

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY)** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2008** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact  
(01480)**

## **APOLOGIES**

### **1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

**Miss H Ali  
388006**

**2 Minutes.**

### **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.

**2 Minutes.**

### **3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN (Pages 7 - 14)**

A copy of the current Forward Plan, which was published on 16th October 2008, is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**R Reeves  
388003**

**15 Minutes.**

### **4. HOUSING STRATEGY FOR THE CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION (Pages 15 - 88)**

To consider a report by the Head of Housing Services on the Housing Strategy for the Cambridge Sub-Region, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

**S Plant  
388240**

**20 Minutes.**

### **5. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSESSMENTS**

To receive a verbal report on the latest position with regards to Occupational Therapists.

**S Plant  
388240**

**20 Minutes.**

6. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS**  
(Pages 89 - 90)

To consider a report by the Heads of Administration, Environmental and Community Health Services and Policy and Strategic Services on community engagement and Neighbourhood Panels.

**20 Minutes.**

**R Reeves**  
**388003**  
**Dr S Lammin**  
**388280**  
**I Leatherbarrow**  
**388005**

7. **GRANT AID** (Pages 91 - 100)

To receive a report outlining the findings of the Grant Aid Working Group.

**20 Minutes.**

8. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) - STUDIES** (Pages 101 - 110)

To consider a report by the Head of Administration on the Panel's programme of studies.

**15 Minutes.**

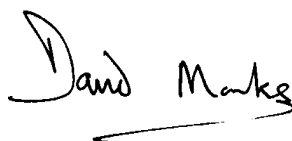
**Miss H Ali**  
**388006**

9. **SCRUTINY** (Pages 111 - 116)

To scrutinise decisions since the last meeting as set out in the Decision Digest and to raise any other matters for scrutiny that fall within the remit of the Panel.

**10 Minutes.**

Dated this 3 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 Miss H Ali, Democratic Services Officer, Tel No: (01480) 388006 / e-mail: [Habbiba.Ali@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Habbiba.Ali@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 Panel.**

**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](http://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 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 7 October 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Criswell – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs K E Cooper, Mrs J A Dew, J E Garner, P Godley, Mrs P A Jordan, P G Mitchell, M F Shellens and J S Watt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors E R Butler, J M Sadler, Ms M J Thomas and P K Ursell.

### **33. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 2nd September 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **34. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor S J Criswell declared a personal interest in Minute No. 37 by virtue of his membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **35. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN**

The Panel considered the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council for the period 1st October 2008 to 31st January 2009. In so doing, the Panel were informed that the Community Engagement item had been deferred to the Panel's November meeting.

Having noted the addition of the item on Amendments to Disabled Facilities Grants Legislation and having been reminded of the Panel's previous concerns relating to the length of time taken by Occupational Therapists to carry out assessments of need for home adaptations, the Panel requested for an update on the Occupational Therapy service for a future meeting.

The Grant Aid Working Group were requested to ensure that the Decent Homes Grant scheme was incorporated into their investigations.

### **36. FLEXIBLE WORKING STRATEGY**

*(Councillor L M Simpson, Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Information Technology, was in attendance for this item).*

Following an introduction to the subject by Councillor L M Simpson,

the Panel received a presentation by Mr M Hinton, Senior Business Analyst, on the Council's progress in respect of flexible working. Having been informed of the background to the Flexible Working Strategy, Members were acquainted with the benefits that flexible working would bring.

The Panel were informed that the Corporate Mobile Working Project had resulted in technological developments being deployed within service departments, particularly the enforcement of car parking, with the roll out of mobile devices, which was in addition to a new back office system and processes. Other developments included the introduction of touchdown working and the use of digital pens, Blackberrys for some core workers and, potentially, integrated electronic forms.

The use of Remote Access Technology through the "My Office" system now meant that employees who regularly worked from home and Members had greatly improved remote access to the Council's network. A security key fob system provided an additional level of security for those using the Council's information technology systems from home.

With regard to the Full Time Home Working Pilot, Members were informed that this involved employees who had volunteered to take part from the Revenues and Benefits and Environmental and Community Health Services Divisions. This pilot had been led by the Human Resources and Payroll Services Division and it was anticipated that the results would be submitted to the Panel's November meeting.

Members asked a number of questions relating to the financial implications of introducing the initiatives referred to and the level of savings achieved. In response, it was reported that all projects had been implemented from within existing budgets and that although the level of savings achieved had not yet been identified, efficiency savings had been generated in terms of work processes and financial savings on staff travel and on expenses claims. It was planned to undertake further business process redesign. The Panel were of the view that the savings should be quantified.

In response to a question by the Chairman regarding the management of employees and monitoring of their performance whilst working full time from home, the Panel were assured that, as for all officers, appropriate performance management systems were in place, which enabled Managers to identify poor performance. Finally, Members expressed the view that care should be taken to avoid any adverse effects on team spirit caused by individuals working away from their teams.

**37. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY**

*(Councillor C R Hyams, Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, was in attendance for this item).*

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel were acquainted

with the contents of a revised Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.

By way of background, the Head of Operations, Mr R Ward, reported that the original Strategy had been adopted by the Council in 2002 and that the Recycling Plans appended to the Strategy had been reviewed in 2005. Members' attention was drawn to partner authorities' achievement of performance targets for recycling and composting. As a result the revised Strategy focused on new priority areas such as business waste and environmental issues. The revised Strategy would have no financial implications for the Council.

In response to a question by the Chairman, Mr Ward reported that actions to reduce the impact of waste management activities on climate change would only be pursued where they were financially viable. Following a further question on the effects of the closure of the Buckden waste disposal facility, Mr Ward confirmed that this had made no difference to the distances travelled by the Council's refuse vehicles and that it had produced benefits in terms of reduced damage to vehicles.

In the course of further discussions questions were raised regarding the level of commercial waste generated in the District and the measures that had been introduced to encourage commercial waste recycling. Mr Ward reported that external funding had been received to carry out pilot studies into recycling initiatives for small businesses with a view to introducing schemes across the County. Having endorsed the content of the Strategy, the Panel

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet be recommended to approve the adoption of the revised Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.

### **38. ENHANCED CLEANSING SERVICES**

*(Councillor C R Hyams, Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services, was in attendance for this item).*

Pursuant to Minute No. 20, the Panel considered a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the Cabinet's response to the Panel's recommendations arising from the study on Enhanced Cleansing Services for the District's market towns.

Having noted the Cabinet's requests for further information on the operational issues associated with the scope of the areas to be cleaned and the delivery of the service, the Head of Operations confirmed that those areas highlighted within the plans originally circulated with the report represented the minimum deemed necessary for cleansing. Having regard to the Cabinet's concerns relating to the effect of early morning noise on residents living within the vicinity of the areas to be cleaned, it was reported that the proposed cleansing service would be limited to the emptying of litter bins and the use of small mechanical road sweepers. In addition, it was noted that whilst employees would report to Eastfield House at

6:00am, work in the market towns would not start until approximately 7.30am.

The Panel endorsed the view that financial contributions should be sought from the Town Councils but stressed that this should only be done once the Cabinet had agreed the principle of providing an enhanced cleansing service. This would then enable the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services to arrange for a financial proposal to be prepared for consideration as part of the Council's Medium Term Planning process. It was, therefore

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet be formally notified of the Panel's responses to the points of clarifications sought.

#### **39. ALCOHOL DISORDER ZONES**

Pursuant to the Panel's study on Enhanced Cleansing Services (Minute No. 38 *ante* refers), the Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on Alcohol Disorder Zones. Having noted that the introduction of Zones could only be used to address nuisance and annoyance to members of the public in relation to alcohol consumption and could, therefore, not be applied to other problems associated with late night entertainment such as hot food outlets and litter, the Panel decided that it would not be appropriate to pursue this in the context of the present study.

RESOLVED

that the position with regard to the power to designate Alcohol Disorder Zones be noted.

#### **40. IMPROVING LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY CONSULTATION CHANGES TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY POWERS**

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained suggested responses to questions raised in a consultation exercise by the Department for Communities and Local Government following the recent publication of the White Paper - Communities in Control. The consultation originated from the Strong and Prosperous Communities White Paper in 2006. Since then the Panel had considered changes to overview and scrutiny powers introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, namely the use of local petitions and calls for action (Minute No. 70 refers).

In discussing the suggested responses to the consultation, the Panel expressed general support for area scrutiny committees operating on a district basis, especially given the need to scrutinise the Local Area Agreement and the Local Strategic Partnership and their effect on Huntingdonshire. Members went on to emphasise that it was councillors rather than officers whom the public should hold to account. It was, however, suggested that, if officers were to be held to account, this should apply only to officers of other bodies with which the Council was in partnership.



With regard to the general aim of the measures referred to in the consultation document, which was to increase public interest in overview and scrutiny, the Panel suggested that the relevant area of the Council's website should be updated on a regular basis on the Panel's progress. Finally, it was observed that, should this aim be achieved, there would be resource implications for the way overview and scrutiny was supported. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to the comments outlined above, the suggested responses appended to the report now submitted be endorsed for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**41. STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY: STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT**

The Panel received and noted the content of a report by the Strategic Health Authority (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) outlining the Strategic Vision of the National Health Service over the next 10 years.

**42. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) - STUDIES**

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions. Meetings of the Grant Aid and the Adoption of Roads and Sewers Working Groups would be held in the near future.

**43. SCRUTINY**

The 87th Edition of the Decision Digest was received and noted.

