

In 2008/9 we secured some £14.2 million for 2008/09 in the first wave of Housing Growth Fund with a further £20 million expected over the next two financial years and an initial £8 million to establish a “rolling infrastructure fund” for Cambridgeshire. This will provide money to help deliver the Addenbrooke’s Access Road, a key project providing a link to around 4,000 new homes on the Cambridge Southern Fringe. The nature of the fund will allow money to be provided up front for necessary infrastructure projects, such as the access road, before it is replenished through contributions from housing developers as new homes are built. The projects benefitting from the initial settlement include:



Pie chart 2

- Cambridge Southern Fringe, which will receive £4 million to help enable 40% affordable housing and the provision of the Addenbrooke’s Access Road.
- Northstowe will be given nearly £3 million for a variety of schemes to benefit the proposed new town and existing villages, including community facilities, cycle routes and improved access to the countryside.
- Cambourne, along with the market towns of Huntingdon, Ely, St Neots and March will together receive nearly £4 million
- A further £4 million will go towards a range of sustainable infrastructure and sports related projects across the county.

In 2009 we have refreshed our programme of development, and submitted an updated bid for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Links are provided in Appendix 9.

Project: The Cambridge Challenge

Geographical area covered: Northstowe, a new town of around 10,000 homes planned near the village of Longstanton just outside Cambridge; the Southern Fringe of Cambridge where 4,000 homes are planned; and the NIAB site in North West Cambridge where 1,400 homes are planned.

Partners: The successful bidder is Cambridgeshire Partnerships Limited (CPL).

Project dates: Partner selection was announced in August 2007

Resources: The Cambridge Challenge is a national pilot investment process which may see up to £60 million invested in 3,300 new homes.

Key outputs:

The pilot selection process involved a partnership approach between the Housing Corporation and key local stakeholders including local councils, English Partnerships, Cambridgeshire Horizons, land owners and developers. This pilot will test the benefits of identifying a strategic partner for affordable housing provision at the earliest stage in the design and development of new communities.

The difference it will make:

Cambridge is an area of high housing growth, being in the middle of one of the government's four Growth Areas, there is high demand and an acute shortage of affordable homes. This made it an ideal location for an exciting national pilot into new methods of investment. CPL's vision is "to build thriving new communities". The delivery partners have an ambitious vision for the future with three clear objectives to:

- Establish new, well-managed, balanced and thriving communities in Cambridgeshire.
- Create well-designed, high quality homes, with design features that set standards for the future.
- Offer the best value for public investment.

The plan is not simply about providing high quality housing. Success will be measured by our ability to create well thought-out, sustainable communities that address the aspirations of the people who will live there. The partnership will work with existing communities and will engage with people who come to live in the developing communities, making sure we understand their needs, welcome and involve them as they arrive.

For more on CPL, see www.cambridgeshirepartnerships.org.uk

Project: s.106 affordable housing improvement project

Geographical area covered: the Cambridge housing sub-region

Partners: Local authorities enablers, planners and solicitors; Improvement East team at EERA, ARK consultancy

Project dates: In March 2008, EERA published a good practice guide, "Delivery of affordable housing through Section 106 agreements" (see Appendix 8). This project builds on the outcomes of the report and runs from July 2008 with the full report delivered by Feb 2009.

Resources: Funded by Improvement East

Key outputs:

- A summary of learning from elsewhere across the UK, within the region and the sub-region on s106 affordable housing wording.
- Gap analysis of existing s106 agreements used by districts for affordable housing, and a new proposed framework for a menu-system to "pick and mix" clauses including cascade clauses.
- A training guide and "learning from each other" sessions for future use and further development by all the professions involved.

The difference it will make:

- Develop the regional good practice further locally, and to commission further consultant-led work around section 106 agreements for affordable housing.
- Promote measurable and sustained improvement in performance across our seven districts, and to enable all the other 47 districts across the region to benefit from this project and its outcomes.
- Improve our effectiveness and efficiency in leading and delivering services to all communities by securing affordable housing on new development sites across our sub region in fair, transparent and consistent ways, building on existing good practice.
- Improve the legal agreements used to deliver affordable housing, achieve a better understanding each others' roles and objectives, use an agreed framework and develop a training tool to help people remember, learn or have a sound introduction to the issue.

Resources for new homes: the National Affordable Housing Programme

From 2008 onwards, the Housing Corporation adopted a new regular market engagement (RME) system, which means that bids for funding new affordable homes can be proposed when there is a high certainty of delivery between 2008 and 2011, rather than having one big programme decided at the start of 2008.

The 2008-11 programme is different from previous years, given that more than half the region's expenditure will flow from schemes that are not identified at the outset of the programme. The RME process has now been superseded by the Continuous Market Engagement (CME). This change has come about to enable greater flexibility in the programme to allow for the changes in the housing market. CME has now started and bidders can submit a bid at any time and will receive a decision within four weeks.

Cambridge sub-region's affordable housing programme for 2008 to 2011

The total size of the Cambridge sub-regions programme for the new 2008 to 2011 programme excluding open market homebuy is set out below:

	Rent		LCHO		Total	
	Homes	Grant	Homes	Grant	Homes	Grant
Cambridge City	98	£4,862,000			98	£4,966,000
East Cambridgeshire	129	£6,448,269	39	£324,537	168	£6,772,806
Fenland	106	£4,226,353	3	£108,000	109	£4,334,353
Forest Heath	58	£2,576,000	2	£40,000	60	£1,134,000
Huntingdonshire	228	£7,835,432	84	£518,328	312	£8,353,680
South Cambridgeshire	112	£4,500,500	73	£742,750	185	£5,243,250
St. Edmundsbury	112	£3,185,000	47	£180,000	159	£3,365,000
Total	843	£32,651,774	248	£1,913,655	1091	£35,677,089¹⁴

This represents an allocation of 42% of the total resource available to the Cambridge sub-region with the remaining 58% to be allocated through the CME process. Additionally this has a 77:23 split between rent and LCHO homes.

Investment Theme Analysis

It is important to remember that it is possible for a scheme to satisfy more than one investment theme – for example a scheme may satisfy both the rural and growth theme. This means that total thematic allocations may be greater than total spatial allocations. The allocations by theme for the Cambridge sub-region are:

Investment Theme	Thematic Allocations
Growth	£34,130,000
BME	£520,000
Rural	£9,080,000
Supported	£6,730,000

Growth

The growth theme embraces schemes which meet new housing need in government growth areas, growth points and key centres for development & change. It includes regeneration schemes, new build homes for key workers and homes meeting identified local housing needs. The majority of the Cambridge sub-region is in a growth area and the regional housing strategy recommended 75% of funding be allocated to this theme. The Cambridge sub-region's growth theme can be seen below:

¹⁴ The total allocation does not total the individual allocations for rent and LCHO due to a small number of 'miscellaneous' allocations for re-improvement work to stock.

	Rent	LCHO	Total
Homes	800	238	1,038
Allocation	£32,450,000	£1,680,000	£34,130,000

Black and minority ethnic (BME)

The Region is working towards an approach where BME funding will 'top-up' those sub regions demonstrating a culturally sensitive approach to new housing provision as well as retain funding for provision of specialist schemes designed to meet the needs of particular communities. One BME bid has been accepted in the Cambridge sub-region which is part of a larger supported housing bid, at £520,000.

Rural

Rural investment was split between settlements with a population of less than 3,000 and market towns with a population between 3,000-10,000. It is here where there is a marked overlap between the themes in the Cambridge sub-region as Cambourne fits the definition of a rural market town yet more properly sits in the growth theme. The Cambridge sub-region's rural allocation can be seen below:

		Rent	LCHO	Total
Markets towns (3-10,000)	Homes	120	40	160
	Allocation	£4,720,000	£100,000	£4,820,000
Villages (0-3,000)	Homes	106	50	156
	Allocation	£3,590,000	£670,000	£4,260,000
Total	Homes	226	90	316
	Allocation	£8,310,000	£770,000	£9,080,000

Supported Housing

The sub-region was able to bring forward into the 06/08 programme the top SP priority from the 08/11 programme. Nevertheless the sub-region has secured a substantial amount of funding to date for supported housing in the 08/11 programme. The Cambridge sub-region's programme is shown in the table below:

	Rent	LCHO	Total
Homes	109	24	133
Allocation	£6,580,000	£1,160,000	£6,740,000

Larger Family Homes

This is a particular priority for the sub-region and it was encouraging to see 24% of rented homes being larger family homes, notwithstanding the cost pressures. We will continue to focus on this, reflecting the wishes of the sub-region.

	Total new homes	Larger homes	%	RHS target
Rent	843	199	24%	23%
Sale	247	58	23%	10%
Total	1,090	257	24%	

Quality

The Housing Corporation's new 2008-11 design and quality standards have set out clear benchmarks for bidders to achieve. For sustainability these are Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3, for the external environment the achievement of a Building for Life assessment scoring 12 out of 20 (10/20 for rural below 3,000 population and street fronted infill) and on the internal environment the achievement of minimum Housing Quality Indicators which specify standards of size, layout and services. Almost all schemes within the Cambridge sub-region are fully compliant with the new quality standards and many significantly exceed them.

Efficiency

The East of England Region is required to make efficiency savings of between 4.5% and 6.5% measured on a grant per home basis. This has been achieved on the proposed programme set out here for the Cambridge sub-region and across the region as a whole.

Strategic Sites

There are a number of strategic sites in the Cambridge sub-region as set out in the Region's Housing Investment Plan. Cambourne and Love's Farm have both received allocations and it is expected that the further strategic sites identified by the sub-region will come through during the CME process.

Focus on rural housing

In 2008, *Living Working Countryside, the Taylor Review of Rural Economy and Affordable Housing* was published. Matthew Taylor MP made recommendations around the themes of the countryside, market towns, villages, rural economies and unblocking the system. The housing sub-region needs to consider these recommendations to ensure we are supporting thriving rural economies and housing (see section 2 for a link to the full review).

We currently work with and support the Rural Housing Enablers positioned within Rural Community Councils. We value the RHEs' work and are committed to continuing to develop affordable homes in villages and market towns, where they are sustainable, meet a local housing need or enable a community to continue to thrive. Funding for these enablers is vital and we must work together to ensure more secure, long-term funding is put in place if they are to continue their vital work and to help local communities deliver what is most needed locally.

Evolving Partnerships

The Housing Corporation is the government agency that funds new affordable housing and regulates the work of nearly 2,000 housing associations in England. Working in partnership, they ensure that more than two million homes nationally are well managed. The Corporation helps meet the housing needs of people from a wide range of backgrounds, investing in new homes for rent and helping people, including many first-time buyers, get a foot on the property ladder.

The Corporation was set up in 1964 and over the past 44 years has seen the housing sector change enormously. Back then, council housing was the most common form of social housing, but many former council homes have now swapped over to housing association ownership. In fact, in 2006, the millionth home was transferred from a local authority to a housing association. Plus, housing associations now offer a range of services beyond housing alone. Many provide their residents with help into training or employment schemes and can help people part-buy their homes.

In 2008 the Housing Corporation is changing, helping to set up the Homes and Communities Agency and the new social housing regulator, known as the Tenant Services Authority. The Homes and Communities Agency will bring together investment strengths with the Academy for Sustainable Communities' and English Partnerships' experience in regeneration and Communities and Local Government's delivery functions to create an organisation that can be even more ambitious in its efforts to help build better homes and stronger communities.

The TSA will take forward the regulatory functions of our work, ensuring that residents have a say in the work of their housing associations and have access to the best possible services.

"Housing is about more than homes. We're working to deliver decent, sustainable communities that people want to live in"

From: *What is the Housing Corporation?* http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/What_is_the_HC.pdf

Objectives

- 8.1 Draw up infrastructure investment plans, clarifying how partners will deliver commitments supporting infrastructure needed for housing growth
- 8.2 Create new communities people want to live and work in, which are healthy and safe. Share the benefits of new development with existing communities.
- 8.3 Tackle issues of an ageing population so as to ensure a safe, healthy and settled future for older people, including need for housing and support across the sub-region
- 8.4 Agree new ways of working together across the sub-region by implementing our sub regional LA/HC action plan
- 8.5 Invest in rural housing and support vibrant, sustainable communities, in order to balance action and investment over all housing delivery sites across the sub-region
- 8.6 Support implementation of the Cambridge Challenge and ensure CPL, our strategic partners, have the tools and resources to deliver homes on three of our strategic growth sites
- 8.7 Work together to improve s106 agreements across our sub region and possibly the region

9. Existing homes and communities

This strategy is not all about building new homes and creating new communities. Existing homes are a huge resource for our sub region - some are in use, some are empty, but all have the potential to meet housing need in some way. There are nearly 316,000 homes across the sub-region of a variety of types, sizes and tenures. Detached homes make up the largest share by type and flats the smallest, except in the City.

Social rented housing

Five of the sub-regional districts have transferred their council housing stock to housing association partners, and one is going through the stock option process as this strategy is being written. The transfer of homes to such partners has enabled increase investment in homes, and all seven districts are on track to meet the decent homes standard by 2010. Some districts are looking to extend this work to surrounding environments.