Chairman

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**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Prepared by** Councillor I C Bates  
**Date of Publication:** 16 October 2008  
**For Period:** 1 November 2008 to 28 February 2009

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor I C Bates	- Leader of the Council	4 Church End Hilton Huntingdon PE28 9NJ Tel: 01480 830250 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ian.Bates@huntsdc.gov.uk">Ian.Bates@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor L M Simpson	- Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Customer Services and Information Technology	45 Devoke Close Stukeley Meadows Huntingdon Cambs PE29 6XE Tel: 01480 388946 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Mike.Simpson@huntsdc.gov.uk">Mike.Simpson@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor P L E Bucknell	- Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport	Compass House Pathfinder Way Warboys PE28 2RD Tel: 01487 824222 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Peter.Bucknell@huntsdc.gov.uk">Peter.Bucknell@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor K J Churchill	- Special Advisor to the Cabinet	51 Gordon Road Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6NJ Tel: 01480 352040 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ken.Churchill@huntsdc.gov.uk">Ken.Churchill@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor D B Dew	- Executive Councillor for Leisure	4 Weir Road Hemingford Grey Huntingdon PE28 9EH Tel: 01480 469814 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Douglas.Dew@huntsdc.gov.uk">Douglas.Dew@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor C R Hyams	- Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services	22 Bluegate Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambs PE29 2EZ Tel: 01480 388968 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Colin.Hyams@huntsdc.gov.uk">Colin.Hyams@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>

Councillor A Hansard	- Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy	78 Potton Road Eynesbury St Neots PE19 2NN Tel: 01480 388942 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Andrew.Hansard@huntsdc.gov.uk">Andrew.Hansard@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Mrs D C Reynolds	- Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health	17 Virginia Way St Ives PE27 6SQ Tel: 01480 388935 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Deborah.Reynolds@huntsdc.gov.uk">Deborah.Reynolds@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>
Councillor T V Rogers	- Executive Councillor for Finance and Environment	Honeysuckle Cottage 34 Meadow Lane Earith Huntingdon PE28 3QE Tel: 01487 840477 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Terence.Rogers@huntsdc.gov.uk">Terence.Rogers@huntsdc.gov.uk</a>

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made may do so by contacting Mrs Helen Taylor, Senior Democratic Services Officer on 01480 388008 or E-mail: [Helen.Taylor@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Taylor@huntsdc.gov.uk) not less than 14 days prior to the date when the decision is to be made.

The documents available may be obtained by contacting the relevant officer shown in this plan who will be responsible for preparing the final report to be submitted to the decision maker on the matter in relation to which the decision is to be made. Similarly any enquiries as to the subject or matter to be tabled for decision or on the availability of supporting information or documentation should be directed to the relevant officer.

Roy Reeves  
Head of Administration

Notes:- (i) Additions/significant changes from the previous Forward are annotated \*\*\*

(ii) For information about how representations about the above decisions may be made please see the Council's Petitions Procedure at <http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3F6CFE28-C5F0-4BA0-9BF2-76EBAE06C89D/0/Petitionsleaflet.pdf> or telephone 01480 388006

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Customer Service Development in St. Ives and St. Neots	Cabinet	6 Nov 2008	None.	Julia Barber, Head of Revenue Services Tel No. 01480 388105 or email - Julia.Barber@huntsdc.gov.uk		L M Simpson	Service Delivery

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Joint Municipal Waste Strategy	Cabinet	6 Nov 2008	Consultation Documents	Robert Ward, Head of Operations Tel No. 01480 388635 or email - Robert.Ward@huntsdc.gov.uk	Wide Public Consultation	C R Hyams	Service Delivery
Insurance Liability Test Case - Zurich Municipal/MMI	Cabinet	6 Nov 2008	None	Vicki Stevens, Solicitor Tel No. 01480 388023 or email - Vicki.Stevens@huntsdc.gov.uk		T V Rogers	Service Support
Sub-Regional Housing Strategy	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	None.	Steve Plant, Head of Housing Services Tel No. 01480 388240 or email - Steve.Plant@huntsdc.gov.uk	To be carried out with stakeholders July/August	Mrs D C Reynolds	Service Delivery
To adopt Urban Design Framework for South of High Street, Ramsey	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	Draft Consultation Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or e-mail - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Draft MTP	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	Financial Strategy, Previous Year's Budget Report and Various Annexes	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 - or email Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny (CSF)	T V Rogers	Corporate Strategic Framework
Decent Homes Grant	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	Letters for Go-East dated 10 Apr 2008 and 6 Jun 2008. Previous Cabinet Reports Dated 12 Jan 2006, 29 Jun 2006 and 22 Nov 2007	Steve Plant, Head of Housing Services Tel No. 01480 388240 or email - Steve.Plant@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds and T V Rogers	Service Delivery

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Great Fen Governance	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	None.	Malcolm Sharp, Director of Operational Services Tel No. 01480 388301 or email - Malcolm.Sharp@huntsdc.gov.uk		P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Gypsy and Travellers Issues and Options Report	Cabinet	20 Nov 2008	Local Development Scheme	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for Consultation	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Asset Management Plan****	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Previous Cabinet Reports	Keith Phillips, Estates Manager and Property Manager Tel No. 01480 388260 or email Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	Service Support
To adopt Somersham Conservation Area Boundary Changes and Character Statement	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Draft Consultation Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Development Control Policies Preferred Options	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Issues and Options Report and Summary of Representations	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for Consultation	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Community Engagement	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Previous Report to Cabinet	Dr S Lammin, Head of Environmental and Community Health Services Tel No. 01480 388280 or email. Susan.Lammin@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Service Delivery

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
To adopt Urban Design Framework for land at The Whaddons, Mayfield Drive, Huntingdon	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Draft Consultation Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or e-mail - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Older Persons Housing Strategy Update	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Housing Strategy 2006-11. Ageing Well, Housing, Health and Social Care Strategy for Older People. Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods, A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society; CLG, DWP, and DH, March 2008	Jo Emmerton, Housing Strategy Manager Tel No. 01480 388203 or email - Jo.Emmerton@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Service Delivery
Amendments to Disabled Facilities Grant Legislation	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	The Disabled Facilities Grants (Maximum Amounts and Additional Purposes) (England) Order 2008 (S12008/1189). The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (S12008/1190). Housing Strategy 2006-11. Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996	Jo Emmerton, Housing Strategy Manager Tel No. 01480 388203 or email - Jo.Emmerton@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Service Delivery

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
ICT Strategy	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	ICT Strategy	Andrew Howes, IMD Operations Manager Tel No. 01480 388190 or email - Andrew.Howes@huntsdc.gov.uk		L M Simpson	Service Delivery
Web Strategy	Cabinet	18 Dec 2008	Web Strategy	John Taylor, IMD Development Manager Tel No. 01480 388119 or email - John.Taylor@huntsdc.gov.uk		L M Simpson	Service Delivery
Great Fen Master Plan Progress	Cabinet	8 Jan 2009	None.	Malcolm Sharp, Director of Operational Services Tel No. 01480 388301 or email - Malcolm.Sharp@huntsdc.gov.uk		P L E Bucknell	Service Support
To adopt Godmanchester Conservation Area Boundary Changes and Character Statement	Cabinet	13 Jan 2009	Draft Consultation Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Budget and MTP***	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Draft MTP - Previous year's budget report - Various Annexes	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 or email Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny (CSF) – 27th January 2009	T V Rogers	Overview and Scrutiny (CSF)
Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators***	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Previous year's Strategy	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 or email Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk		T V Rogers	Overview and Scrutiny (CSF)
Parish Plans and Local Plan Policy	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Previous Report to Cabinet in Dec 2003	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email. Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Adopt process of incorporating relevant Parish Plan Policies into Planning Policies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support



Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Draft Planning Contributions Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Huntingdonshire Development Plans	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for Consultation	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Proposals for Riverside Park	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Draft Proposals for Riverside Park	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve following consultation with other key stakeholders	P L E Bucknell & Others	Service Support
To adopt Houghton and Wyton Conservation Area Boundary Changes and Character Statement	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Draft Consultation Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Preferred Options	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Issues and Options Report and Summary of Representations	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No. 01480 388430 or email - Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for Consultation	P L E Bucknell	Service Support

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**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

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**☎ (01480) 388203**

# Housing the Cambridge sub-region

A housing strategy for the Cambridge sub-region 2008-11

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# 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?**

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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**

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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.



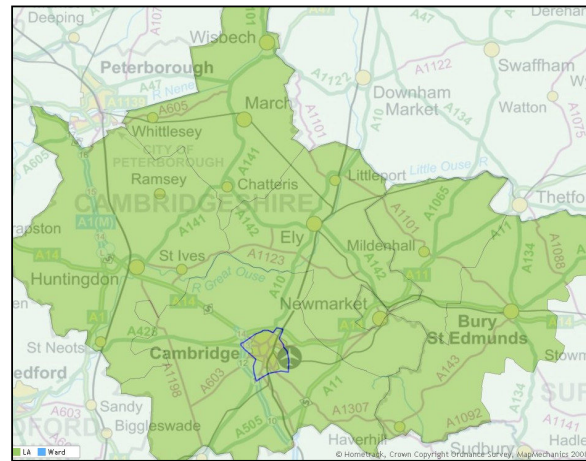
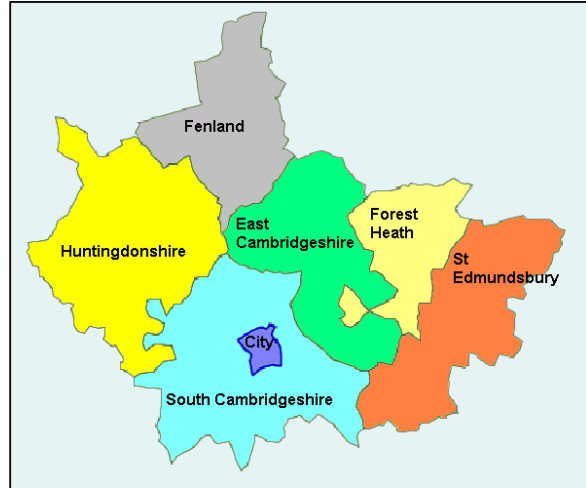
## The Cambridge housing sub-region

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.

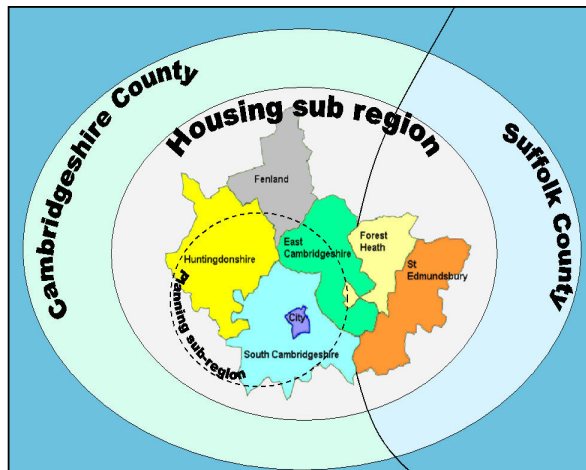


## Our vision

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup>



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

<sup>1</sup> From *Cambridgeshire's Vision 2007-2021*

<sup>2</sup> From *Transforming Suffolk: Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028*

<b>A summary of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk strategic priorities<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>How housing delivers these priorities</b> (with section to read for more detail in brackets)
<b>Environmental sustainability</b>	
<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>
<b>A vibrant economy</b>	
<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>
<b>Housing growth</b>	
<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>
<b>Safe, healthy and inclusive communities</b>	
<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>

<b>A summary of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk strategic priorities<sup>1, 2</sup></b>	<b>How housing delivers these priorities</b> (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).
<b>Learning and skills for the future</b>	
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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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

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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 economy<sup>3</sup>
- The Callcutt Review of housebuilding delivery<sup>4</sup>
- The Barker Review of housing supply<sup>5</sup>
- The Cave Review of social housing regulation<sup>6</sup>
- The Hills report on the assessment of the aims of social housing<sup>7</sup>

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

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

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/E/4/barker\\_review\\_execsum\\_91.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/E/4/barker_review_execsum_91.pdf)

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

<sup>7</sup> <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.

	<b>Minimum dwelling provision 2001 to 2021</b>		
	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

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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

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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 2013<sup>8</sup>.

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

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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.

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<sup>8</sup> 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 2020<sup>9</sup>
- Delivering the 35% affordable housing target<sup>10</sup>
- Improving the resource efficiency of new and existing housing stock<sup>11</sup>

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**

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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.

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<sup>9</sup> Policy H1 from the East of England Plan

<sup>10</sup> Policy H2 from the East of England Plan

<sup>11</sup> 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**

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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**

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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
<b>NI154: Net additional homes provided</b>		
Baseline	3,451	2,204 (of which, 358 in St Ed's) <sup>12</sup>
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)

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

	Cambridgeshire	Suffolk
<b>NI155: Affordable homes delivered</b>		
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
<b>NI141: % vulnerable people achieving independent living</b>		
Baseline	62.2%	65.65%
Target 2008/09	65%	66%
Target 2009/10	67.5%	68%
Target 2010/11	70%	70%
<b>NI186: Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions</b>		
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%
<b>NI 188: Planning to adapt to climate change</b>		
Baseline	Level 0 <sup>13</sup>	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

<sup>13</sup> 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

5.4 Supporting water neutrality

5.5 Promote zero waste communities

5.6 Supporting 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**

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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**

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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**

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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...”**

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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 Improving 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

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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

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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

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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.

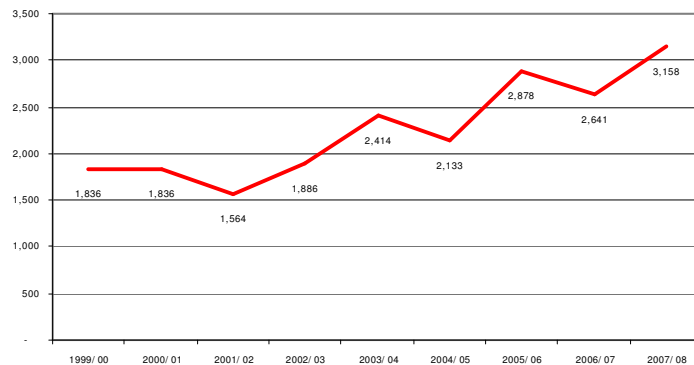
Cambridge is a major engine for growth, with a buoyant economy. Jobs have increased by 15,000 between 1999 and 2004, and are proposed to grow to 75,000 by 2021 placing further demands on local housing and infrastructure to support sustainable growth. The growth in jobs in the knowledge sectors, and in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



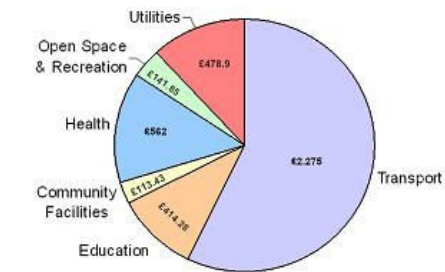
There are considerable opportunities for growth both on major strategic sites, our market towns and other major settlements; building on their existing strengths while requiring investment in and their infrastructure if they are to grow as sustainable communities.

**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 £1billion).



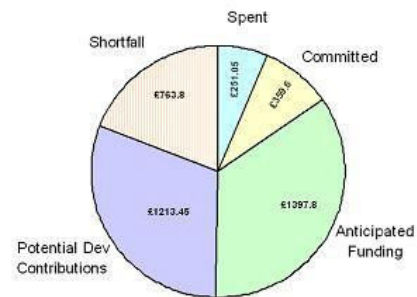
Pie chart 1

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.



Pie chart 2

The projects benefitting from the initial settlement include:

- 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:** Three sites at 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](http://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
<b>Total</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>£32,651,774</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>£1,913,655</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>£35,677,089</b>

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:

	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
<b>Total</b>	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%
<b>Total</b>	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](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
- Fuel poverty (see section 5).

**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](http://www.bre.co.uk)

**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:**

- 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.

**The difference it will make:**

- 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 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

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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

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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 date<sup>14</sup> include:

Total number of 'Live' applicants across the sub region <sup>15</sup> :	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%)

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<sup>14</sup> Correct as at September 2008

<sup>15</sup> 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 and supporting people

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.**

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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.**

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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.**

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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**

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### **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 2005-10 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 7<sup>th</sup> highest predicted growth rate by 2016 yet in SP terms its 125<sup>th</sup> worst off out of 150 areas in the latest version of the distribution formula.”*

## **Link to LAA targets**

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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 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

## 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.

A link is provided in Appendix 9.

**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
<b>3. The regional policy agenda</b>						
3.1 Contribute to implementing the sub-national review, supporting the move of funding and governance from EERA to EEDA	A gap analysis of joint working arrangements with EERA and EEDA to ensure the sub national review can be implemented efficiently	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.	Help draft the new strategy as appropriate Contribute to updating the regional housing strategy to "key in" with the IRS in future.	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.	
<b>4. County-wide sustainable community strategies</b>						
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	Focus actions on issues which tackle needs and meet the priorities of the SCS's, though housing and homelessness interventions	2008-11	County-wide LSPs District LSPs CRHB	Within existing	Sustainable communities as defined by our two relevant LSPs	All
<b>5. Environmental impact</b>						
5.1 Ensure homes are developed in the most sustainable way possible, and that their environmental impact of use is minimized	Achieve the highest CSH levels possible on all developments. Learn from Huntingdonshire's eco-home project and Fenland's MMC project with Smartlife Share learning from project outcomes.	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	Promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in all communities	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

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
5.3 Minimise CO2 emissions	Work with partners to minimise CO2 emissions from growth-related transport and encouraging existing communities to benefit from new transport measures.	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	Support water neutrality through water cycle strategies, and working to apply lessons on extending water neutrality to existing homes.	2008 to 2016	Cambridgeshire Horizons	TBC	Minimal water stress through new development	NI188
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
<b>6. A changing economy</b>						
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

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAAs/NPI
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
<b>7. Understanding our housing markets</b>						
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 Joint Strategic Needs Assessments	Ongoing	All SHMA stakeholder group	Existing SHMA budget	Continuing improvement and development of the SHMA	NI154
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, DJF, 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
<b>8. New homes, new growth</b>						
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

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAAs/NPI
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 from 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 LAVHC 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 housing delivery sites across the sub-region	Continue to support and work with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Rural Housing Enablers to delivery rural housing sites, particularly exception sites. 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	Ongoing	RHEs, RCCs, ECDC, CLTs	Within existing	Continuing development of homes and affordable homes in our rural settlements	NI154, NI155
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 delivery 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

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
<b>9. Existing homes and communities</b>						
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 the bids Secure outcomes from BRE stock modelling, build a focussed bid for sub regional projects to tackle the need	NI155 (reduced need for additional affordable homes)
9.2 Make best use of existing homes 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.	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.	Assess outcome of bid and, subject to it's success, the implementation of this new cross-tenure improvement programme	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
<b>10. Housing options, housing choice</b>						
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	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	Create a sub-regional homelessness action plan	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
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
<b>11. Vulnerable people and supporting people</b>						
11.1 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

Objective	Action	Dates	Key partners	Resources	Desired outcome	Link to LAA/NPI
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	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	To be bid for	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 RIME & 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"> <li>• Under occupation strategies</li> <li>• Evidence/needs of older people</li> <li>• Under-used Sheltered Housing stock</li> </ul>	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

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
<b>12. Gypsies and Travellers</b>						
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 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	✓
<b>Growth Area</b>					
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	✓
<b>Affordable Housing</b>					
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.	✓
<b>Homelessness and social housing lettings</b>					
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.	✓
<b>Decent Homes</b>					
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.	✓
<b>Supported Housing</b>					
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	✓
<b>Black and Minority Ethnic Housing</b>					
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

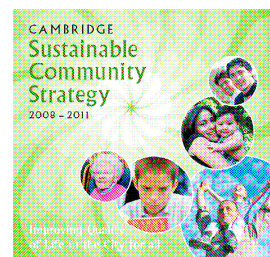
*This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the cover. If this fails, please type the blue hyperlink text into the navigation bar on your internet home page.*

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:

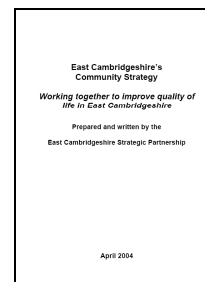
- Ensuring growth of the City benefits all and enhances the environment
- Traffic congestion and the need to promote alternatives to car travel
- Crime and the fear of crime
- Having enough houses people can afford
- Education and training
- The needs of older people
- Building a stronger sense of community.



Hyperlink: [http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset\\_id=8794007](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/download/asset/?asset_id=8794007)

### East Cambridgeshire's Community Strategy

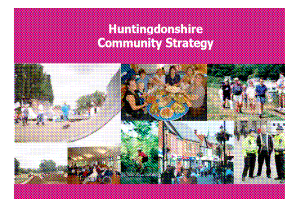
- Provide affordable and appropriate housing and related infrastructure
- Improve transport and access
- Close the skills and education gap between and within different sections of the community
- Improve economic development
- Improve accessibility to services, especially for disadvantaged groups.