Private homes

One of the actions each district can take, is to work with its neighbours to make best use of the homes available, reduce the number of empty homes, encourage renovation of homes in poor repair, particularly if there is a vulnerable person in residence, and make sure everyone is living in decent homes and decent neighbourhoods. Some of the more difficult issues we can work together on include:

- Homes in Multiple Occupation
- Overcrowding
- Home maintenance in times when finances are stretched
- Empty homes
- Improving standards in homes, particularly for vulnerable people

Project: BRE stock modelling

Geographical area covered: Housing sub-region (except Fenland)

Partners: Local authorities, Building Research Establishment

Project dates: 2007/2008 onwards

Key outputs: The BRE provides information on key housing indicators using the BRE housing stock models, and will provide information on:

- Dwellings which fail the Decent Homes Standard
- Dwellings which fail the Decent Homes Standard due to:
 - The presence of a Category 1 Rating System Hazard
 - Inadequate thermal comfort
 - Disrepair
 - Non-modern facilities and services
 - Non decent homes occupied by a vulnerable household
 - Dwellings with a SAP rating less than 35
 - Fuel poverty

The difference it will make:

The stock modelling helps identify areas of poorer housing conditions within each district, to inform local stock condition surveys and enable better targeting of resources. It enables districts to compare information with each other, and assess the feasibility of joint work on specific issues.

The modelling can be used to improve data on key housing indicators at district, statistical ward and census output area level. It provides information in map format which will help assess stock condition geographically.

Link: Find out more about BRE by visiting www.bre.co.uk

<p>Project: Social and private integrated improvement programme. Geographical area covered: Fenland Links neighbourhood management pathfinder area. Partners: Fenland District Council, Roddons Housing Association, Apollo contractors. Project dates: April 2009 to April 2011. Resources: Bidding for £1.2 million to EERA's private sector decent homes, regeneration and mixed communities fund. Key outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Secure works to 100 vulnerable private sector households to meet the decent homes standard and improve the external environment through fencing and driveway programmes.▪ Comprehensive regeneration of the Fenland Links area.▪ Improved SAP ratings of properties.▪ Outcomes and lessons learnt report to develop good practice for future cross-tenure improvement programmes across the region. <p>The difference it will make:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 100 vulnerable households living in a home that meets the decent homes standard, improving quality of life including a healthier, warmer environment and more affordable warmth.▪ Improved physical regeneration of the external environment to match the improvements undertaken by Roddons Housing Association in the social housing sector to help achieve a better quality environment across tenures.▪ A pilot project working across public and private homes, for other sub-regional districts to assess and learn from as appropriate.

Resources

EERA manages a pot of funding for private sector decent homes, regeneration and mixed communities which can be bid for, and used to tackle poor conditions in private homes and neighbourhoods. While we await the outcome of the BRE stock modelling, districts have been bidding for EERA funding either individually or in small partnership groups in 2008. Once the stock modelling is available, we will be more able to target actions and resources at those issues across the sub-region which require our joint intervention.

Objectives

- 9.1 Ensure homes are made decent, across the sub-region, increasing the number of people living in homes which are decent
- 9.2 Make best use of existing homes, including through the Homelink system
- 9.3 Learn from the integrated improvement project in Fenland, as well as their Solid Wall Insulation pilot – both subject to successful bid outcomes.

10. Housing options, housing choice

Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects

Each district has produced a new homelessness strategy in 2008. Tying these together will be a sub-regional action plan (due to be produced in Autumn 2009) which draws together shared and cross-boundary actions. This action plan will look to adopt new quality measures for homelessness services, based on the HQN value for money review completed in March 2008, and learning lessons from it. The sub-regional homelessness and housing options group leads on this work, and the sub-regional housing group (CRHB) will consider and support this developing sub-regional work.

Choice based lettings

The Home-Link choice based lettings system was launched in February 2008 across the Cambridge housing sub-region. Through Home-Link, council and housing association properties which are available to let are advertised on the website and in the Home-Link magazine. Anyone can look at the adverts and decide whether they want to be considered for any of the properties. To be considered, people have to be registered and to bid for an advertised property they are eligible for, up to three properties per fortnight.

Home-Link is open to existing tenants seeking a transfer, home seekers already on the housing register and people applying for housing for the first time. It gives customers more choice about where they want to live. Customers can see how properties in previous bidding cycles were let by looking at feedback of previous lets on the website or in the magazine, including the band of the successful bidder and how long they waited to be housed. Home-link covers all available Council and Housing Association homes, including sheltered.

Partners include Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Sanctuary Hereward, Fenland District Council (from Nov 08), Roddons Housing Association (from Nov 08), Forest Heath District Council, King's Forest Housing, Huntingdonshire District Council, Luminus Group, South Cambridgeshire District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Havebury Housing Partnership, Locata.

Outputs from CBL at Sept 2008

HomeLink has been running successfully since February 2008, headlines to date¹⁵ include:

Total number of 'Live' applicants across the sub region ¹⁶ :	21,416
Number of people actively bidding	5,178 (24%)
Number in band A	833 (4%)
Number in band B	1,980 (9%)
Number in band C	9,996 (45%)
Number in band D	9,002 (42%)
Number of adverts placed	1,153
Number of people housed	869
Number housed who were in band A	397 (46%)
Number housed who were in band B	239 (28%)
Number housed who were in band C	194 (22%)
Number housed who were in band D	29 (4%)

¹⁵ Correct as at September 2008

¹⁶ Excluding Fenland DC who do not 'go live' until November 2008

Project: Value For Money Project

Geographical area covered: Housing sub-region

Partners: District housing authorities, Housing Quality Network.

Project dates: Ran from August 2007 to March 2008. In future want to continue the work with ongoing benchmarking for strategic housing service costs within the sub-region and beyond, and setting quality measures as part of our sub-regional homelessness action plan.

Resources: £2,000 per authority was provided to enable HQN consultants to facilitate the project.

Key outputs: To establish a model for assessing value for money within strategic housing services that can be used by HQN and the Audit Commission to assess value for money as part of the assessment of KLOE 32 throughout the country

The difference it will make:

Will ensure that services are able to compare and achieve value for money through comparison and learning good practice from other authorities and may achieve savings for Council Tax payers

Project: Enhanced housing options project

Geographical area covered: Housing sub-region

Partners: District housing authorities, Home-Link, CLG, CHS's New Horizons scheme (see page 20)

Project dates: Recruit an Enhanced Housing Options service development manager from April 2009

Resources: Bidding for £240,000 over 2 years from Homelessness, Overcrowding and Worklessness Division at CLG, attracting £312,000 match-funding and self funding after the first 2 years.

Key outputs:

- Develop the Home-Link website as a portal to the Enhanced Housing Options service, improving systems and developing new schemes such including: promoting **mutual exchanges**; linking **homeless applicants** more effectively into the system; creating a "mutual link" to **Key Homes East**; developing a process enabling private homes (owned and rented) to be advertised through Home-Link where **adapted** for people with disabilities; advertising employment-related advice along with jobs or **employment initiatives**, building on the New Horizons project.
- Ensure vulnerable people have fair and equitable access to the choice-based lettings system.
- Learn from St Edmundsbury's link to supported lodgings schemes, possibly extending across the sub-regional and groups such as returning Forces, asylum seekers and migrant workers. Look to extend Fenland's initiative to promote low cost home ownership for people with disabilities.
- Develop good practice to prevent homelessness, minimizing mortgage repossessions through money advice and lay advocacy schemes at county courts, and investigating feasibility of a telephone hot-line for private landlords.
- Review of Tenants Incentive Schemes across the sub-region which aim to free up larger social rented homes, and widen these tenants' housing options
- Investigate how the Government's *Saving Gateway* scheme, which begins in 2010, can link in.
- Extend promotion of Home Improvement Agencies across the sub-region, through Home-Link.

The difference it will make:

- Extends the usage and coverage of Home-Link, and ensures fair and equitable access for all.
- Promotes services directly to customers to promote employment opportunities; encourage mutual exchanges; increase access to adapted homes; improving services for homeless applicants; promoting low cost homes ownership options.
- Possible extension of links to supported lodgings and LCHO for people with disabilities; prevention of homelessness through advice and advocacy; review of TIS schemes; possible link to the *Saving Gateway* scheme in future.

Objectives

- 10.1 Increase residents housing choices and improve access to housing in a clear and equitable way.
- 10.2 Prevent and tackle homelessness - tie together districts' homelessness reviews and strategies, and work together to achieve maximum benefit for our residents
- 10.3 Develop Sustainable lettings plans, ensuring a balance of lettings on all sites, particularly large strategic sites, within the CBL system.

11. Vulnerable people, supporting people and people with diverse needs

Ensuring equal access to housing and related services to all groups, whatever their diverse needs, is important in ensuring mixed and sustainable communities. The Cambridge sub-region will be represented on a Regional Housing Equality and Diversity Group being set up to drive forward work in this area.

Supporting People (SP) is a partnership programme, set up in 2003, to monitor the quality of existing housing-related support services for vulnerable adults and to plan what needs to be done to meet their needs. Housing-related support services are services which help people to continue living independently. SP pay staff to help people with:

- Managing their money.
- Developing the skills to look after their home.
- Liaising with social care, health, police and other professionals.
- Arranging minor repairs.
- Understanding the needs of neighbours.
- Improving life skills.

'Vulnerable adults' describes people who, for a variety of reasons, need extra support to live in the community. The government has put together a list of those we should treat as vulnerable adults.

In 2008 the Supporting People East Region Group (SPERG) published a regional strategy to provide a direction of travel and strategic priorities needed to meet the housing related support needs of vulnerable people in the East of England from 2008 to 2011. Each administering authority has a local five-year strategy. The Regional Strategy provides a link between local and national policy and enables Supporting People to work strategically at a regional level. The three key issues in the region are:

1. Government has identified the East Region as an important growth area.

Growth and the increase in numbers of people and affordable homes in the region is likely to lead to an increase in demand for supported housing, while funding for SP is reducing in real terms. This raises concerns about the sustainability of new housing projects and our ability to provide support services to meet need. The region has argued for additional SP funding in light of growth, and CLG has commissioned research to establish whether and to what extent increased housing development in growth areas will result in increased need for housing support, which we will participate in fully.

2. The face of local government is changing with the emphasis now clearly on local decision making.

From 2008, local area agreements will become the main delivery agreement between the local area and central government (see page 14). Supporting People will be integrated within the new performance framework and from April 2009 funding for SP will be aligned through LAAs. We must make sure that the value of the SP programme is recognised and that the housing related support needs of vulnerable people continue to be met.

3. Reduced funding for local government and SP in addition to the increasing need to make efficiency savings.

The Gershon Efficiency Review signalled a change for local government with a drive towards year on year efficiencies of 2.5% cashable and 2.5% non-cashable savings. Building on

this, the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 called for least 3% value for money savings per year across central and local government. The CLG grant settlement puts increased pressure on SP teams to continue to deliver high standards of housing related support services and improved outcomes for service users with less money. We are keen to see the outcomes of two regional Value Improvement Projects, investigating the opportunity for common procurement and joint contracting of services with Social Care.

Supporting People, Cambridgeshire

Vision

The vision of the SP programme in Cambridgeshire is to 'improve the quality of life and well-being by ensuring housing and housing support is available that reduces risk and enables vulnerable people to live as full a life as possible'.

Context

The 2005-10 Cambridgeshire SP strategy needs updating. A Commissioning Strategy has been produced to update and amend the 2005-10 strategy, but does not replace it entirely. Highlights of the commissioning strategy include intentions to:

- expand both generic and specialist floating support services
- increase resettlement support
- make changes to accommodation for people with substance misuse, mental health, victims of domestic violence and young people at risk.

It includes requirements for more extra care for older people, and greater equity of sheltered housing across the county.

Due to the wide range of vulnerable people the SP programme supports from young people leaving care to frail elderly people the Commissioning Strategy is important to a broad group of statutory and voluntary agencies.

The SP budget in Cambridgeshire will continue to be cut annually (see page 39), so services will continue to be benchmarked to ensure value for money. Increasingly, outcome measures will be used to determine what is being achieved for the money invested.

The strategy sets out future aims to

- move into a performance management relationship with SP services providers, following the client group review programme.
- continue to work closely with the Housing Corporation to join up SP revenue with Housing Corporation capital
- strengthen the links between SP and the Local Area Agreement as we prepare for SP to become part of the LAA.
- undertake fresh needs analysis to ensure that our needs information continues to be up to date and shapes the full revision of the forthcoming SP Strategy.

The future

A full review of the 2005-2010 SP Strategy will begin in 2009. The Commissioning Strategy will be the main strategic reference document for SP in Cambridgeshire until the full review of the strategy takes place. For a link to the Commissioning Strategy, please go to Appendix 9.