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.

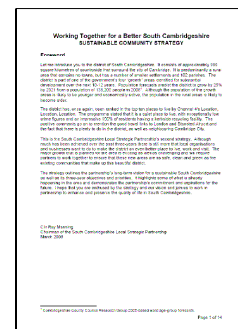


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## Working together for a better South Cambridgeshire

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.

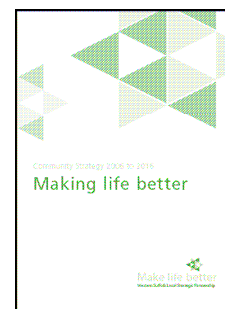


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## West Suffolk Making Life Better

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.

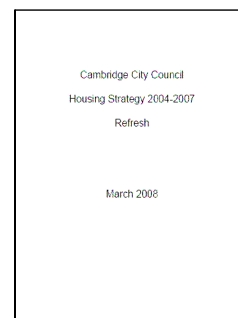
### Cambridge City

- 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.

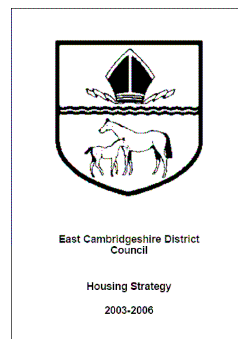
Hyperlink: [http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/Housing\\_strategy\\_refresh.pdf](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/Housing_strategy_refresh.pdf)



### East Cambridgeshire

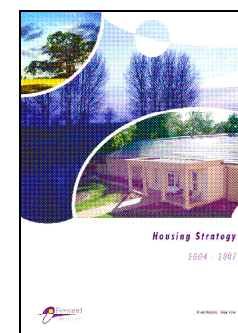
- Understand the housing needs of the communities in East Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge sub-region
- Increase the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of East Cambridgeshire and the Cambridge sub-region.
- Prevent homelessness and ensure adequate housing and support is available to homeless 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

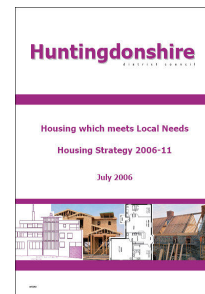
shape Fenlands' future. It will support the Council mission 'To improve quality of life for people living in Fenland'.

**Hyperlink:** [http://www.fenland.gov.uk/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset\\_id=326169](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

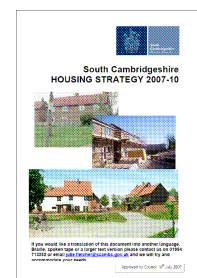
**Hyperlink:** [http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/57940F0E-C100-4761-9A2A-A900591D1934/0/final\\_housing\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/57940F0E-C100-4761-9A2A-A900591D1934/0/final_housing_strategy.pdf)



## South Cambridgeshire

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

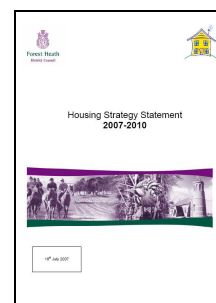
**Hyperlink:** [http://www.scams.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk\\_document=906176](http://www.scams.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk_document=906176)



## 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.

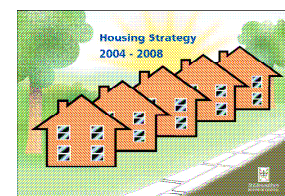
**Hyperlink:** <http://www.forest-heath.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/02B057A7-ECC2-45DC-A796-A84C2F54262F/0/HousingStrategy20072010.pdf>



## 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>



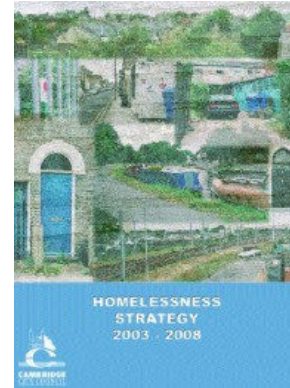
## Appendix 4: Local homelessness strategies

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

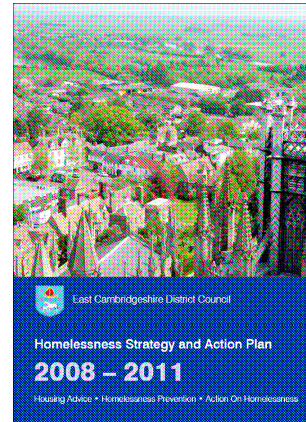
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### East Cambridgeshire

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

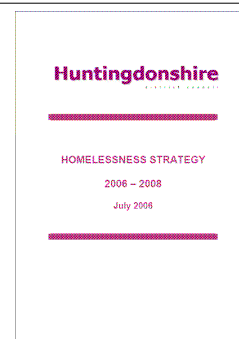




## Huntingdonshire

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

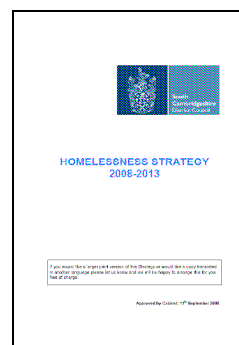


## South Cambridgeshire

- 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:

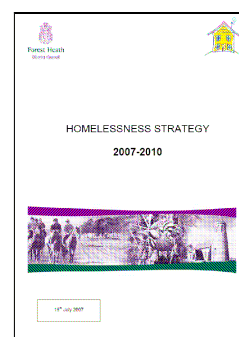
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## Forest Heath

- 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>

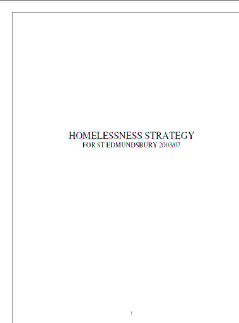


## St Edmundsbury

- 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**

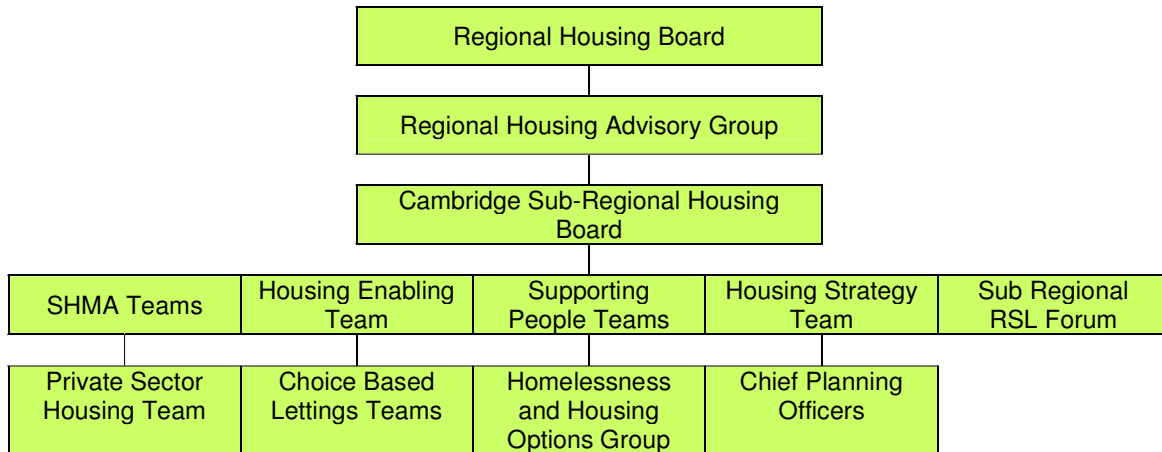
Delegates included:

- 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:

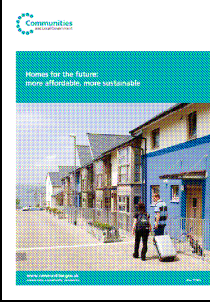
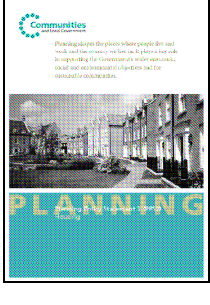
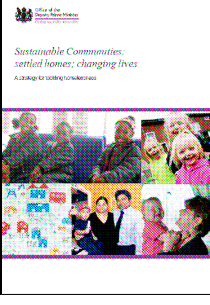

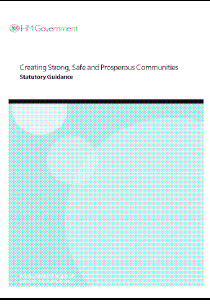


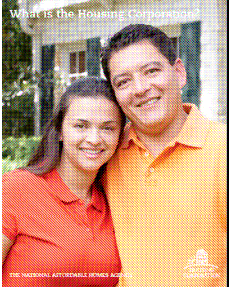

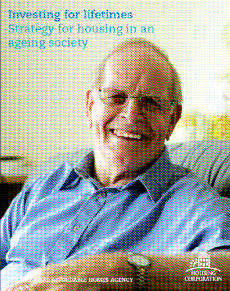
### Other housing-related groups

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

## Appendix 7: Links to national strategies

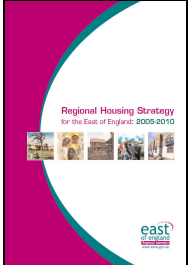
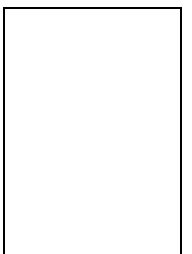
This appendix sets out the title, a summary and the cover of the strategy. To go to the full strategy, please "click" your mouse on the blue hyperlink text in the right hand column.

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

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

## Appendix 8: Links to regional 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	Link
Regional spatial strategy		<a href="http://www.go-east.gov.uk/goee/docs/193657/193668/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/EE_Plan1.pdf">http://www.go-east.gov.uk/goee/docs/193657/193668/Regional_Spatial_Strategy/EE_Plan1.pdf</a>
Regional economic strategy		<a href="http://www.eastofengland.uk.com/res/">http://www.eastofengland.uk.com/res/</a>
Regional housing strategy		<a href="http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Housing/2006-09-05%20Regional%20Housing%20Strategy%20Final.pdf">http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Housing/2006-09-05%20Regional%20Housing%20Strategy%20Final.pdf</a>
Regional housing investment plan		<a href="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&amp;2)%20%20June%202007.pdf">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&amp;2)%20%20June%202007.pdf</a>
SPERG: Supporting People East of England Regional Strategy		<a href="http://www.spkweb.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1A47BFD4-8107-4097-9445-64DDE05178F8/15209/SupportingPeopleEastofEnglandRegionalStrategy20081.pdf">http://www.spkweb.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1A47BFD4-8107-4097-9445-64DDE05178F8/15209/SupportingPeopleEastofEnglandRegionalStrategy20081.pdf</a>

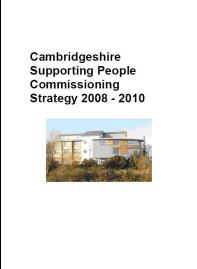
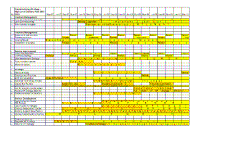
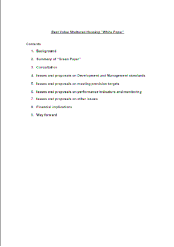
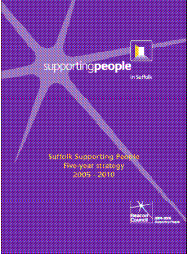

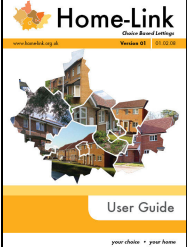
Strategy	Cover	Link
The Housing Corporation: Working for the East of England		<a href="http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Working_for_the_East_of_England_20080530145111.pdf">http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Working for the East of England 20080530145111.pdf</a>
The Housing Corporation: Investment Statement 2008-11, East of England		<a href="http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/East_England_Investment_Statement_0408.pdf">http://www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/East_England Investment Statement 0408.pdf</a>
Delivery of Affordable Housing through Section 106 agreements		<a href="http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/FileAccess.aspx?id=1458">http://www.inspire-east.org.uk/FileAccess.aspx?id=1458</a>
Gypsies and Travellers single issue review, EERA web page		<a href="http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583&amp;id= SX8785-A77FAA69">http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=583&amp;id= SX8785-A77FAA69</a>

## 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		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4EFAA81-F270-4C59-BE77-29D45257C1D9/0/CambsVision20072021reduced.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4EFAA81-F270-4C59-BE77-29D45257C1D9/0/CambsVision20072021reduced.pdf</a>
Transforming Suffolk: Suffolk's Community Strategy 2008-2028		<a href="http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B9AB88BA-E3D0-48CF-90AA-4B2D9C0D52CF/0/SuffolkStrategic.pdf">http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B9AB88BA-E3D0-48CF-90AA-4B2D9C0D52CF/0/SuffolkStrategic.pdf</a>
Quality Charter for Cambridgeshire		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/CQC_hi-res2_spreads.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/CQC_hi-res2_spreads.pdf</a>
Long Term Delivery Plan		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire_Horizons_LTDP_FINAL.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire_Horizons_LTDP_FINAL.pdf</a>
Housing Growth Fund – programme of development 2008-11		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambs_PoD_to_print.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambs_PoD_to_print.pdf</a>
Housing Growth Fund – programme of development 2009-11 refresh		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire_s_Refreshed_Programme_of_Development_for_Housing_Growth_Funding_-_October_2008.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/Cambridgeshire_s_Refreshed_Programme_of_Development_for_Housing_Growth_Funding_-_October_2008.pdf</a>



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

Strategy	Cover or web page	Link
Cambridgeshire Horizons Business Plan		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/264242_CORPORATE_BROCH_FINAL_REVISED.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/264242_CORPORATE_BROCH_FINAL_REVISED.pdf</a>
Balanced and Mixed Communities – a good practice guide		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/MIXED_COMMS_BROCHURE.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshirehorizons.co.uk/doclib/MIXED_COMMS_BROCHURE.pdf</a>
JSNA for Cambridgeshire: summary of phase 1		<a href="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">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</a>  Cambridgeshire's website for JSNAs:  <a href="http://www.cambridgeshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?id=656">http://www.cambridgeshirepct.nhs.uk/default.asp?id=656</a>
Suffolk's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2008-2011		<a href="http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7634347A-12DA-46A5-9D98-52635E1177BE/0/JointStrategicNeedsAssessment.pdf">http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7634347A-12DA-46A5-9D98-52635E1177BE/0/JointStrategicNeedsAssessment.pdf</a>
Gypsies and Travellers needs assessment link		<a href="http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4504D9E-D264-4B98-8967-B75F0A1A1B5F/0/TravellersSurveyFinalReport_May06.pdf">http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4504D9E-D264-4B98-8967-B75F0A1A1B5F/0/TravellersSurveyFinalReport_May06.pdf</a>

## Annex 10: Key facts on our housing market

### Cambridge City

Area	40.6km <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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 <sup>2</sup>
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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**Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery)**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support)**

**4<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
**11<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PANELS**  
**(Report by the Heads of Community & Environmental Health,**  
**Administration and Policy & Strategic Services)**

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on preparation of proposals on local and national initiatives in response to the Government's White Paper – Communities in Control: Real Power, Real People.

**2. Supporting Information**

- 2.1 In July this year the Cabinet requested a report on the interdependency of Community Engagement initiatives, specifically the proposed establishment of Multi Agency Neighbourhood Panels. It was intended to acquaint members with the main provisions of the White Paper, to consider the principles and processes for developing Community Engagement in the district and to seek views on a specific proposal to develop neighbourhood panels in by November so that the Cabinet could consider options in December. However, in the face of a stream of announcements and policy initiatives coming from the Government the pace of change has meant it's not yet possible to provide members with a comprehensive picture of the various proposals and the implications for both the District Council and communities in Huntingdonshire.
- 2.2 The latest announcement relates to the processes to be adopted in relation to the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 which requires consideration of a number of issues, and particularly how they relate to other proposals.
- 2.3 Discussions with neighbouring authorities and partner organisations are continuing and it has been suggested that a coordinated and/or complementary approach might better serve local and wider interest. All of the initiatives have resource implications and a cost benefit analysis ought to form part of the consideration of proposals by Members.
- 2.4 In these circumstances it is proposed that the Democratic Structure Working Group should be invited to undertake a detailed consideration of community engagement initiatives and possible structures and that their report on this subject should be considered both by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and by the Cabinet in due course. It is anticipated that the Working Groups Report would come forward for discussion by March 2008.

### **3. Recommendation**

Members of the Panels are requested to endorse the suggested process for the consideration and development of community engagement initiatives, by the Democratic Structure Working Group.

### **4. Background Papers**

Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities, DCLG 26 October 2006:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongprosperous>

Local Government White Paper: Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power, DCLG 9 July 2008:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrol>

Sustainable Communities Act 2007: A Guide Department for Communities and Local Government, February 2008

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernement/doc/682894.doc>

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**GRANT AID  
(Report by the Grant Aid Working Group)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery), 3rd April 2007, decided to undertake a study on capital and revenue grant aid schemes operating across the Council. The suggestion for the study emerged from the Panel's previous investigations into the Small Scale Environmental Improvements Schemes, where the recommendations arising from the study had been endorsed by the Cabinet and implemented by the Council.
- 1.2 Members of the Small Scale Environmental Improvements Working Group were therefore re-appointed to undertake the study on grant aid, that is Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, P G Mitchell and J S Watt. In addition, former District Councillor D A Giles was appointed on to the Working Group and assisted with the investigations until April 2008. Councillor P G Mitchell was nominated *rappporteur* for the Working Group.
- 1.3 Discussions have been held with a number of relevant District Council Officers and the Working Group is grateful to them for the support provided during the course of their investigations.

**2. AIMS OF THE WORKING GROUP**

- 2.1 The Working Group was tasked with examining the following:-
  - the purpose of the scheme having regard to the Council's priorities contained in Growing Success;
  - the criteria for assessing applicants' eligibility under each scheme;
  - the methods adopted to publicise the availability of grant funding;
  - the application process; and
  - Officer / Member involvement during the approval process.
- 2.2 In addition to the above, the Working Group decided to investigate external sources of funding, specifically, the level of funding attracted by the Council and the application procedure. Further information on this is included within the Appendix.
- 2.3 One of the main objectives of the study at the outset was to develop a single website area for all grant applications offered by the Council. At present, the different grant application schemes are listed on separate sections of the Council's website.

### **3. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES**

3.1 The Working Group met on a number of occasions over the ensuing months and interviewed the following District Council Officers:-

Mr Steve Plant – Head of Housing Services  
Mr Frank Mastrandrea - Policy and Enabling Officer  
Mr Keith Tayler – Private Sector Housing Officer  
Mr Steve Ingram – Head of Planning Services  
Mr Richard Probyn – Planning Policy Manager  
Mr I Leatherbarrow – Head of Policy and Strategic Services  
Dr Sue Lammin – Head of Environmental and Community Health Services  
Mr Dan Smith – Community Team Manager  
Mrs Kathy Shaw – External Funding Officer

3.2 The Working Group based their deliberations on the evidence gathered from their investigations. The section below summarises the Working Group's findings.

### **4. WORKING GROUP FINDINGS**

4.1 The District Council operates a number of capital and revenue grant aid initiatives, which are available to a wide range of stakeholders across the District. These include small voluntary community groups / organisations right through to large organisations who employ their own staff. Additionally, under some schemes individuals seeking support and assistance have the opportunity to apply for grant aid.

4.2 Further details of the types of capital and revenue grant aid schemes offered by the Council are attached as an Appendix hereto. The Appendix indicates the budget for the 2008/09 financial year, the objectives of each scheme, how each scheme is funded and the application and approval process.

4.3 The following sections identify a number of issues that arose in the course of the study.

#### **(a) The Council's Corporate Priorities**

4.4 The Working Group is satisfied that each of the schemes referred to within the Appendix has clear links to one or more of the Council's priorities identified in Growing Success:-

- A Clean, Green and Attractive Environment;
- Safe and Active Communities;
- Accessible Services and Transport Choices;
- A Healthy Population;
- A Strong and Diverse Local Economy; and
- Housing Which Meets With Local Needs.