Best value review of sheltered housing across Cambridgeshire

Back in 2003/4 a joint SP and best value review of sheltered housing was carried out. The review included an action plan which sets out responsibilities at County wide, locality and provider levels. The vision set out through the Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing

supports developments in health and social care in increasing independence and choice. We need to:

- Recognise that more older people are choosing to remain in their own homes.
- Ensure range of provision is available to meet needs, rather than our existing reliance on sheltered housing.
- Ensure extra care is available to meet needs of a growing elderly population, particularly for those aged 80+.
- Provide alternatives to residential care and explore alternative models of extra care provision particularly in rural settings, and widen the range of accommodation on offer, including leasehold options.
- Explore the potential to provide extra care as part of sheltered housing schemes, extending provision into the community and encompassing people's cultural needs. Existing sheltered schemes could act as a base for services and as a community hub.
- Ensure a fair distribution of sheltered housing across Cambridgeshire so it is available on a more equitable basis.
- Integrate Dementia/EMI provision within mainstream extra care.
- Develop a greater potential range of options, delivering in a more flexible way and exploiting the use of new technology.

An Extra Care Commissioning Strategy is now being developed to help implement the BVR, see Appendix 9.

Suffolk Supporting People - the vision

- We believe that providing housing-related support is important for many vulnerable people so they can continue living independently in the community and not need more specialist care.
- We want to give people real choices in where they live and what support they get.
- Some may also have health problems or need personal care (help with washing or dressing) and we want to work with other professionals to make sure they can stay independent.
- We want to buy quality services which meet people's needs and provide value-for-money.

Before Supporting People, vulnerable people received help in a variety of ways. We need to understand what happened in the past before we can progress.

We already know we don't have enough money to do everything we would like and have decided the following should be priorities:

- Making sure older people can stay in their own home if they want to;
- Reducing the number of people who are homeless, and breaking the cycle of becoming homeless time and time again; and
- Making sure people can move out of long-term institutional care and are given the choice of where they live.

Our concern is that the reductions in our grant would mean we may not be able to achieve our long term aims as we would have to focus all our attention on balancing the budget in the short term. Please go to Appendix 9 for a link to the Suffolk Supporting People strategy.

Project: Home Improvement Agency Review
Geographical area covered: Cambridgeshire
Partners: Strategic housing and environmental health, Supporting People, Home Improvement Agencies, PCT, County Council, Foundations.
Project dates: Review completed May 08. Consultation May to Aug 08. Recommendations to be implemented 2009-2010.
Resources: Considering joint commissioning of HIA services.
Key outputs:

- Review and modify the specification to ensure it meets strategic needs and priorities of partner agencies
- Consider the efficiencies of the current arrangements
- Consider good practice
- If scope to improve, working up practical options for realising these

The difference it will make:

- Ensure consistent, fair and secure funding arrangements
- Enable HIAs to have a firm footing from which to continue to provide excellent services to vulnerable households.
- Ensure value for money for commissioners

Resources

At the start of the 2008/11 Housing Corporation capital was secured for supported housing schemes, comprising 56 rented and 23 LCHO homes at a total capital cost of £3.15m (13% of our NAHP).

However Supporting People funding is vital to make these, and other schemes, work as SP provides revenue funding needed for staffing and day-to-day support costs. Across the Region, the Housing Corporation and SP teams liaise on capital and revenue funding allocations through a matrix system, which the Cambridge sub-region helped to develop. This involves prioritising supported housing schemes for both capital and revenue purposes, and working together on the priority schemes as they progress through both the HC and SP bidding and commissioning systems.

Supporting People Grant allocations for 2008-11

In February 2008 Baroness Andrews announced the national budget for the Supporting People programme. From 2008/09 the Administration Grant will be paid through Area Based Grant. The reduction in administration grant reflects the intention that the provision of housing support should now be a mainstreamed activity for authorities.

Originally the administration grant was provided to help authorities implement Supporting People and then to enable authorities to carry out the review of all their Supporting People Services. Now that stage of the programme is complete the focus going forward is on the continued drive for efficiencies and improved quality and value for money.

Indicative programme grant allocations

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Cambridgeshire	£11,965,723	£11,367,437	£10,799,065
Suffolk	£18,444,845	£17,522,603	£16,646,473
National	£1.686bn	£1.666bn	£1.636bn

Administration grant allocations

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Cambridgeshire	£390,949	£360,084	£308,644
Suffolk	£614,866	£566,324	£485,420
National total	£38,000,000	£35,000,000	£30,000,000

In 2008 the sub-region participated in new Civis research about the level of need for SP funding specifically in growth areas. The Cambridgeshire response to this research included the following quote:

“Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing authority in the Eastern Region yet out of the 10 authorities it stands to get the largest cut in SP grant of 11.3% of additional cuts over the next three years.

The population in Cambridgeshire is forecast to grow by 12.5% by 2016 compared to only 5.7% across the whole of the East of England.

Based on Office of National Statistics projections out of 87 areas Cambridgeshire has the 7th highest predicted growth rate by 2016 yet in SP terms its 125th worst off out of 150 areas in the latest version of the distribution formula.”

Link to LAA targets

The outcomes of SP, and other programmes will be monitored via local area agreements. The key national performance indicator being targeted in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk for this area is the percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living, see page 14.

Objectives

- 11.1 Support implementation of, and learn from, the joint Home Improvement Agency review once completed
- 11.2 Pursue joint procurement where it leads to improved value for money
- 11.3 Secure resources for people with disabilities to create lifetime homes and lifetime neighbourhoods, including through DFGs
- 11.4 Support implementation of the SPERG strategy
- 11.5 Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including migrant workers and hard-to-reach groups. Ensure housing provision and services are accessible and reach those who most need them, and homes are let fairly and equally
- 11.6 Work with partners to create and implement appropriate strategies with housing input.
- 11.7 Work to ensure that housing in the sub-region meets a range of diverse needs, through the Regional Housing Equality and Diversity Group

12. Gypsies and Travellers

Cambridge Sub-Region Traveller Needs Assessment 2005-10

This assessment, carried out by Anglia Ruskin University and Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College in May 2006 identified the district Gypsy/Traveller accommodation need for pitches.

District	Need for pitches 2005-2010
Cambridge City	15
East Cambridgeshire	25-45
Fenland	160-205
Huntingdonshire	15-25
South Cambridgeshire	110-130
Forest Heath	15-20
St Edmundsbury	10-20

A link to the Assessment is provided in Appendix 9.

The regional perspective

The regional spatial strategy sets out an urgent need to address the shortage of sites for Gypsies and Travellers and the problems that arise from this lack, such as Gypsy and Traveller families not being able to gain access to housing, education, health, employment and other opportunities - as well as conflicts which arise locally over unauthorised encampment and use of sites without planning permission.

This is a national issue, but is at its most intense in the East of England, which has the largest number of caravans of any region, and the highest level of caravans on unauthorised sites. Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and the Fens, and the southern half of Essex are particularly important areas for the Gypsy and Traveller population, but increased site provision is required across the East of England.

EERA submitted a revision to this RSS in February 2008, setting out a framework to meeting these accommodation needs and the additional pitch numbers required per district, as below. There will be an Examination in Public in October 2008 with the revision issued in 2009. For more detail, a link is provided in Appendix 8.

	Authorised pitches in 2006	Additional pitches required 2006-11	Proposed pitches at 2011
Cambridge City	0	15	15
East Cambridgeshire	105	35	140
Fenland	183	89	272
Huntingdonshire	20	20	40
South Cambridgeshire	215	59	274
Forest Heath	35	18	53
St Edmundsbury	2	15	17
Total	560	251	811

Project: New Horizons Project

Geographical area covered: Cambridgeshire

Partners: County Council, consultants, gypsy and traveller communities, and liaison officers

Project dates: Completed in autumn 2008

Key outputs:

Based on the needs assessment, the Provision Horizons project was set up to establish:

- A knowledge base of local (initially County) land holdings for potential consideration by districts in the preparation of their LDF documents.
- A set of criteria to use when considering land or pitches, in light of national planning policy and guidance, discussion with district planners and the needs and priorities of the local Traveller populations.
- A mechanism to enable districts to apply the criteria to land searches in future as appropriate.

The difference it will make:

Districts are now working with the County to review the outcomes of the project and assess their application to site selection in future.

Aim for a transparent and clear set of criteria to assess potential sites and to initiate consultation with residents and neighbours.

Objectives

- 12.1 Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including Gypsies and Travellers, ensuring that Gypsies and Travellers accommodation and support needs are met.

13. Future actions

Individual authorities participation in each element will vary with their available resources and local priorities. These actions are sub-regional and do not aim to replicate the actions set out in individual housing or homelessness strategies – only those which benefit from joint action, resourcing or research are included here. A review of our previous sub-regional strategy actions is included in Appendix 1.

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
3. The regional policy agenda						
3.1	Contribute to implementing the sub-national review, supporting the move of funding and governance from EERA to EEDA	2008-2009	EERA, EEDA, local authorities, HCA, CLG, Go-East	Within existing	Ensure new governance arrangements enable sub-regional partners to have appropriate scrutiny and influence.	
3.2	The new integrated regional strategy will affect, and be affected by housing issues although its initial focus is on economic and spatial issues. Must ensure housing contributes to the debate.	2008-2009	EERA, EEDA, local authorities, HCA, CLG, Go-East	Within existing	Ensure housing issues feed into the new regional strategy and links with housing, are fully considered.	
4. County-wide sustainable community strategies						
4.1	Support LSPs in delivering the visions set out in their Sustainable Community Strategies, helping deliver more sustainable communities in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, particularly through housing interventions	2008-11	County-wide LSPs District LSPs CRHB	Within existing	Sustainable communities as defined by our two relevant LSPs	All
5. Environmental impact						
5.1	Ensure homes are developed in the most sustainable way possible, and that their environmental impact of use is minimized	Continual process	HDC, FDC Housing Corporation RSLs Developers	Depends on technology and viability for each site. Good practice to share	More sustainable and affordable homes to live in, using most effective technologies	NI186, NI188
5.2	Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy	2008 to 2021	Renewables East Cambridgeshire Horizons, Cambridgeshire's Climate Change Partnership	Feasibility of an SPV to be investigated Clean technology cluster to be investigated	Zero carbon delivery on new housing sites Greater use of renewable energy in all communities across the sub-region	NI186, NI188
5.3	Minimise CO2 emissions	2008 to 2011 2008 to 2016	Cambridgeshire Horizons Northstowe Community Trust Cambridgeshire Horizons	Cambridge Guided Busway	Minimise CO2 emissions from growth-related transport Healthy residents, lower carbon emissions	NI186, NI188
5.4	Supporting water neutrality	2008 to 2016	Cambridgeshire Horizons	TBC	Minimal water stress through new development	NI188

Housing the Cambridge sub-region
A strategy for 2008-2011

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
5.5 Promote zero waste communities	Work with partners to promote zero waste communities and contributing to a code of conduct with developers to minimise construction waste.	2008 to 2011	Development Industry Forum and other development partners Cambridgeshire Horizons	TBC	Zero waste communities, in construction and in use	NI188
5.6 Supporting sustainable construction and skills	Support sustainable construction, encouraging plans for growth sites to apply zero-carbon methodologies Identify best practice construction methods to minimise carbon in products & processes. Work with the new International Climate Exchange Project to develop new skills in the construction industry. Work with partners to help deliver a national academy for sustainable construction at Northstowe and encourage residents to develop skills and benefit from the opportunity available.	2008 to 2016	Cambridgeshire Horizons International Climate Exchange Project	HGF funding	More sustainable methods and materials used. Hub for sustainable construction methods and training. Improved skills and opportunities for our residents. Better employment prospects	NI186, NI188
5.7 Decrease the number of existing households in fuel poverty	Work together to ensure measures and advice are available and being taken up by residents. Share good practice and projects for retro fitting. Monitor outcomes of pilots and implement the good practice identified	2008 onwards	HC SmartLIFE ICE project? HECA contacts	Existing Warm Front resources	Reduced fuel poverty	NI186, NI188
6. A changing economy						
6.1 Test relevance, usefulness and access to new CLG housing market measures for our sub-region and take full advantage of them	Investigate how the proposed new measures announced by CLG in September 2008 may help residents in the credit crunch – whether by subsidy to private homes purchases for first time buyers, or the new HC mortgage rescue package.	2008 onwards	CLG, GO-East, HC, LAs	CLG and HC resources committed nationally	Reduced effect of economic slowdown on Cambridgeshire's residents, particularly entry level purchasers and people at risk of homelessness.	NI154
6.2 Improving s106 agreements in future, in light of market slow down	Learn lessons from development at Arbury Park and applying these lessons to other s106 agreements in future.	As part of s106 project (see line x)	All RSLs, developers, enablers, planners and solicitors, ARK consultancy	s106 project budget (see line 8.7)	Agreements written to avoid these pitfalls	NI154, NI155
6.3 Learn lessons from new housing developments	Undertake new development surveys of residents, and apply the lessons learned to future developments.	First in 2007 (Cambourne), second in 2008 (Huntingdonshire), more to follow	County Research Group, RSLs, residents	From districts as and when	Sharing effects of policy and practice on new housing developments. Improved quality of life for residents	NI154, NI155
7. Understanding our housing markets						
7.1 Continue to encourage and embed local knowledge, understanding and development of the SHMA over time	Update secondary data Continuing consultation with SHMA partners New primary research Further analysis of our first SHMA Strengthen links to other needs information, particularly JSNAs	Ongoing	All SHMA stakeholder group	Existing SHMA budget	Continuing improvement and development of the SHMA	NI154