Members have, therefore, concluded that all grant aid schemes contribute towards the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan.



**(b) The Criteria for Each Scheme**

4.5 The Working Group has reviewed all the schemes' criteria. Members have concluded that in general terms, the specified criteria for each of the schemes available is clear for they type of grant that is available. The Working Group is, therefore, satisfied with the criteria specified for each scheme.

4.6 In addition, Members of the Working Group have noted the statutory obligations placed upon the Council to offer Disabled Facilities Grants / Loans to residents within Huntingdonshire.

**(c) Methods Adopted to Publicise the Availability of Grant Funding**

4.7 On the whole, the Working Group is satisfied that all grant aid schemes are appropriately publicised via a number of means, including:-

- District Council's Website
- Local Press
- District Wide Publication
- Council Tax Leaflet
- Mailings to Town and Parish Councils and Community Groups / Organisations
- General Advice from District Council Officers

4.8 The Working Group has identified a need to generate more awareness on the availability of the grants, particularly, amongst Ward Members. It was felt that this knowledge would help Members in their role as Ward Councillors. As highlighted previously within the report, this may be achieved through the designation of a single area on the Council's website where details of all grant schemes are made available.

4.9 The Working Group has discussed the range of services offered by the Voluntary Sector. Whilst not directly related to the Working Group's studies, a consensus amongst the Working Group was that Members are unaware of the range of work being undertaken by the Voluntary Sector. As a result a suggestion has been made that this information should be circulated to all Members.

**(d) The Application Process**

4.10 The Working Group has been advised that three processes exist by which funding is allocated to other organisations. It is by application, commissioning or automatically rolled over by the Council. Each of these now is discussed.

4.11 The Working Group has been provided with details of the recent introduction by the Cabinet of Voluntary Sector Commissioning (Minute No. 07/59 refers). This dispensed with much of the traditional discretionary grant aid schemes (revenue) and replaced them with five year commissioning agreements with the following organisations :-

- Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations
- Hunts Federation of Volunteer Bureaux
- Huntingdonshire Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Huntingdon Shopmobility

- Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association

A Service Level Agreement between the District Council and each of the above currently is in place. A traditional grant scheme still exists for capital projects.

- 4.12 The Working Group is concerned at the termination of discretionary revenue grants, namely Leisure Grants and Other Community Grants, which previously were available to the local community. While the budget provision still exists, it is now used for commissioning. Members' concern stems from the fact that funding does not appear to be penetrating down to local organisations (including parish councils) operating in parishes. This funding is distributed on behalf of the Council by bodies operating on behalf of the voluntary sector via some of the service level agreements referred to in paragraph 4.11. Members are of the view that there needs to be greater transparency in the way these grants are allocated. This could be achieved by returning to the previous process whereby the Council receives applications and determines eligibility. The arguments against such a move are that the Government is encouraging councils to take the commissioning approach and that the service level agreements cover a five year period. If these obstacles prove to be insuperable, as a minimum, the Working Group recommends that a mechanism is put in place for Members to be provided with monitoring data that includes details of who has applied for grants, what the applications were for and what the outcomes were. The Working Group's overriding aim is that money provided by the District Council gets through to the local level to encourage those on the ground to do what is necessary locally as many studies have found that small community groups are best able to identify the needs of local people and can be flexible and responsive in meetings those needs.
- 4.13 Having regard to the capital grant aid that is available for Local Leisure Projects, the Working Group has concluded that the time period of two months is not sufficient for applicants to submit their proposals to the District Council. A suggestion has, therefore, been made to extend this time period to three months.
- 4.14 In terms of the grants that are automatically rolled over (with inflation), the Working Group has revealed that, for example, applications for new transportation schemes are made in writing to the Head of Planning Services, who is responsible overall for determining their outcome. These schemes have an historical basis and, to date, have not been subject to review. It is suggested that the Working Group should extend its work and carry out a thorough review of these. The Head of Planning Services has concurred with this suggestion in respect of transportation grants, as there is currently no formal application process or scoring criteria. The Working Group is of the view that these should form parts of any grant scheme.
- 4.15 A study on Town Centre Partnerships was completed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) in March 2008. As a result of their investigations, the District Council has now entered into a three year funding arrangement with each of the Partnerships. Prior to the study, funding towards the Partnerships had been agreed on an annual basis.

**(e) Officer / Member Involvement in the Approval Process**

- 4.16 With the exception of Local Leisure Project Grants, which are determined by the relevant Executive Councillors, all other application based schemes are predominantly approved by Officers, often after consultation with the relevant Executive Councillor. The Working Group has been advised that, dependant on the scheme in question, applications are either assessed against selection criteria or through a points scoring system. Applicants for housing grants may undergo a means tested assessment and / or an Occupational Therapy assessment as part of the approval process.

**(e) External Funding**

- 4.17 In terms of external funding, the Working Group has examined the level of funding attracted into the District, which has been achieved through the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership and the District Council's External Funding Officer. Having regard to the former, it has been stressed that the funding attracted has been used for a variety of District-wide and County-wide projects. Recent local examples include funding for the St Neots Creative Enterprise Centre and the Saxongate Community Learning Centre.

- 4.18 In terms of external funding generated by the External Funding Officer, the Working Group has noted the extensive work undertaken with a number of community groups and outside organisations to target sources of funding for small local leisure based projects. Members are of the view that this work should be fully recognised. It has further been noted that responsibility for assisting outside groups / organisations currently is divided between the District Council's Service Development and Community Development Teams. The Working Group suggests that these areas of activity should be co-ordinated under a single Head of Service. While Members would wish to publicise the Council's success in obtaining significant levels of funding both for the Council and for outside groups / organisations, they are mindful that the External Funding Officer is operating at maximum capacity and that such an action is likely to create extra demand for her assistance. Moreover, under the Financial Strategy, her role in obtaining external income for the Council will become increasingly important. The Working Group is conscious of the Council's current financial position and so cannot make a definite recommendation on this point but, should future circumstances permit, it would be of considerable benefit to the District if the Council could dedicate more resources to assisting outside groups / organisations to obtain external funding.

- 4.19 The Working Group has been made aware that there are other opportunities to obtain funding to support the Council's current activities. Two are referred to in the table attached to this report. Funding is available from the East of England Regional Assembly to help the Council meet the cost of its Housing Repairs Assistance grants. A separate fund is available from the East of England Regional Assembly to contribute towards the cost of identifying locations for gypsy and traveller sites in the District. Members are of the view that these opportunities should be investigated.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The Working Group has undertaken a thorough review of all grant aid schemes operating within the Council and has concluded that overall, the process is working well, with some areas requiring further investigation. A number of recommendations have been made to improve the current processes, which are set out in the section below.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Working Group recommend

- (a) that the availability of all grants be publicised more extensively, particularly to all District Councillors (para. 4.8);
- (b) that all grants be listed on a single section of the Council's website (para. 4.8);
- (c) that information on the services offered by the Voluntary Sector be circulated to Members (para. 4.9);
- (d) that ways of achieving greater transparency in the allocation process and, ultimately, greater penetration of revenue grant aid into parishes be investigated (para.4.12);
- (e) that the time period for submitting applications for Local Leisure Projects be extended to three months (para. 4.13);
- (f) that a further review be undertaken on the grants that the District Council automatically rolls over (para. 4.14);
- (g) that work with community groups / organisations to obtain funding and community development work be co-ordinated under a single Head of Service (para. 4.18);
- (h) that consideration be given in the future to providing greater assistance for local communities in applying for grant aid for local projects (para. 4.18);
- (i) that investigations be carried out into the availability of funding from the East of England Regional Assembly to meet the cost of the Council's Housing Repairs Assistance grants (para. 4.19);
- (j) that investigations be carried out into the availability of funding from the East of England Regional Assembly to contribute towards the cost of identifying locations for gypsy and traveller sites in the District (para. 4.19); and
- (k) that the Council's grant schemes be reviewed again in a year's time.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Notes of Meetings of the Grant Aid Working Group

**Contact Officer:** Miss Habbiba Ali, Democratic Services Officer - (01480) 388006

Department	Description	2008/09 Budget	Actual to Date	Objectives / Type	Status / Funded by	Application	Selection	Approval
<b>CAPITAL</b>								
<b>SP</b>	Disabled Facilities Grants/Loans	1,284,000	0	Statutory - to help disabled people in their own home.	Annual. £335k Gov't funded (around 30%) with the remainder funded through HDC sources. Annual bid system. Annual 100% HDC.	All applicants are means tested and require an Occupational Therapy Assessment.	Selection criteria and means tested.	By Officers – HDC's Home Improvement Agency Team.
<b>SP</b>	Housing Repairs Assistance Grants/Loans	200,000	0	Not a statutory requirement. Made available to improve the standard of the District's housing.	Funds available from EERA via a bid scheme.	Via application to HDC. Anyone over 18, in social or market housing that meets the selection criteria.	Selection criteria and means tested.	By Officers – HDC's Home Improvement Agency Team.
<b>SP</b>	Social Housing Grant	1,834,000	0	Not a statutory requirement. The District Council has a moral obligation to meet the needs of the District.	Annual 100% HDC.	Schemes that have been agreed in the past. Rolled over automatically until funding has been used.	Varies from scheme to scheme.	By Officers and Portfolio Holders – Clirs Mrs Reynolds and Rogers.
<b>SI</b>	Rural Renewal - Pump Priming	27,000	0	Ramsey Renewal	Finished this year. Now administered by Neighbourhood Management Groups.	Via application to HDC.	Local businesses who wish to improve their shop fronts in accordance with the Conservation Policy for the Town Centre.	HDC's Conservation Team.
<b>SI</b>	Ramsey Shop Fronts	0	0	Capital Grant to community Groups who's aim is to provide leisure facilities	2 year project which has now been completed.	March each year	Dan Smith	Portfolio Holders – Clirs Mrs Reynolds and Rogers
<b>SL</b>	Local Leisure Project Grants	162,000	0	To improve disabled persons mobility	Annual 100% HDC			
<b>SL</b>	Shop Mobility	0	0		Capital Finished			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,507,000</b>	<b>0</b>					
<b>Department</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>2008/09 Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Objectives / Type</b>	<b>Status / Funded by</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Selection</b>	<b>Approval</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>								
<b>SI</b>	Planning Listed Buildings Grants	54,243	0	Survival of Listed buildings at risk	Annual 100% HDC	Rolling, reviewed quarterly, grants in the range of £5k to £10k	Points system, administered by the Conservation Team	By Officers after consultation with the Portfolio Holder- Clir Bucknell.