Housing the Cambridge sub-region
A strategy for 2008-2011

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
7.2 Improve information and information-sharing around the current economic slowdown	Monitor the effects of economic change on our housing sub-region and work with partners to ameliorate its effects and prepare for its recovery. Work with partners in other agencies to produce a bulletin on market conditions and market changes. Share the information gathered across a broad range of partners.	From Autumn 2008	EERA, EEDA, Cambridge Chambers of Commerce, DIF, CLOG, GO-East, HC, districts, Hometrack	Hometrack	Share information and understanding and encourage problem-solving approaches sub regionally	NI154
7.3 Good information on homes delivered across the sub-region	Continue to monitor housing delivery on all sites annually, and on larger sites quarterly. Work with EERA on AMR and HSSA and LAA monitoring, and relationship to SHMA	Quarterly reports	County Council, districts	Existing	Effect of market changes and success of strategies tested regularly	NI154
7.4 Work with partners to develop Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, highlighting the links and contribution housing and support can make to the health agenda.	Review published, draft and forthcoming JSNA's, linking data used to our SHMA and where necessary, providing feedback from a housing perspective.	Process of launch and creation from August 2008 to April 2009	NHS Cambridgeshire and Suffolk PCT, 2 County Councils	Within existing SHMA	Strengthened links between housing and health partners. Improved commissioning.	NI154
8. New homes, new growth						
8.1 Draw up infrastructure investment plans, clarifying how partners will deliver commitments supporting infrastructure needed for housing growth	Refresh our Programme of Development supporting HGF bid for 2009-11 and incorporate into relevant plans	POD submitted Oct 2008	Cambridgeshire Horizons	Supported by Cambridgeshire Horizons	More integrated plans and bids for resources	NI154
8.2 Create new communities people want to live and work in, which are healthy and safe. Share the benefits of new development with existing communities.	Learn lessons from new housing development, including Cambourne, and apply to other housing developments across the sub-region. Incorporate outcomes in SHMA update	2008 and ongoing as surveys carried out (max. 1 every 6 months)	County Research Group Joint planning structures	Existing for Cambourne and Huntingdonshire – new surveys to be resources as applicable.	Output reports form new development surveys received Report outcomes incorporated into SHMA and discussions for new developments	NI154
8.3 Tackle issues of an ageing population so as to ensure a safe, healthy and settled future for older people, including need for housing and support across the sub-region	Develop SHMA on housing for older people. Consider relevant JSNA and implications for housing. Ensure housing development accommodates older people. Secure support and adaptations for existing homes. Continue to implement BV review of sheltered housing, increasing extra care and re-balancing supply of sheltered housing.	Ongoing	PCT Older peoples strategy group Planners Housing Enablers HIAs Supporting People	Existing SHMA and JSNA data Existing partnerships Growth agenda Best value review of sheltered housing	Development of SHMA on older people. Links to JSNA. Funding for adaptations and support. Homes developed to meet needs Achieve outcomes of BV review	NI154
8.4 Agree new ways of working together across the sub-region by implementing our sub regional LA/HC action plan	Implement and develop the action plan and continue to work closely with RSL and development partners to deliver new homes across the sub-region CRHB to monitor implementation of the action plan	2008/09 onwards	HC, Housing enablers group, RSLs and developers, CRHB	No additional resource	Continued joint work with HC and HCA in future	NI155
8.5 Invest in rural housing and support vibrant, sustainable communities, in order to balance action and investment over all	Continue to support and work with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Rural Housing Enablers to delivery rural housing sites, particularly exception sites.	Ongoing	RHEs, RCCs, ECDC, CLTs	Within existing	Continuing development of homes and affordable homes in our rural settlements	NI154, NI155

Housing the Cambridge sub-region
A strategy for 2008-2011

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
housing delivery sites across the sub-region	Work with partners to ensure more secure, long-term funding for these posts. Learn from the Taylor review and apply lessons in our rural settlements					
8.6 Support implementation of the Cambridge Challenge and ensure CPL, our strategic partners, have the tools and resources to deliver homes on three of our strategic growth sites	Work with CPL and others to create new s106 agreements and deliver the desired outcomes on these three sites. Learn lessons from the pilot procurement process to apply elsewhere	Ongoing	HC, CPL, districts, developers and landowners on the 3 sites	HC resources to deliver the affordable housing.	Funding and delivery of affordable homes and infrastructure on the 3 strategic sites	NI154, NI155
8.7 Work together to improve s106 agreements across our sub region and possibly the region	Engage consultants to help assess varying s106 practices across the sub-region and suggest improvements for future affordable housing negotiations.	July 2008 to Feb 2009	Local authorities enablers, planners and solicitors; Improvement East team at EERA, ARK consultancy	Funded by Improvement East	Consistent good practice, training guide, learning, more effective delivery of homes across the sub-region	NI155
9. Existing homes and communities						
9.1 Ensure homes are made decent, across the sub-region, increasing the number of people living in homes which are decent	Districts bidding for funding to make homes decent in 2008/9	Bids submitted Autumn 2008 Work ongoing	Private sector housing team BRE EERA	Bids submitted, awaiting outcomes	Monitor success of bids. Use outcomes of BRE stock modelling to build a bid for sub regional projects tackling need	NI155 (reduced need for new affordable homes)
9.2 Make best use of existing homes – including through the Homelink system	Encourage residents to move (as appropriate) to make best use of the available affordable homes, reduce underoccupation and ensure homes meet the needs of residents, particularly older people. Work to bring empty homes back into use.	2008 onwards	Homelink, social landlords, residents	Existing	Better use of homes Safe, healthy residents More housing needs met	NI155
9.3 Learn from the integrated improvement project in Fenland, as well as their Solid Wall Insulation pilot, subject to successful bid outcomes.	Assess outcome of bids and, subject to success, the implementation of these two innovative new programmes	Autumn 2008 onwards	Fenland District Council; Roodons Housing Association, Apollo contractors.	Subject to outcome of bid to EERA	Improvements to homes in private and public ownership, for vulnerable people. Improved SAP ratings.	NI186, NI188
10. Housing options, housing choice						
10.1 Increase residents housing choices and improve access to housing in a clear and equitable way.	Continue to monitor the implementation of Homelink across the sub-region, and the effects on residents housing choices and outcomes. Feed outputs into the SHMA to develop our information on housing need. Subject to outcome of bid to CLG, implement the sub-regional Enhanced Housing Options project Create a sub-regional homelessness action plan	Ongoing from Feb 2008, review of policies due Nov 2008.	Homelink, CBL implementation board, Locata	Existing	Improve housing choice and transparency. Increase resident satisfaction. Better data.	NI155
10.2 Prevent and tackle homelessness - tie together districts' homelessness reviews and strategies, and work together to achieve maximum benefit for our residents		Complete Autumn 2008, agreed at CRHB, then implemented and monitored.	Homelessness strategy group CRHB	Existing	Deliver a sub-regional action plan and implement across the sub-region	NI154, NI155

Housing the Cambridge sub-region
A strategy for 2008-2011

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
10.3 Develop Sustainable lettings plans, ensuring a balance of lettings on all sites, particularly large sites, within CBL system.	Sustainable lettings plan being developed for strategic growth sites in City and SCDC	Ongoing	CBL management and operational groups CRHB, City / SCDC joint enablers	Existing	Deliver sustainable lettings plans. Support balanced communities	NI154, NI155
11. Vulnerable people, supporting people and people with diverse needs						
11.1 Support implementation of, and learn from, the joint Home Improvement Agency review once completed	Once accepted, work together to implement any sub-regional actions and recommendations as appropriate in each district and with our partner agencies.	Subject to acceptance, late 2008	HIAs and districts	Possible efficiencies, subject to outcomes		NI141
11.2 Pursue joint procurement where it leads to improved value for money	Investigate the possibility and feasibility of joint procurement across the housing sub region	2008-11	Districts, service providers, customers	Provide improved and more accessible services within existing resources To be bid for	Improved efficiency, improved customer access to services, Gershon targets	Gershon
11.3 Secure resources for people with disabilities to create lifetime homes and lifetime neighbourhoods, including through DFGs	Continue to bid DFG resources and ensure funds are well used and recycled wherever possible	Ongoing	HIAs, OTs, PCT, RSLs		Residents living in homes suited to their individual needs	NI141
11.4 Support implementation of the SPERG strategy	Participate in a review of the 'Prioritisation Matrix' to ensure that it remains fit for purpose in RME & CME	Nov 2008	SP, Housing Corporation, Housing Sub-Regions	HC and SP resources		NI154, NI155, NI141
	Ensure supported housing services meet future needs and strengthen supported housing services in the region. Help collate evidence of need for additional development/revenue funds for supported housing in the region	Apr 2009	SP, Housing Corporation, Sub-Regions	HC and SP resources		NI154, NI155, NI141
	Ensure that services for older people are relevant and what people want. Consider options to facilitate improved use of existing housing stock for older people including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under occupation strategies • Evidence/needs of older people • Under-used Sheltered Housing stock 	June 2009	SP, Housing Corporation, Sub-Regions	HC and SP resources		NI155, NI141
	Secure access to housing support services for vulnerable people, so all vulnerable people have equitable access to housing. Contribute to a regional working group to promote move-on, and...	November 2008	SP, Housing Corporation, Sub-Regions	HC and SP resources		NI154, NI155, NI141
	Monitor how vulnerable people in the region are accessing choice-based letting systems and rent deposit schemes	November 2009	SP, Housing Corporation, Sub-Regions	HomeLink data HC and SP resources		NI154, NI155, NI141
11.5 Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including migrant workers and hard-to-reach groups. Ensure housing provision and services are accessible and reach those who most need them, and homes are let fairly and equally	Continue to participate in BME monitoring pilot with EERA. Use this monitoring and other research needed to extend and develop our SHMA.	Monitoring exercise in Autumn 2008 and annually to assess outcomes for BME residents	EERA HC BME communities	Existing for monitoring. New schemes within s106 and NAHP resources as appropriate	Mixed, balanced communities reflecting districts' ethnic breakdown. Ensure BME residents have fair access to homes.	NI154, NI155

Housing the Cambridge sub-region
A strategy for 2008-2011

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
11.6 Work with partners to create and implement appropriate strategies with housing input	Work with partners to create and implement strategies particularly for older people and people with disabilities, linking to data from JSNAs and our SHMA and ensuring housing issues are fully incorporated and housing interventions included and promoted	Ongoing	County Councils Partners and stakeholders	Existing	Effective strategies including housing needs and interventions. Effective planning and targeting of resources	NI141
11.7 Work to ensure that housing in the sub-region meets a range of diverse needs, through the Regional Housing Equality and Diversity Group	Contribute to and support the Regional Housing Equality and Diversity Group to make sure that housing across the sub-region meets a range of diverse needs	Ongoing	The Regional Housing Equality and Diversity Group	Existing	Housing across the sub-region meets our customers' needs	NI154, NI155
12. Gypsies and Travellers						
12.1 Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including Gypsies and Travellers, working to ensure Gypsies and Travellers accommodation and support needs are met	New Horizons provision project launched in 2007 to identify criteria for potential sites. Work to agree and implement these criteria as appropriate across the sub-region. Identify sites and bid for funding to meet these needs. Share good practice approaches across the sub-region in future. Support repeat of sub-regional Needs Assessment.	Ongoing	HC, Gypsy and Traveller communities, Gypsy and Traveller Liaison at CCC	Existing needs assessment, criteria for sites. New resources TBA.	Meet the need for pitches as identified in the single issue RSS review, and agree criteria to identify and assess suitable sites in future	NI154, NI155, NI141

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Appendix documents

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Appendix 1: Past achievements

The following pages review the actions from the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Strategy 2004 to 2008/09.

Issue	Action	Monitoring	Key partners	Update & further projects	✓
Growth Area					
Facilitate the development of housing as required by the Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Structure Plans and Regional Planning Guidance.	Monitor the progress of developing the final housing targets in RPG 14 as they affect the Cambridge sub-region.	Monitor the achievement of housing targets, as set out in Structure Plans, and amended by RPG14 - ANNUAL	Infrastructure Partnership (Cambridgeshire Horizons) Cambridgeshire County Council	Progress on delivery monitored quarterly on larger sites and annually on all sites	✓
	Agree respective roles and accountabilities with the Infrastructure Partnership.		Infrastructure Partnership (Cambridgeshire Horizons) and Founder members	Partnership fully functional under Founder Member and Board leadership	✓
	Participate in delivery of Infrastructure Partnership Business Plan (to be finalised October 2004).		Infrastructure Partnership (Cambridgeshire Horizons) and Founder members	Delivered, and refreshed in 2008	✓
	Participate in the emerging co-ordination structures for the London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough growth corridor.		District and County Councils GO-East Other sub-regional groups	Delivered mainly through Cambridgeshire Horizons Board and Founder Members	✓
Affordable Housing					
Ensure the delivery of sufficient affordable housing	Establish annual targets for different forms of affordable housing in the seven local authorities in the sub-region.	Monitor the levels of affordable housing delivered - ANNUAL	District and County Councils	Figures monitored and reported in SHMA on past and future housing delivery.	✓
	Share best practice on models for funding different forms of affordable housing.		District and County Councils Housing Corporation Rural Housing Enablers	Enablers group shares good practice continually. Contribute to regional Intermediate Working Group.	✓
	Deliver 290 homes without grant as set out in the local public service agreement for affordable housing without grant funding.	Monitor the levels of housing developed in this way - ANNUAL	District Councils Housing association partners	Housing delivery monitored and reported to CRHB New LAA targets introduced for delivery of growth and of affordable housing	✓
	Establish a sub-regional Affordable Housing Liaison Group.		Housing associations Housing Corporation	Established and successfully running, with link to CRHB	✓
	Determine whether it is practical to establish a group of preferred housing association partners.		District councils Housing Corporation Housing associations	HC practices developed since this action was set out. HC/LA action plan develops our approach. Worked with HC to pilot the new approach to investment through Cambridge Challenge.	✓
Homelessness and social housing lettings					
Ensure that action is taken to prevent and reduce homelessness.	Evaluate the Cambridge pilot and consider implementing a multi-agency monitoring system.			Each district produced it's homelessness review and strategy Each monitoring success against targets.	✓
	Share best practise on making the best use of the private rented sector.			Sub-regional private sector housing group meets, shares good practice and links to regional group (check title)	✓
Ensure that current	Explore the potential			Specialist officer employed	✓

Issue	Action	Monitoring	Key partners	Update & further projects	
stock of affordable housing is used in the most effective ways.	for joint work on policies and for social housing lettings especially in relation to strategic sites.			by City and South Cambridgeshire to develop Sustainable Lettings Plan, draft due for publication in (date). New sub-regional CBL system launched Feb 2008. Research into the successes of Cambourne used to apply any lessons to future strategic sites.	✓
Decent Homes					
Ensure that all housing meets the Decent Homes Standard.	All Council and Housing Association stock to meet DH Standard by 2010.	Report progress - ANNUAL		On course to achieve target	✓
Ensure that all housing is suitable for those in occupation	Making the case to the ODPM for more funding for disabled facilities grants.	Number of properties adapted by sector - ANNUAL		Ongoing bidding Contributed to EERA's funding allocation policy.	✓
	Share good practice in private sector renewal.			Sub-regional private sector housing group now meets to share good practice	✓
	Development of comprehensive private sector renewal strategies			Commissioned BRE to assess stock condition. Once reports received can work together to tackle joint sub-regional projects, starting in 2008/9.	✓
Supported Housing					
Ensure that there is sufficient Supported Housing for the Sub-Region.	Make bids for funding to be up to 20% of the total available to the sub-region.	Ensure sufficient quality bids. Monitor allocations of funding.		Bids for NAHP 2008-11 included 13% for supported housing. Reducing pot of SP funding in both Cambs and Suffolk	✓
	Co-ordinate investment planning between the two administering authorities in respect of capital for new supported housing.			Devised a matrix for SP funded schemes in the capital funding system. Modified and adopted across the region via SPERG. Successfully implemented for 2008-11. Still a healthy list of plans for new housing schemes across the sub-region	✓
Black and Minority Ethnic Housing					
Work with housing association partners to develop BME housing schemes to respond to the specific needs identified through research.	Evaluate outcomes of Huntingdonshire's BME research and consider future needs for research.			Now piloting a sub-regional approach for BME monitoring and progressing with EERA and HC.	✓
	Joint work on the needs of travellers and gypsies for Cambridgeshire.			Needs assessment completed across the sub-region and further.	✓
	Examine the potential for incorporating BME schemes in new settlements.			Our preferred option for development.	✓
	Share information on ensuring that housing services are accessible to BME groups.			Pilot monitoring to help identify housing access issues for BME households in the sub-region	✓
	Evaluate regional research on refugees (led by EERA) and consider implications for sub-region.			Included outcomes in SHMA, and building new County Council research into our understanding of changes to migrant populations.	✓

Appendix 2: Local community strategies

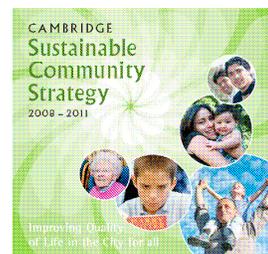
This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the cover. If this fails, please type the blue hyperlink text into the navigation bar on your internet home page.

Sustainable community strategies set out a long-term, sustainable vision for an area and its people, aiming to address economic, social and environmental needs. To help summarise, we have set out the links, key issues and priorities for each district's current community strategy.

Cambridge Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011

Under the broad headings of tackling climate change, building sustainable communities and ensuring strong and inclusive communities:

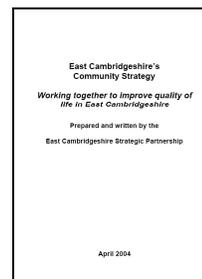
- Ensuring growth of the City benefits all and enhances the environment
- Traffic congestion and the need to promote alternatives to car travel
- Crime and the fear of crime
- Having enough houses people can afford
- Education and training
- The needs of older people
- Building a stronger sense of community.



Hyperlink: http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=8794007

East Cambridgeshire's Community Strategy

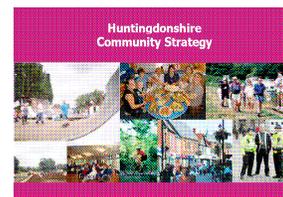
- Provide affordable and appropriate housing and related infrastructure
- Improve transport and access
- Close the skills and education gap between and within different sections of the community
- Improve economic development
- Improve accessibility to services, especially for disadvantaged groups.



Hyperlink: <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/docs/publications/devservices/cs2004.pdf>

Huntingdonshire Community Strategy

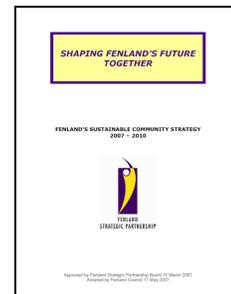
- Developing an accessibility strategy
- Healthy homes for older people
- Actively involving young people in the planning and delivery of services
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Preventative measures for a healthy life.
- Working together for a better South Cambridgeshire
- Active, healthy inclusive communities
- Safe and clean villages
- Building successful new communities
- A sustainable environment.



Hyperlink: <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/docs/publications/devservices/cs2004.pdf>

Shaping Fenland's Future Together 2007-2010

- Fenland's future generations
- Helping people to live healthy, independent lives
- Making communities safer and stronger
- Building a sustainable environment
- Building communities with decent homes, a sense of place and purpose
- Helping people into work and encouraging innovation and enterprise
- Encourage achievement in children and young people.



Hyperlink: http://www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=378022

Working together for a better South Cambridgeshire

Our aim is that South Cambridgeshire will continue to be a place where people want to live, now and in the future. A place where the needs of existing and future generations are met and where communities are:

- Active, inclusive and safe
- Well-run
- Environmentally sensitive
- Well-designed and built
- Well connected
- Thriving
- Well-served
- Fair for everyone.

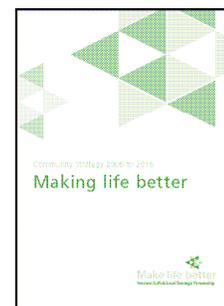


Hyperlink: http://www.scambs.gov.uk/admin/documents/retrieve.asp?doc=1&pk_document=1976

West Suffolk Making Life Better

St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath operate through the West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership

- Make Western Suffolk a safer place and build a stronger community.
- Protect our natural and built environment and local biodiversity and ensure sustainable development.
- Reduce avoidable early deaths by providing education and support on health and well-being.
- Alleviate poverty and reduce health inequalities.
- Enable a prosperous, sustainable economy.
- Encourage sustainable tourism.
- Improve skills and learning opportunities.



Hyperlink: <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/22ADA8C1-8274-40B2-BC07-9D39827DC285/0/CommStratWebsiteversion.pdf>

Appendix 3: Local housing strategies

This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the cover. If this fails, please type the blue hyperlink text into the navigation bar on your internet home page.

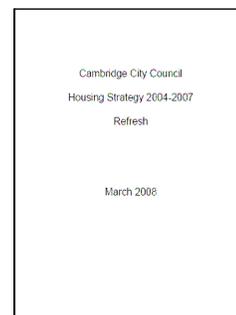
Cambridge City

- Dealing with homelessness
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing
- Responding to the poor condition of the housing stock

These need to be tackled within the broader priorities of Cambridge's Sustainable Community Strategy, which are:

- Tackling climate change
- Building sustainable communities
- Ensuring strong and inclusive communities.

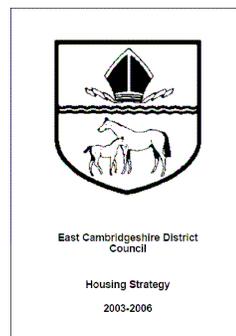
Hyperlink: http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/Housing_strategy_refresh.pdf



East Cambridgeshire

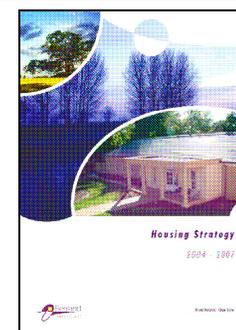
- Understand the housing needs of the communities in East Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge sub-region
- Increase the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of East Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge sub-region.
- Prevent homelessness and ensure adequate housing and support is available to homeless households.
- Tackle unfitnes and bring empty homes back into use
- Promote healthy, safe and sustainable living environments
- Work in partnership with other agencies to meet the housing and support needs of vulnerable people
- Promote socially inclusive communities in line with East Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Objectives
- Continuously improve the Council's Housing Service and involve stakeholders and the community in the development of the Council's Housing Strategy and Services.

Hyperlink: <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/docs/publications/housing/hstrat0306.pdf>



Fenland

- Influence the creation of a balanced housing market that supports Fenland's "Open For Business" agenda while meeting housing need
- Identify and seek to meet the housing needs of Fenland's residents through effective planning of housing provision
- Enable provision of new affordable housing to meet needs identified, to create balanced, mixed communities
- Offer a range of housing choices to enable people to access or improve their housing circumstances
- Tackle the needs of Fenland's vulnerable people through a proactive multi-agency approach
- Effectively co-ordinate resources to housing and wider environment to improve health and comfort of Fenland's residents
- Deliver affordable warmth through a raft of energy service packages
- Embrace a multi-agency partnership to tackle crime and disorder
- Improve energy efficiency in Fenland homes
- Maximise investment in Fenland to help meet the housing strategy objectives



"A new housing strategy is being developed for completion by December 2008. It will focus on what housing can do to contribute to the social, economic and environment council priorities which help

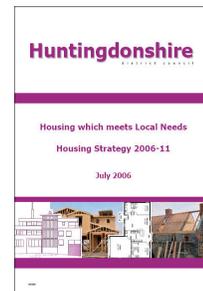
shape Fenlands' future. It will support the Council mission 'To improve quality of life for people living in Fenland'.

Hyperlink: http://www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=326169

Huntingdonshire

- Appropriate new housing
- Sufficient affordable housing
- Well maintained housing stock
- Opportunities for the vulnerable to live independently
- A low level of homelessness

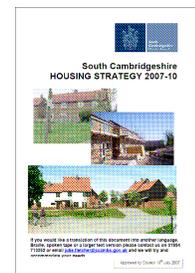
Hyperlink: http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/57940F0E-C100-4761-9A2A-A900591D1934/0/final_housing_strategy.pdf



South Cambridgeshire

- Active, healthy inclusive communities
- Safe and clean villages
- Building successful new communities
- A sustainable environment

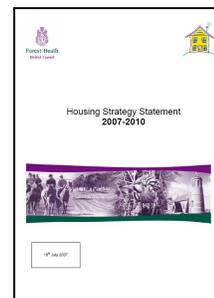
Hyperlink: http://www.scams.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk_document=906176



Forest Heath

- Reduce homelessness, numbers in temporary accommodation and improve quality of temporary accommodation
- Improve access and choice of housing for everyone in housing need.
- Meet the needs for new affordable housing
- Improve standards in private sector housing to ensure homes are effectively utilised, decent and do not cause harm to health
- Support our most vulnerable residents to live in suitably adapted, warm and energy efficient homes.

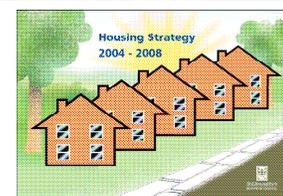
Hyperlink: <http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/02B057A7-ECC2-45DC-A796-A84C2F54262F/0/HousingStrategy20072010.pdf>



St Edmundsbury

- Seek new opportunities to stimulate the provision of new affordable housing through RSLs and other property owners to meet housing need.
- Make sure a variety of housing is provided to meet the community's needs.
- Ensure enough land is available to meet identified housing need.
- Maintain and improve the condition of the private sector housing stock and ensure all houses in multiple occupation comply with standards set.
- Provide good quality housing advice and where possible secure self contained housing for homeless families and those in priority need, whilst limiting the use of B&B.
- Provide efficient strategic housing services with well managed resources to assess housing need and ensure that need is met.
- Concentrate on housing development in the main urban areas, giving priority to reusing previously developed land and buildings within urban areas.