SI	Ramsey Rural Renewal	0	0	Ramsey Renewal	Finished this year. Now administered by Neighbourhood Management Groups.			
SI	Community Transport Grants	89,709	0	Contributes to a range of community transport schemes/organisations.	Historical – automatically rolled over.			
SI	Rural Transport Grants	0	0	To assist rural transport schemes.	Annual 100% HDC.			
SI	Cambds ACRE	0	0	To support the Rural Transport Officer post.	Now finished. No longer in existence.			
Department	Description	2008/09 Budget	Actual	Objectives / Type	Status / Funded by	Application	Selection	Approval
IL	Town Centre Partnership Grants	79,032	0	Contribution to the Council's Local Economy Strategy	100% HDC. 3 year funding agreement to be introduced.	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
IL	Economic Development Grants	41,081	0	Contributes to the Huntingdonshire Enterprise Agency, East of England International and Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership.	Annual 100% HDC.	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
RW	Contribution to Waste PFI Team	9,583	0	Contribution to County to develop a County wide waste scheme	Annual 100% HDC	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
SL	Citizens Advice Bureau	145,580	0	Contribution to CAB to maintain the CAB	Annual 100% HDC	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
SL	Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations	39,989	0	Contribution to Hunts Forum To help all Volunteer organizations	Annual 100% HDC	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
SL	Hunts Federation of Volunteer Bureau	36,053	0	Contribution to Hunts Fed'n to help all Volunteer Groups.	Annual 100% HDC	Historical – automatically rolled over.		
SL	Shop Mobility	20,992	0	Contribution to Shop Mobility	Annual 100% HDC	Historical		
SL	Other Community Grants (See report para. 4.12)	29,674	0	Now amalgamated with Leisure Grants	Rolled up into the above 4 grants.			
SL	Leisure Grants (See report para. 4.12)	29,998	0	Community and charity projects such as Natural High, Moor Community Group & Cambridgeshire ACRE. Now amalgamated with Other Community Grants.	Rolled up into the above 4 grants.	Revenue funding – commissioning basis for 5 years. Capital funding – by application every year.	By Environmental and Community Health Services Division.	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>575,934</b>	<b>0</b>					

EXTERNAL FUNDING SOURCES									
Department	Description	Budget Set?	Actual Attracted	Objectives/Type	Status/Funded By	Application	Selection	Approval	
IL	Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (See report para. 4.18)	No Budget Set	Since the P'ship's existence £2,532m	The GCP is the sub-regional economic partnership covering a 25-mile radius around Cambridge. Enables access to funding streams that the District Council would otherwise not have access to. Funding used for a variety of both District-wide and County-wide projects.	The relevant external grant funder.	Via application – joint application with relevant parties.	Selection criteria – varies from project to project.	By the relevant grant funder.	
IL	External Funding Officer (See report para. 4.18)	No Budget Set	Over 2007/08 year £3.5m	To assist community groups and external organisations with help in attracting external funding in to the District. Predominantly used for local projects. Service often used internally within the organisation.	The relevant external grant funder.	Via application – joint application with relevant parties.	Selection criteria – varies from project to project.	By the relevant grant funder.	
SP	Regional Assembly fund to assist councils to establish locations for gypsy and traveler sites. (See report para. 4.19)				£9m grant money available via a bid system.				

RW Robert Ward  
 IL Ian Leatherbarrow  
 SP Steve Plant  
 SI Steve Ingram

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Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
<p><b><u>Town Centre Cleaning Regimes</u></b></p>				
1/11/05	Cleaning regimes in town centres added to the programme of studies.	Scoping report requested.		
3/10/06	Presentation by Head of Operations. Working Group formed to look at Sunday cleaning and enforcement.	Meeting of Working Group held on 13th November 2006. Further meeting to be held to consider a possible pilot of new cleaning arrangements in St Ives.		
3/07/07	Further update requested.			
6/11/07	Update received from Head of Operations.	Report requested.		
8/01/08	Report requested giving details, including costs, of providing a full cleansing service on every day of the week.		Report submitted to Panel's July meeting and Panel's concluding report to Cabinet's September meeting. The Cabinet has requested for additional information to be submitted to them prior to making a decision.	
7/10/08	The Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services and the Head of Operations attended the Panel's October meeting to discuss the Cabinet's decision and to respond to their requests.		A further report is to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2008.	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
7/11/06	<p><b><u>Disability Access</u></b></p> <p>Preliminary report considered. Further information requested on the Council's existing policies on disability equality and access and on research in this area.</p>	Further reports submitted.		
5/12/06	<p>Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan endorsed. Further research to be undertaken within Members' wards and officers of the County Council and of the Police requested to attend future meetings to discuss the study.</p>	Representatives of the County Council and of the Police invited to future meetings.		
6/02/07	<p>Panel met with representatives of Speaking Up and G Morris. A number of matters were identified for further consideration. – improved enforcement of disabled parking bays, extending bus pass hours for disabled users, Council paperwork, advertising of disabled facilities at leisure centres and advocacy services at Council offices.</p>	Report submitted to the Cabinet on high dependency toilets on 28/06/07.	The Cabinet decided to approach Papworth Trust for their advice on the need for high dependency facilities for people whose disabilities are so severe as to prevent them from using conventional toilets designed for the disabled and in particular on the possibility of extending the availability of facilities at Saxongate, Huntingdon for such use.	
5/06/07	<p>Meeting attended by County Council's Access Officer. A number of avenues identified for further investigation. Cabinet to be requested to consider providing high dependency toilets.</p>	Survey sent to Town and Parish Councils and District Councillors. Returns received.		
4/12/07	<p>Findings of survey considered. The Panel requested:</p>			

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<p><b><u>Disability Access (Cont.)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• further consultation with Town and Parish Councils on dropped kerbs and parking, the findings of which will be forwarded to the County Council and police respectively for action/comment;</li> <li>• that views on the need for more low liner buses and training for employees on the needs of those with disabilities be forwarded to bus operators;</li> <li>• that a suggestion that carers be provided with free bus passes be forwarded to the County Council;</li> <li>• details of potential consultees on Council policies and services representing local disability groups.</li> <li>• that a representative of Directions Plus be invited to a future meeting to discuss the study;</li> <li>• further investigation of the existence of the Disability 'Blue' Route scheme implemented by the Council; and</li> <li>• that investigations be made on the use of Blue Badge parking permits,</li> </ul>	<p>Further consultation documents despatched.</p> <p>Letters sent to bus operators.</p> <p>Carers UK consulted.</p> <p>List submitted to meeting in January 2008.</p>	<p>Presentation received at Panel's April 2008 meeting.</p> <p>Advised that the Papworth Trust did not have Disability 'Blue' Routes in the District.</p> <p>The Council's Supervising Inspector reported that very little enforcement action is taken</p>	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<b><u>Disability Access (Cont.)</u></b>			
4/03/08	to include the procedures involved in applying for a permit. Suggestion made to invite a representative from Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations to a future meeting to discuss the study.	Meetings held on 8 <sup>th</sup> September and 9 <sup>th</sup> October where a number of issues have been raised for further investigation.	towards Blue Badge Holders.  Presentation received at Panel's July 2008 meeting.	
1/07/08	Working Group established comprising Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, S J Criswell, Mrs K E Cooper and Mrs J A Dew to review the findings of the study.			
	<b><u>Adoption of Roads and Sewers</u></b>			
5/12/06	Study to be undertaken into the processes and procedures involved with the adoption of roads and sewers.	Information requested.	Scoping report to be submitted to a future meeting.  Representative of the Anglian Water to be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the study.	
5/06/07	Report deferred to next meeting.	Meeting to be arranged.	First meeting held on 22/10/07.	
3/07/07	Working Group established comprising Councillors J D Ablewhite, D A Giles, Mrs			