Hyperlink: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/pdf/housing/Hsgstrat0408.pdf>



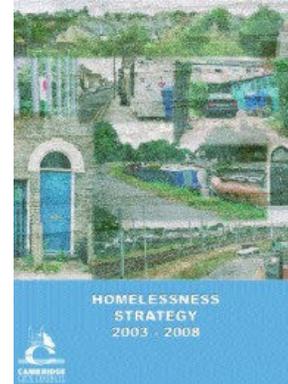
Appendix 4: Local homelessness strategies

This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the cover. If this fails, please type the blue hyperlink text into the navigation bar on your internet home page.

Cambridge City

- Improve the service offered to people presenting as homeless
- Reduce the use of B&B as temporary accommodation
- Investigate the current use of temporary accommodation and forecast future needs
- Offer good quality permanent accommodation
- Improve prevention of homelessness services
- Meet specific identified client group needs
- Increase the involvement of homeless people in service provision
- Ensure that the strategy continues to be closely linked with all other strategies and initiatives
- Provide robust information systems and data management

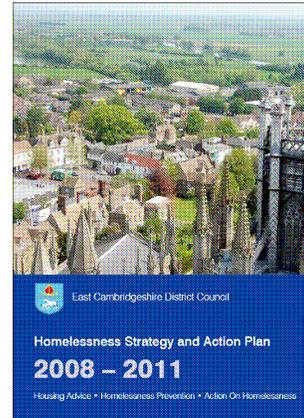
Hyperlink: http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=1620004



East Cambridgeshire

- Prevent people becoming homeless
- Ensure good quality, safe temporary accommodation is available in suitable locations for people that are roofless and may be in priority need
- Ensure homeless people that the Council has a duty to house, are suitably housed in permanent accommodation as quickly as possible
- Ensure that housing is available to homeless people whom the Council does not have a statutory duty to house
- Ensure support is available to homeless people when they need it
- Continuously improve the council's homeless services & work in partnership with other organisations to implement, monitor & review this strategy

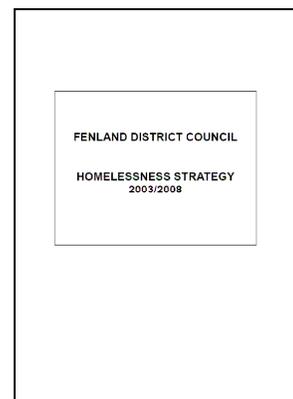
Hyperlink: <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/docs/publications/housing/homelessstrat08.pdf>



Fenland

- Prevent homelessness occurring in the first instance wherever possible
- Ensure that sufficient accommodation is or will be available for people who are or will become homeless.
- Reduce levels of homelessness against main causes
- Reduce inappropriate use of temporary accommodation
- Increase the level of support provided to ensure that people can maintain tenancies once they have been allocated to them
- Build on existing partnerships between statutory, voluntary and the private sector agencies to maximise resources available to meet identified need for homelessness and prevention services

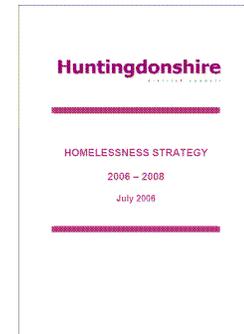
Hyperlink: http://www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=320948



Huntingdonshire

- Preventing homelessness by maintaining households in their current home wherever possible.
- Providing a range of accessible and affordable housing options across all tenures.
- Reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- Improving performance management, organisational efficiency and cross boundary collaboration.

Hyperlink: http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/FB254D30-BED2-4A2C-8977-63BE785F177B/0/homelessness_strategy.pdf

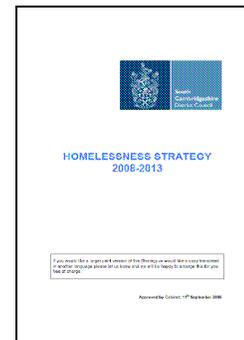


South Cambridgeshire

- the prevention of homelessness
- ensuring that there is sufficient accommodation available to people who are, or who may become homeless
- ensuring there is adequate support for people who are, or who may become homeless, or who need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again

Hyperlinks:

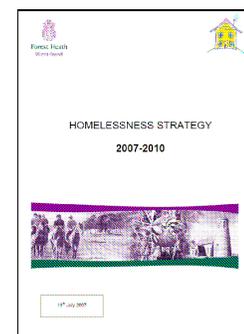
http://www.scambs.gov.uk/admin/documents/retrieve.asp?doc=1&pk_document=906994



Forest Heath

- Reduce homelessness to include reducing numbers in temporary accommodation
- Improve the quality of temporary accommodation

Hyperlink: <http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F94FD1C7-8788-4592-9557-73F57631DE74/0/HomelessnessStrategy20072010.pdf>

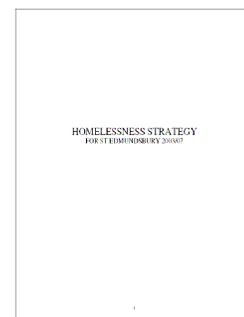


St Edmundsbury

- Prevention of homelessness within the Borough
- Partnership working with all relevant agencies
- Consultation with Councillors, partners and homeless clients
- Provision of support services for those with specialist needs
- Provision of housing advice within the Borough
- Provision of accommodation for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Ensuring there is satisfactory support for people who are, or who may become homeless, or who need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again.

Link to St Edmundsbury homelessness information: <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/Homelessness.cfm>

For strategy consultation page please go to <http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/sebc/live/hsg-strategy.cfm>



Appendix 5: Partners involved in producing this strategy

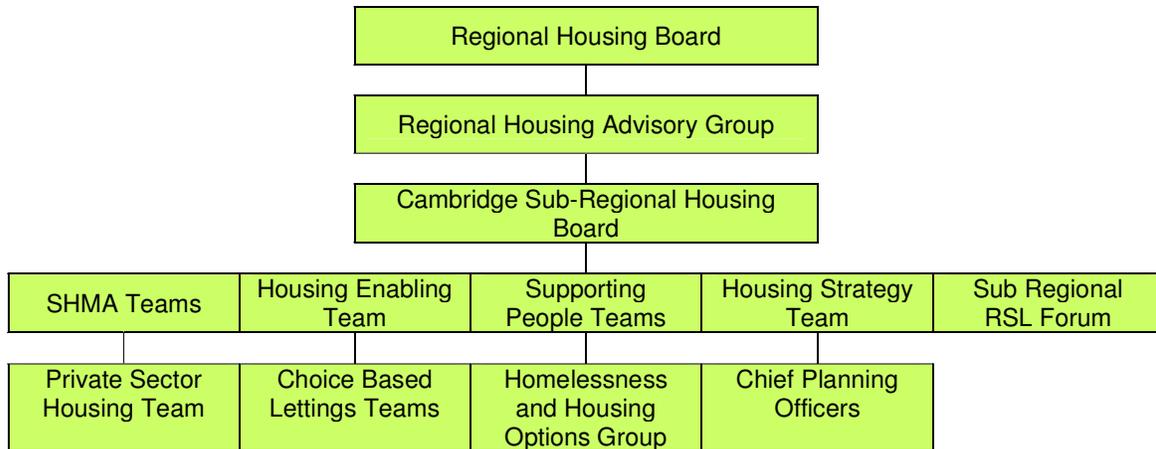
Delegates included:

- Appleacre Park
- BPHA
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridge Housing Society
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Cambridgeshire Horizons
- Cambridgeshire Supporting People
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- East of England Regional Assembly
- Fenland District Council
- Forest Heath District Council
- Gallagher Estates
- Highways Agency
- Home Group
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Marshall of Cambridge (Holdings) Ltd
- Peterborough City Council
- Prospect Row LLP
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Suffolk Supporting People Team
- The Papworth Trust
- Wherry Housing Association

Appendix 6: CRHB objectives

- Provide a framework for joint and collaborative working between partners in the sub-region, consistent with central government and regional requirements.
- Produce, develop, monitor and update our sub-regional housing strategy and action plan.
- Ensure that sub-regional investment and strategic priorities are informed by research and analysis, including regular development of our Strategic Housing Market Assessment.
- Maximise the profile of housing issues and housing investment across the sub-region and the region.
- Ensure delivery of housing targets for the sub-region are effectively programmed, monitored and reviewed. Where barriers to delivery are identified, put measures in place to address them.
- Facilitate stakeholder involvement, including elected members, on the developing strategy, policy and practice and respond to key housing policy consultations.
- Develop and deliver an annual work programme, based on the priorities agreed and updated through strategic assessments.
- Identify opportunities for joint working and exchange of good practice including through joint work and joint projects.
- Set up and support groups to address priority areas and report back to the housing board (see diagram below).
- Represent the views and interests of the sub-region to external audiences and bodies.
- Ensure that decisions are taken with reference to the democratic decision-making processes of local authorities, wherever appropriate.

Groups linked to the Housing Board include:

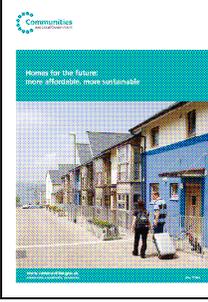
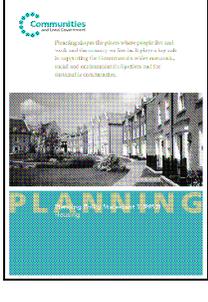
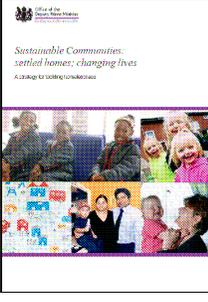
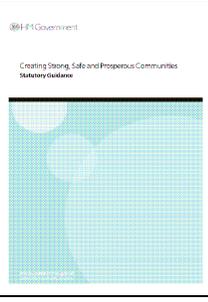


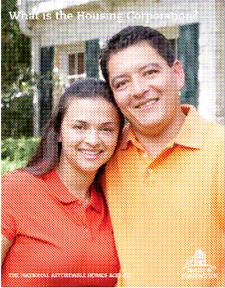
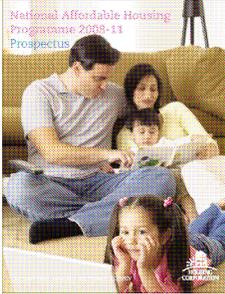
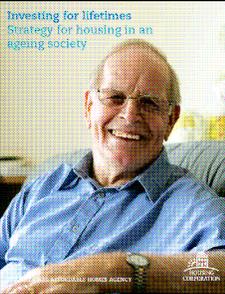
Other housing-related groups

- Development Industry Forum
- Cambridge Land Owners Group
- Key Worker Employers Network

Appendix 7: Links to national strategies

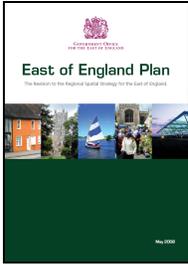
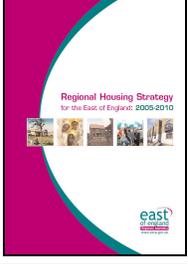
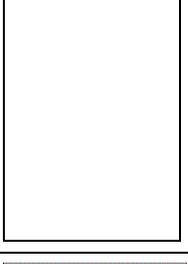
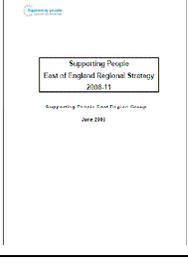
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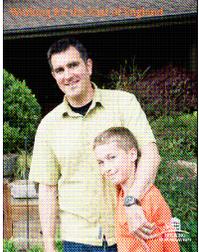
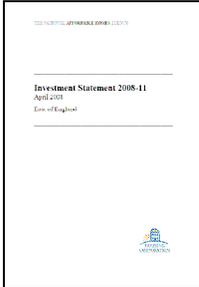
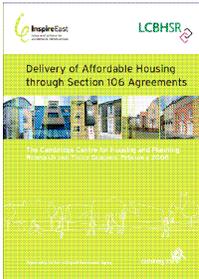
Strategy	Cover	Link
Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable		http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/439986.pdf
National planning policy for housing		http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3.pdf
Sustainable communities: settled homes, changing lives		http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/137815.pdf
Lifetime Homes, Lifetime neighbourhoods		http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/lifetimehomes.pdf
Creating strong, safe, prosperous communities		http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/885397.pdf

Strategy	Cover	Link
What is the Housing Corporation?		http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/What_is_the_HC.pdf
National Affordable Housing Programme Prospectus 2008-2011		http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/NAHP_2008-11_Prospectus%2C_new.pdf
Investing in lifetimes: Strategy for housing in an ageing society		http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Investing_for_lifetimes_20080402124908.pdf

Appendix 8: Links to regional strategies

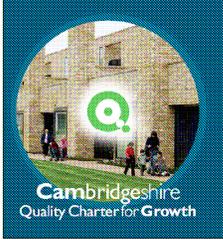
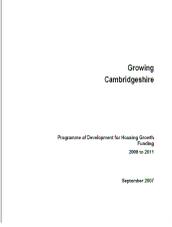
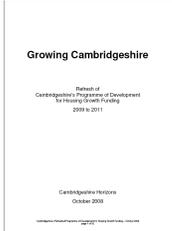
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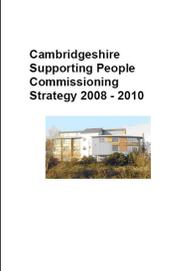
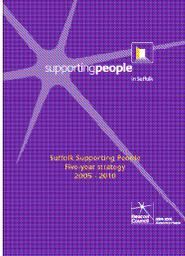
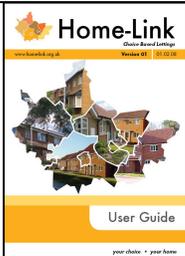
Strategy	Cover	Link
Regional spatial strategy		http://www.go-east.gov.uk/goeec/docs/193657/193668/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/EE_Plan1.pdf
Regional economic strategy		http://www.eastofengland.uk.com/res/
Regional housing strategy		http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Housing/2006-09-05%20Regional%20Housing%20Strategy%20Final.pdf
Regional housing investment plan		http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Housing/Housing%20Investment%20Plan%202008-11/East%20of%20England%20HiP%202008-11%20recommendations%20(incl%20Annex%201&2)%20-%20June%202007.pdf
SPERG: Supporting People East of England Regional Strategy		http://www.spkweb.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1A47BFD4-8107-4097-9445-64DDE05178F8/15209/SupportingPeopleEastofEnglandRegionalStrategy20081.pdf

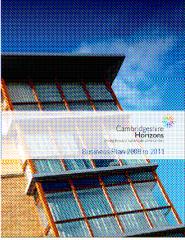
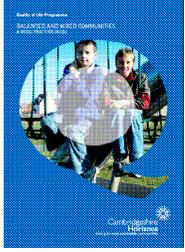
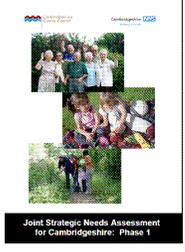
Strategy	Cover	Link
The Housing Corporation: Working for the East of England		http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Working for the East of England 20080530145111.pdf
The Housing Corporation: Investment Statement 2008-11, East of England		http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/East_England Investment Statement 0408.pdf
Delivery of Affordable Housing through Section 106 agreements		http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/FileAccess.aspx?id=1458
Gypsies and Travellers single issue review, EERA web page		http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583&id= SX8785-A77FAA69

Appendix 9: County level strategies

This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the blue hyperlink text in the right hand column.

Strategy	Cover or web page	Link
Cambridgeshire's Vision 2007-2021		http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4EFAA81-F270-4C59-BE77-29D45257C1D9/0/CambsVision20072021reduced.pdf
Transforming Suffolk: Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028		http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B9AB88BA-E3D0-48CF-90AA-4B2D9C0D52CF/0/SuffolkStrategic.pdf
Quality Charter for Cambridgeshire		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/CQC_hi-res2_spreads.pdf
Long Term Delivery Plan		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire_Horizons_LTDP_FINAL.pdf
Housing Growth Fund – programme of development 2008-11		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambs_PoD_to_print.pdf
Housing Growth Fund – programme of development 2009-11 refresh		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire's_Refreshed_Programme_of_Development_for_Housing_Growth_Funding_-_October_2008.pdf

Strategy	Cover or web page	Link
Cambridgeshire Supporting People Commissioning Strategy		http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/83E5D747-F093-444B-8368-D6482B6E0CE8/0/CommissioningStrategyFinalVersion.pdf
Cambridgeshire Supporting People - Delivery Plan		http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/57BD412C-A28A-4A57-920B-C8D499857B49/0/CommissioningStrategyDeliveryPlanFinalVersion.pdf
Cambridgeshire Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing "white paper"		http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/088984D2-3302-4BA5-9A36-FEF988DE4C10/0/BestValueShelteredHousingWhitePaperv4.pdf
Suffolk Supporting People: Five-year strategy		http://www.supportingpeoplesuffolk.org/general/strategy.asp
Cambridge sub-region's strategic housing market assessment: Executive summary and full text		www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/shma
Home-Link		www.home-link.org.uk/uploads/homelinksug.pdf

Strategy	Cover or web page	Link
Cambridgeshire Horizons Business Plan		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/264242_CORPORATE_BROCH_FINAL_REVISIED.pdf
Balanced and Mixed Communities – a good practice guide		http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/MIXED_COMMS_BROCHURE.pdf
JSNA for Cambridgeshire: summary of phase 1		http://www.cambridgeshirepct.nhs.uk/documents/About%20Us/Public%20Health/Cambridgeshire%20Joint%20Strategic%20Needs%20Assessments%20-%20Phase%201.pdf?preventCache=20%2F06%2F2008+10%3A07 Cambridgeshire's website for JSNAs: http://www.cambridgeshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?id=656
Suffolk's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008-2011		http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7634347A-12DA-46A5-9D98-52635E1177BE/0/JointStrategicNeedsAssessment.pdf
Gypsies and Travellers needs assessment link		http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4504D9E-D264-4B98-8967-B75F0A1A1B5F/0/TravellersSurveyFinalReport_May06.pdf

Annex 10: Key facts on our housing market

Cambridge City

Area	40.6km ²
Population	116,539
Dwellings	46,269
% owner occupation	53%
% social	24%
% private rented / other	23%
% vacant	3.1%
% overcrowded	12.5%
% sales turnover	6%
% social relets	6%
Average price	£262,070
Average earnings	£33,805
Affordability ratio	7.75
Jobs growth target (shared with SCDC)	49,400
Net commuting (shared with SCDC)	24,400 in
RSS homes still to build to 2021	1,110
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	1,509
% of 'still to build' to 2021	65%
Tenure split over next 15 years	76 : 24
G&T pitch need	15

East Cambridgeshire

Area	649.4km ²
Population	79,639
Dwellings	33,189
% owner occupation	73%
% social	14%
% private rented / other	13%
% vacant	1.6%
% overcrowded	3.7%
% sales turnover	7%
% social relets	5%
Average price	£183,813
Average earnings	£30,072
Affordability ratio	6.11
Jobs growth target	4,900
Net commuting	12,300 out
RSS homes still to build to 2021	360
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	797
% of 'still to build' to 2021	130%
Tenure split over next 15 years	61 : 39
G&T pitch need	25 - 45

Fenland

Area	545.5km ²
Population	89,739
Dwellings	39,882
% owner occupation	75%
% social	14%
% private rented / other	11%
% vacant	1.3%
% overcrowded	4.1%
% sales turnover	8%
% social relets	9%
Average price	£141,260
Average earnings	£23,930
Affordability ratio	5.9
Jobs growth target	5,100
Net commuting	6,000 out
RSS homes still to build to 2021	510
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	639
% of 'still to build' to 2021	57%
Tenure split over next 15 years	72 : 28
G&T pitch need	160 - 205

Huntingdonshire

Area	909.5km ²
Population	159,873
Dwellings	68,223
% owner occupation	76%
% social	13%
% private rented / other	11%
% vacant	2.4%
% overcrowded	3.6%
% sales turnover	7%
% social relets	6%
Average price	£178,732
Average earnings	£29,078
Affordability ratio	6.15
Jobs growth target	14,300
Net commuting	13,300 out
RSS homes still to build to 2021	550
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	1,205
% of 'still to build' to 2021	137%
Tenure split over next 15 years	64 : 36
G&T pitch need	15 - 25

South Cambridgeshire

Area	898.6km ²
Population	137,200
Dwellings	57,485
% owner occupation	75%
% social	14%
% private rented / other	10%
% vacant	3.1%
% overcrowded	2.9%
% sales turnover	7%
% social relets	3%
Average price	£247,603
Average earnings	£36,670
Affordability ratio	6.75
Jobs growth target (shared with City)	49,400
Net commuting (shared with City)	24,400 in
RSS homes still to build to 2021	1,330
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	1,424
% of 'still to build' to 2021	62%
Tenure split over next 15 years	63 : 37
G&T pitch need	110 - 130

Forest Heath

Area	376.3km ²
Population	56,257
Dwellings	26,219
% owner occupation	62%
% social	15%
% private rented / other	24%
% vacant	0.6%
% overcrowded	5.1%
% sales turnover	7%
% social relets	4%
Average price	£160,921
Average earnings	£24,055
Affordability ratio	6.69
Jobs growth target	5,700
Net commuting	3,900 out
RSS homes still to build to 2021	370
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	-
% of 'still to build' to 2021	-
Tenure split over next 15 years	-
G&T pitch need	15 - 20

St Edmundsbury

Area	663.6km ²
Population	100,120
Dwellings	44,680
% owner occupation	71%
% social	17%
% private rented / other	12%
% vacant	3.0%
% overcrowded	3.5%
% sales turnover	7%
% social relets	5%
Average price	£189,152 – check!
Average earnings	£27,383
Affordability ratio	6.91
Jobs growth target	7,100
Net commuting	100 in
RSS homes still to build to 2021	530
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	-
% of 'still to build' to 2021	-
Tenure split over next 15 years	-
G&T pitch need	10 - 20

Key to data sources

Area	2004 sub-regional housing strategy
Population	ARU Population Estimates for 2006
Dwellings	HSSA 2006
% owner occupation	Census 2001 & HSSA 2006
% social	Census 2001 & HSSA 2006
% private rented/other	Census 2001 & HSSA 2006
% vacant	Council Tax records 2006
% overcrowded	Census 2001
% sales turnover	HSSA & Land Registry 2005/6
% social relets	HSSA 2005/6
Average price	Jan-Mar 2006, Land Registry
Average earnings	by residence 2006, ONS
Affordability ratio	mathematical
Jobs growth target	Experian BSL 2003
Net commuting	Census 2001
RSS homes still to build to 2021	East of England Plan 2008
Annual need for new affordable next 5 yrs	SHMA chapter 27
% of 'still to build' to 2021	mathematical
Tenure split over next 15 years	SHMA chapter 30
G&T pitch need	Traveller Needs Assessment 2005-2010, ARU

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**DECENT HOMES FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR
(Report by the Heads of Housing Services; Environmental Management;
and Environmental and Community Health Services)**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet that a £162,400 capital grant has been awarded to the Council for 2008/09 from the East of England Regional Assembly's (EERA) Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel, administered by GO-East, to help improve the non-decent homes in the private sector.
- 1.2 To make proposals for the use of this new grant, and for previously received grants.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE CAPITAL GRANT

- 2.1 This grant has come from the Single Regional Housing Pot allocation for 2008/09. The decisions on how to spend the Pot are made by EERA's Housing and Sustainable Communities Panel and are guided by the Regional Housing Strategy which we are consulted on and contribute to. The regional allocation was based on a 'ready reckoner' ie the number of vulnerable households in non decent accommodation as a percentage of the regional total. Each authority has received a proportionate share of the regional total of £10.18m. This method is a stop-gap measure whilst a new programme is being developed. The new programme is due to be launched in April 2009.
- 2.2 In 2008/09 this authority has received a grant allocation of £162k. This and previous years' funding is for improving non-decent properties in the private sector occupied by vulnerable people. The grant itself carries no conditions and can be used to support any of the authority's legitimate capital allocation activities. However, in terms of monitoring, EERA proposes to monitor the outcomes and intends to survey authorities during the third quarter of 2008/09 in relation to the 2008/09 grant.
- 2.3 Previous grants, for which there has been no EERA monitoring process, were:

Year	Amount	Cabinet Approved use
2006/07	£328k	Thermal efficiency improvements
2007/08	£167k	Insulation grants

- 2.4 Bearing in mind that a failure to spend the grant on the intended use may prejudice future allocations it is proposed that the 2008/09 grant is used for work relating to Decent Homes and that previous years' allocations are rephased to cover work in future years. The advantage of this is that the position on future years can then be reviewed at a later date when the basis and likelihood of allocation of grant in future years is known.

3. BACKGROUND TO DECENT HOMES

3.1 A Decent Home is one which:

- Does not contain a category 1 hazard (The new Housing Act introduced the Housing Health & Safety Rating System and a category 1 Hazard requires that action is taken);
- is in a reasonable state of repair;
- has reasonably modern facilities and services; and
- provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort.

3.2 Vulnerable households have been defined as those in receipt of at least one of the principal means tested or disability related benefits. For the purpose of establishing the national 2001 baseline from the English House Condition Survey the benefits taken into account were: income support, housing benefit, council tax benefit, disabled persons tax credit, income based job seekers allowance, working families tax credit, attendance allowance, disability living allowance, industrial injuries disablement benefit, war disablement pension.

3.3 Government has set a target that by 2010, all social housing provided by Councils and housing associations must meet the Decent Homes standard. Public Service Agreement 7 states that by 2010, 70% of private sector homes occupied by vulnerable people must also meet the Decent Homes standard. They also expect a year on year improvement in achievement.

3.4 The Council commissioned a stock condition survey in 2005 to establish the local baseline of Decent Homes. In Huntingdonshire at present there are 11,500 dwellings occupied by residents in receipt of a means tested benefit (excluding housing association dwellings). Of these 2,000 are classified non decent, which represents 17% of dwellings occupied by a vulnerable residents. This means that 83% are decent. Therefore, Huntingdonshire is already above the Government's 2010 target for decent homes occupied by vulnerable people in the private sector.