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<p><b><u>Adoption of Roads and Sewers (Cont.)</u></b></p> <p>C A Godley and P K Ursell, to undertake a review on the process of adopting estate roads and sewers with an aim to put measures in place that will streamline the process and make the procedures more transparent, initially by an investigation of introducing a District-wide register of un-adopted roads and sewers.</p>			
4/12/07	Working Group held meeting with the Principal Building Control Officer.			
5/02/08	Further meeting to be held with Head of Planning Services, Projects and Assets Manager and representatives Highway authority.	Meeting arranged.		
4/03/08	Councillor Mrs P A Jordan appointed onto the Working Group in place of the late Councillor Mrs C A Godley.	Meeting held on 11/04/08.		
03/06/08	Owing to their interests in the study, Councillors M F Shellens and J S Watt were appointed on to the Working Group.	Meeting held on 24/07/08.	Various information sought from DEFRA, Anglian Water and the County Council. A further meeting will be arranged pending the receipt of this information and to meet with a local developer.	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
5/12/06	<p><b><u>Grant Aid</u></b></p> <p>Study to be undertaken into the processes in applying for grant aid and the effectiveness of grant schemes.</p> <p>Details of all grant schemes requested.</p> <p>Review of Small Scale Environmental Improvement Schemes to be undertaken.</p> <p>Details of all grant schemes considered. With the exception of Shopmobility, the Working Group undertaking the review of the Small Scale Environmental Improvements scheme was requested to examine the schemes' criteria, publicity, application process, officer involvement and approval process.</p>	<p>Information requested.</p> <p>Meeting arranged.</p>	<p>Meeting held on 24/10/07 to plan further study work.</p>	
4/12/07	<p>Review of Small Scale Environmental Improvements Scheme completed. Working Group awaiting further information on other grant schemes administered by the Council.</p> <p>Details of grant schemes circulated. Meetings to be held with various Heads of Service to discuss capital and revenue grant schemes falling within their remits. Investigations nearing completion.</p>	<p>Meeting held on 1/02/08.</p> <p>Meetings held on 20/03/08, 26/03/08, 7/05/08 and 24/07/08.</p>	<p>Final meeting of the Working Group held on 24<sup>th</sup> October. The Working Group's concluding report appears elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
<p><b>03/06/08</b></p>	<p><b><u>Great Fen Project</u></b> Discussed at the Panel's June meeting as a potential study area. Some concerns raised regarding the present financial situation that the project was facing.</p>			
<p><b>01/07/08</b></p>	<p>Update received by Councillor P G Mitchell at Panel's July meeting. Chairman reported that the Service Support Panel would be undertaking a study on the matter and invited Members to nominate themselves to partake in the study. In that light, Councillors E R Butler, P G Mitchell and J S Watt expressed their interests in the study.</p>	<p>A presentation on the Great Fen will be received at the Service Support Panel meeting on 11th November 2008. All Service Panel Members have been invited to attend the meeting.</p>		<p><b>11/11/08</b></p>
<p><b>03/06/08</b></p>	<p><b><u>Impact Of The New A14 In Terms Of Air Quality And Noise Pollution</u></b> Suggestion made by Councillor M F Shellens to review the impact of the new A14 in terms of air quality and noise pollution in light of the problems being experienced within his Ward.</p>	<p>Information sought from the District Council's Environmental and Community Health Services Division.</p>	<p>Advice received. Councillor M F Shellens to report back thereon at a future Panel meeting.</p>	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
2/09/08	<p><b><u>Call Centre Monitoring</u></b></p> <p>Following recent changes to the Panel's remit (with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008), Call Centre Monitoring has now been transferred over from the Service Support Panel to the Service Delivery Panel. Quarterly performance reports to be circulated informally to Members of the Panel (June and November of each year) and an Item included on the Agenda every 6 months in future (February and September of each year). Since the formation of the Customer Service Team in February 2008, quarterly performance reports for the Customer Service Team are now produced, incorporating Call Centre statistics.</p> <p>Requests made for future performance reports to incorporate additional information relating to the number of unanswered telephone calls received by the Call Centre and the number of enquiries that were not the responsibility of the District Council.</p>	<p>Formal report to be considered at Panel's September 2008 meeting.</p> <p>Report circulated electronically to Panel Members on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Comments, if any, to be raised at the meeting.</p>		04/11/08



Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<b><u>ICT Developments</u></b>			
<b>2/09/08</b>	Remit transferred over from the Service Support Panel in September 2008.			
<b>07/10/08</b>	Update on Flexible Working Strategy to be received at October Panel meeting.		Presentation received at the Panel's October meeting.	
	<b><u>Corporate Plan – Growing Success</u></b>			
<b>14/05/08</b>	Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, S J Criswell and P G Mitchell appointed to Corporate Plan Working Group.	Meetings held in June and July to review the Corporate Plan.  Bi-annual reports to be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Panels in each year. Next report anticipated December 2008.		
<b>02/09/08</b>	In considering the Review of Growing Success the Corporate and Strategic Framework Panel decided to extend the Corporate Plan Working Group's remit by requesting it to investigate the cost implications of each priority area identified within the Corporate Plan.	Financial information to be considered at future Working Group meetings.		

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
7/10/08	<p><b><u>Occupational Therapists</u></b></p> <p>The Panel reiterated previous concerns relating to the length of time taken by Occupational Therapists to carry out assessments of need for home adaptations and requested for an update to be provided at a future meeting.</p>		<p>The matter is raised elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	4/11/08
1/07/08	<p><b><u>Forward Plan</u></b></p> <p><b>Housing Strategy for the Cambridge Sub Region</b></p> <p>Requested that the report should be considered at a future Panel meeting.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Panels</b></p> <p>Requested that the report should be considered at a future Panel meeting.</p>		<p>The report is raised elsewhere on the Agenda.</p> <p>The report is raised elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	4/11/08  4/11/08

## Decision Digest

Edition 88

Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008.

### IMPROVING LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY CONSULTATION: CHANGES TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY POWERS

Both the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have considered a consultation paper by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 'improving local accountability' and the Service Delivery Panel has endorsed the responses suggested, and –

- ◆ expressed general support for area scrutiny committees operating on a district basis, especially given the need to scrutinise the LAA/LSP and their effect on Huntingdonshire;
- ◆ emphasised that it is councillors who should be accountable to the public and not officers;
- ◆ suggested that in order to increase public interest, the Council's website should be updated after each overview and scrutiny meeting on the subjects discussed and decisions taken;
- ◆ suggested that, if officers are to be held to account, this should apply to officers

of other bodies that the Council is in partnership with only, with Councillors being held to account in the case of local authorities;

- ◆ emphasised the resource implications if overview and scrutiny's profile / role are to be raised.

The Service Support Panel has endorsed the responses suggested in the report, emphasising that these matters were best left to local discretion rather than the prescriptive approach adopted in the consultation paper. The Panel had no objection to the views expressed by the Service Delivery Panel.

Having been advised of the Panels views, the Cabinet has questioned the requirement to make provision for a dedicated scrutiny resource to support the overview and scrutiny function. Although not a requirement for district councils, the Cabinet has suggested that this should be at the discretion of individual authorities depending on local circumstances. The Cabinet also recognised that several of the initiatives proposed to raise the profile of overview and scrutiny have either been tried or have already implemented by the Council.

### ON-LINE PETITIONS

An on-line petition signed by ten people was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) drawing attention to the problems experienced by local residents with commuter parking in the Longsands area of St. Neots. St. Neots Town Councillor Mrs Ottolangui addressed the Panel and explained that she would like to see restrictions imposed to restrict on-street parking in the area to one hour during the day.

Having noted that the matter had been the subject of a recent petition presented to the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee, the Panel asked the Chairman to write to the AJC outlining their concerns and requesting that the matter be progressed at the earliest opportunity.

The Panel has also agreed that a representative from First Capital Connect should be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss their plans for the car parks at Huntingdon and St. Neots stations.

### **LOCAL PROCUREMENT REVIEW**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) has been updated with discussions held recently between Panel representatives and the local business community.

The meeting was arranged to monitor the actions contained in the Panel's review of local procurement and to review progress made since the last meeting.

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor M G Baker was satisfied that a positive and constructive discussion had taken place. During the meeting, the Group was advised of developments within the Economic Development Service, ongoing work to standardise the terms and conditions of procurement with other District Councils and the implications of the Council's emerging Environment Strategy. It was also noted that the electronic alert for additions to the contracts register was now working correctly.

A further meeting with business representatives is to be held on 12th March 2009.

### **PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Development Control Panel has been advised of the circumstances which have arisen following the receipt of an objection to an Order made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to divert parts of public footpath No1 at Buckden. As the proposed line of the footpath has also been obstructed by new development and cannot be used as a public footpath, the diversion cannot proceed under the Town and Country Planning Act legislation and therefore the Panel has formally agreed not to confirm the Order. An alternative diversion is being pursued, however, under the Highways Act by the Nene Housing Association.

### **ALCOHOL DISORDER ZONES**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) and the Cabinet have been briefed on the

background to Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs), a Government initiative aimed at tackling the problems in city and town centres as a result of excessive alcohol consumption. Having noted that ADZs are intended as a short term, last resort measure to address high levels of alcohol related nuisance and disorder, circumstances not applicable to Huntingdonshire, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) and the Cabinet has recognised that their use would not deal with the problem of litter left as a result of the Saturday night time economy which has been highlighted as a concern in the District.

## MARKET RULES

The Cabinet has approved revised rates for Council-run markets in Huntingdonshire. The rules have been updated to ensure they are relevant and appropriate to current trading practices.

## REPRESENTATION ON ORGANISATIONS

Councillors J A Gray, T V Rogers and L M Simpson have been appointed by the Cabinet as the Members with whom the Director of Commerce and Technology is required to consult to exercise delegated authority on treasury management matters.

## FLEXIBLE WORKING STRATEGY

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has received a presentation on the Council's progress in respect of flexible

working and noted the benefits that it would bring.

The Corporate Mobile Working Project has been successful in rolling out mobile devices, new back office systems and processes, touchdown working, digital pens and Blackberrys to service departments.

The use of Remote Access Technology has also been discussed and the Panel has been advised of the recent introduction of a key fob system, which provides an additional level of security for employees accessing the Council's information systems from home.

The Full Time Home Working Pilot has involved employees who had volunteered to take part from the Revenues and Benefits and Environmental and Community Health Services Divisions.

The Panel also discussed the financial implications of introducing the initiatives, the levels of savings achieved, the management of employees and the monitoring of their performance whilst working full time from home. It was also reported that all projects had been implemented within existing budgets.

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE STRATEGY

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has approved the content of the revised Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Municipal Waste Strategy.

The original Strategy had been adopted by the Council in 2002 and the Recycling Plans appended to the Strategy had been reviewed in 2005. The revised Strategy now focuses on new priority areas such as business waste and environmental issues and would have no financial implications for the Council.

Discussions also have taken place on the actions taken by the Council to reduce the impact of waste management activities on climate change, the effects of the closure of the Buckden Waste disposal facility, the level of commercial waste generated in the District and the measures that have been introduced to encourage commercial waste recycling. Having regard to the latter, the Panel noted that external funding had been received to carry out pilot studies into recycling initiatives for small businesses with a view to introducing schemes across the County.

### **ENHANCED SERVICES                      CLEANSING SERVICES**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has noted the Cabinet's response to the Panel's recommendations arising from the study on Enhanced Cleansing Services for the District's market towns.

In noting their requests for additional information, the Panel has confirmed that those areas highlighted within the plans originally circulated with the report had represented the scope of the areas to be cleaned. In response to

concerns relating to the effect of early morning noise on residents living within the vicinity of the areas to be cleaned, it has been reported that the proposed cleansing service would be limited to the emptying of litter bins and the use of small mechanical road sweepers. In addition, it was noted that whilst employees would report to Eastfield House at 6:00am, work in the market towns would not commence until approximately 7:30am.

The Panel has endorsed the view that financial contributions should be sought from the Town Councils and Members have stressed that this should only be done once the Cabinet has agreed the principle of providing an enhanced cleansing service.

### **STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY: STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has noted the Strategic Health Authority's Strategic Vision Document, which outlines the Vision for the National Health Service over the next 10 years.

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