3.5 The majority of dwellings that fail the standard in Huntingdonshire do so because of poor thermal efficiency. Non-decent dwellings are associated with the private sector and with occupiers on low incomes either below 30 years of age or over 65 years of age.

4. TACKLING NON DECENT HOMES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

4.1 Spending of previous grants has not been as prompt as anticipated due to the EU procurement process, customer targeting, advertising, and the setting up of vetting and inspection processes.

4.2 Upon completion of insulation work, that element of the property complies with the Decent Homes standard. However, the property could fail on one of the other elements. Therefore, officers implemented an inspection programme of completed works for compliance against the Decent Homes standard. Guidance states that councils should be able to monitor and report on the number that:

- are made decent through assistance / enforcement

- received assistance / enforcement action but where the full decency standard was not achieved; and
- are not decent because assistance was rejected by the owner.

4.3 Despite targeted publicity the take up of grant has been lower than anticipated but with recent fuel cost rises and the intention to expand the works to the provision of improved heating controls and to rectify category 1 hazards it is estimated that spend in the current year will be circa £165k. It is also proposed that the previous grants be combined into one scheme for this wider focus.

4.4 In order to compliment the work being undertaken to improve thermal efficiency under the current scheme, it is also proposed to transfer £75k of the previous years' grants to a scheme for incorporating energy efficiency measures into two exemplar display homes representative of the housing stock of the District. The objectives of the project are to demonstrate practical and cost effective energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency measures and to encourage the widespread adoption of appropriate technologies. The Building Research Establishment who already has extensive knowledge and expertise in this area will be a partner in the project to advise and provide an accurate cost in use assessment and quantify the potential carbon savings achievable.

4.5 During the financial year 2007/08 the Council's Environment Team handled 143 energy efficiency grant referrals for vulnerable residents in non-decent homes. A list of these referrals was passed to Environmental Health at the beginning of the current financial year and follow-up visits were carried out to determine how many of these properties met the Decent Homes Standard. It was found that:

- 129 properties met the standard through HDC assistance/enforcement and this equates to 6.45% of the total number of non-decent homes (2000);
- 11 properties received assistance/enforcement but did not achieve the full Decency standard; and
- 3 properties refused the assistance offered.

4.6 Given EERA's intention to monitor the spending of the 2008/09 grant it is proposed that the phasing and use of the grants is revised as follows:

Grant Year	Proposed Purpose	2007/08 £000	2008/09 £000	2009/10 £000	2010/11 £000	2011/12 £000
2006/07 and 2007/08	Thermal efficiency improvements and Category 1 Hazards	44	3	105	180	88
	Transfer to Exemplar display homes			75		
2008/09	Thermal efficiency improvements and Category 1 hazards		162			
		44	165	180	180	88

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet approves that:

- the 2008/09 grant of £162,400 be used in the current year for Decent Homes for vulnerable people – to rectify category 1 hazards, and to provide thermal efficiency improvements; and that prior year grants be rephased, as shown in para. 4.6 above, and used for the same purpose;
- the programme for future years be reviewed when the basis and likelihood of the allocation of grant in future years is known; and
- £75k of the previous grants be transferred to the scheme for incorporating energy efficiency measures into two exemplar display homes as part of the Environment Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Sustainable Communities Plan: Building for the Future, ODPM, 2003
- A Decent Homes: The Definition and Guidance, ODPM, February 2004
- Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England 2005-2010, EERA, 2005
- Letter dated 19 February 2007 from the Head of Housing at Government Office
- Letter dated 10 April 2008 (notification of capital grant and monitoring) from Head of Housing at *Go-East*
- Letter dated 6 June 2008 (notification of required monitoring information) from Regional Monitoring Officer (Housing).
- HDC's Housing Renewal Assistance Policy Document, April 2003 as amended in 2006
- HDC's Housing Strategy 2006-11
- Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) Order (England and Wales) 2002

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CABINET

20TH NOVEMBER 2008

GREAT FEN PROJECT GOVERNANCE (Report by Director of Environmental & Community Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report concerns the emerging future governance arrangements of the Great Fen Project of which the Council is one of five Partners.
- 1.2 The Project Steering Group has recognised the need for a more robust form of Governance, given the stage the Project has now reached. Accordingly, it has instructed lawyers to draw up a draft Collaboration Agreement.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Great Fen Project is one of the most significant habitat restoration projects ever undertaken in Britain by the acquisition and restoration of land adjacent to two existing National Nature Reserves, Holme Fen and Woodwalton Fen. Connecting these two reserves will create a haven for wildlife and biodiversity. The Project, however, is by no means exclusively about wildlife/biodiversity as it will create a massive green space for people, opening up new opportunities for recreation, education, health benefits and business. Sustainable agriculture will also remain an important aspect; although over the life of the project the intensive arable activity will decrease, replaced in part by grazing and other economic activity.
- 2.2 The Great Fen Vision is:

"A restored fenland landscape providing a variety of habitats for people and wildlife, now and in the future".
- 2.3 The Great Fen Project Aims as stated in its Strategy and Action Plan are to:
 - ✚ Help safeguard two very important National Nature Reserves. These are legally protected sites, one of which is of international importance for its wetland habitats and species.
 - ✚ Create over 3,000 hectares (over 4200 football pitches) of new wildlife habitat, making a major contribution to local and national targets set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - ✚ Contribute to diversification in the local economy, creating opportunities for new jobs and income streams.
 - ✚ Enhance flood protection in the Middle Level drainage system.
 - ✚ Create access for a wide range of users in an area largely devoid of public footpaths and the associated health benefits.
 - ✚ Become a significant tourist destination.

- ✚ Contribute to important Government Public Service Agreement targets.

2.4 The Project is currently governed under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the five partners: The Environment Agency, Natural England, The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough, The Middle Level Commissioners and the Council. Agreement to the MoA was first approved by Cabinet in June 2002 and updated in July 2006 and September 2007.

2.5 The Project aims and objectives fit closely with those of the Council, particularly:

- ✚ Provision of strategic open space (related to the growth agenda and access to the countryside).
- ✚ Diversification of the economy, especially in NW Huntingdonshire.
- ✚ Promotion of healthy lifestyle choices.
- ✚ Conservation and enhanced local heritage.
- ✚ Protection and improvement of wildlife habitats.
- ✚ Adaptation and mitigation in the face of climate change.

The Project aligns with the Council's key strategies, including:

- ✚ Sustainable Community Strategy
- ✚ (Planning) Core Strategy
- ✚ Local Economic Strategy
- ✚ Environment Strategy

2.6 With regard to 'spatial planning' the significance of the Project has been highlighted and given statutory force by inclusion in the now adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS is part of the local 'Development Plan', a legal entity and as a result the Council's Local Development Framework must be consistent with that Strategy to be judged 'sound' at subsequent Examinations.

2.7 The Great Fen Project is also recognised in the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Cambridge Sub Region whereby within this District it is linked with other areas including Paxton Pits and areas around Grafham Water into an extensive network of strategic green space.

2.8 The Project is funded from a variety of sources including private donations and contributions from Partners. Significant resources have been provided from public sources including Growth Area Funds (CLG), Economic Development (EEDA) and more recently the Heritage Lottery Fund in recognition of the national importance of the Project. In total some £15.6m has been raised.

2.9 The significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund has meant that the Project Partners now control 56% of the Project area, (although some is subject to long-term agricultural tenancies), and have entered into commitments with the Fund in terms of areas of land to be restored and other outcomes associated with education and community involvement. The focus of the Project is increasingly on delivery of the objectives listed above, rather than land acquisition.

- 2.10 Whilst the Memorandum of Agreement has served the Project well in its formative stages, in light of the above the stage has been reached where this needs to be strengthened.

3. PROPOSED FORM OF GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 Following professional advice, the Steering Group has concluded that a Collaboration Agreement should be drawn up to enable implementation by the Partners for the next financial year 2009/10.

- 3.2 It is anticipated that the Collaboration Agreement will be for a fixed term with options to renew and will define the relationship between the Partners. The current Memorandum of Agreement simply relies on a three month notice of withdrawal.

- 3.3 The Collaboration Agreement would set out what the Project is seeking to achieve. Other matters that it is anticipated will be included relate to:

- ✚ The operation of the Steering Group (or whatever body supersedes it) and its sub groups , these are likely to include a Land Management Group and a group concerned with Visitors, Access, Economic Development and Education/Community Matters.

- ✚ The role of the Project Manager and any other seconded staff.

- ✚ Services and contributions provided by Partners in cash or kind.

- 3.4 The Collaboration Agreement is a co-operation arrangement, no trading takes place and were this to be a requirement in the future, an alternative arrangement would be required as the Project continues to mature, between all or some of the Partners.

- 3.5 The commitments in relation to the Heritage Lottery Funding run for 5 years. Furthermore, it is anticipated that it is over this same period that some of the wider objectives of the Project can be progressed, for example, significant visitor facilities, access and economic development. A Project of this scale necessarily requires some continuity and stability. A five year term would appear realistically to be the minimum period for any Agreement.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- i) That the principle of entering into a Collaboration Agreement in respect of the Great Fen Project for a five year fixed term, renewable, be approved.
- ii) That the detailed content of the Agreement be the subject of a future report.

Contact Officer: Malcolm Sharp, Director of Environmental & Community Services

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20th November 2008

Free Swimming for Over 60's and Under 17's

Report by Leisure Centres Co-ordinator

1. Background

- 1.1 This report informs Cabinet of a decision of the Chief Officers Management Team (COMT) on a proposal made by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for free swimming. COMT made this decision due to the very short timescales provided by DCMS for the council to respond to the proposal by 24th October 2008. Prior to making its decision both the Leader and Executive Cabinet Member responsible for Leisure Centres were consulted.

2. The Offer

- 2.1 There are 4 incentives for Local Authorities to offer free swimming:

a) Free Swimming for Over 60's

£15m per annum for 2 years between all 354 Local authorities dependant on size of 60+ population. HDC's allocation is £45,627.

b) Free Swimming for Under 17's

£25m per annum for 2 years dependant on size of U-17 population. HDC's allocation is £86,141.

c) Modernising Pool Provision

Any Local authority that participates in **both** schemes is eligible for a share of £10m capital funding to modernize pool provision. This is a one-off capital grant. For HDC this would equate to £37,905

d) Modernising Pool Provision – Capital Challenge Fund

A further £25m is being made available for years 2009-11 for capital related to pool provision and to support more ambitious plans for free swimming. This might involve free swimming lessons, swimming co-ordinators or further capital improvements.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 HDC already offers reduced prices for Over 60's and Under 18 swimming. Swimming for Under 5's is free. Additionally, annual, 6-month and 30-day passes are available offering savings for regular swimmers. Further, the Advantage membership, our all-inclusive package, includes swimming as one of its many products on a pre-paid monthly or annual basis.
- 3.2 Estimated income (07-08) from these age groups is indicated below.

2007-08			
Over 60's	Total swims	Income (£k)	
Casual swims	10,399	20.0	
Passes	8,570	11.5	
Direct Debit	9,984	7.3k	(10% of total Over 60 DD income)
Annual	3,340	2.3k	(10% of total Over 60 Annual income)
Total	32,293	41.1	

2007-08			
Under 17's	Total swims	Income (£k)	
Casual swims	61,261	85.6	
Passes	11,213	19.0	
Total	72,474	104.6	

4. Benefits, Disadvantages and Risk

4.1 Benefits

- Increased participation by Over 60's and Under 17's
- Improved health of District population over the medium term
- Revenue subsidy matches current income levels for Over 60's

4.2 Disadvantages

- Revenue funding is for a guaranteed 2 years only. Future allocation is subject to the next Spending Review.
- Neighbouring Authorities may not participate in the scheme and non-District residents could, potentially, use HDC facilities for free. This is a condition of the award.
- Limited capital funding
- Revenue subsidy for Under 17's does not match current income levels for this age group.

4.3 Risk

- There is more certainty with Free Swimming for Over 60's. Current income and amount of subsidy are similar. There is no indication that we would ever be inundated with 60+ swimmers.

Less predictable is whether free swimming will affect other activities. There is a possibility that some or many of the Direct Debit and annual Advantage members could cancel their payments and only use the pool for exercise.

- For U-17's the position is much less clear. The subsidy falls short of income by at least £15k per annum. Further, mass participation is far more likely for U-17's particularly during weekends and school holidays in public swimming sessions. This may in turn have a knock-on effect on the income generated by other groups of swimmers. The possibility of school holidays with free swimming for children would be excellent for admissions but could result in permanently full pools with a commensurate increase in life-guarding costs, strain on personnel and no revenue whatsoever.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Based on the amount of funding and the impact on the service a formal response was made to DCMS on October 24th indicating the Council's acceptance of the Over 60's offer but rejection of the Under-17's scheme

5. Recommendation

- 6.1 Cabinet is requested to endorse the decision to:
- a) Accept the Government's proposal for Over 60's
 - b) Reject the Government's proposal for Under 17's

Background Papers

DCMS Papers (July 2008) Ref CMS 99869/MK
Ministerial Statement – Andy Burnham, DCMS – July 2008
Previous Management Committee Reports
Leisure Centres Annual Report 2007/08

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