

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)** will be held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2009** at **7:30 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE A BRIEFING FOR ALL MEMBERS AT 7PM IN MEETING ROOM 1

Contact
(01480)

APOLOGIES

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

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2008.

**Mrs C Bulman
388234**

2. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

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

In accordance with the agreed procedure, Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein. A copy of the current Forward Plan is attached.

4. **IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO CAR PARKS AT HUNTINGDON AND ST NEOTS RAIL STATIONS**

To receive an update on developments at the above stations by District Council Officers,

5. **SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL ABUSE** (Pages 15 - 32)

To consider the report of the Working Group appointed by the Panel.

**Mrs C Bulman
388234**

6. **WORKPLAN STUDIES** (Pages 33 - 42)

To consider, with the aid of a report by the Head of Administration, the programme of studies.

Mrs C Bulman
388234

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)**
(Pages 43 - 50)

To consider a report by the Head of Administration on decisions taken by the Panel.

Mrs C Bulman
388234

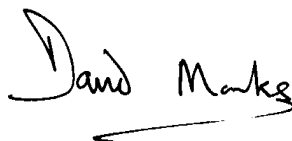
8. **SCRUTINY** (Pages 51 - 56)

To scrutinise decisions since the last meeting. A copy of the relevant Decision Digest is attached.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the meeting of the Panel is scheduled of the Panel is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 10th February 2009 at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in the **Wren Room, Countryside Centre, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.**

Dated this 5th day of January 2009



Chief Executive

Notes

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

interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.

Please contact Mrs Claire Bulman, Democratic Services Officer, Tel No 01480 388234/e-mail: Claire.Bulman@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 (*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 SUPPORT) held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 9 December 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor J A Gray – Chairman.

Councillors M G Baker, J T Bell, P H Dakers, J W Davies, P J Downes, A N Gilbert, P M D Godfrey, D Harty, L W McGuire, M F Newman, R G Tuplin and R J West.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K M Baker and Ms S Kemp.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor P L E Bucknell

Prior to the arrival of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair.

Councillor P M D Godfrey, Vice Chairman in the Chair.

56. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 11th November 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

58. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered and noted the current Forward Plan of key decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet, which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council. In doing so, Members were advised that the options review for Building A of the District Council's Headquarters would be considered by the Corporate & Strategic Framework Panel at its meeting in January 2009.

Councillor J A Gray in the Chair.

59. DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD

(Councillor P L E Bucknell, Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy & Transportation was in attendance for this item).

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel considered the draft document which set out the Council's detailed policies for managing future development in Huntingdonshire

The Panel was informed that the policies were designed to complement the strategic framework established in the Core Strategy and reflected the representations received during the Issues and Options consultation and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal. Attention was drawn to the key sections within the document and the recent amendments made by the Development Plan Advisory Group following its consideration of the report. In particular Members were informed that because of a delay in the preparation of the Great Fen Master Plan, the references within the document to the Master Plan would be changed to reflect the fact that this had yet to be completed.

In considering each of the proposed policies, Members commented upon a variety of issues including parking provision in new development, the implications of the new Community Infrastructure Levy, the retention of historic orchards and energy conservation measures in new development. Specific questions also were raised in relation to the definition of key service centres, cycleway development and building in the flood plain. Members also noted that a framework had now been developed for the first time to establish contributions from developers towards indoor sports facilities.

In respect of the draft policy concerning development as part of the Great Fen Project, Members expressed concern that the policy could be construed as being overly prescriptive and not consistent with the more conditional language adopted elsewhere in the document. Members felt that the terminology used whereby "planning permission for development..... will be granted for proposals which will deliver the implementation of the Great Fen Project as identified on the Proposals Map and which are consistent with the Master Plan" could fetter the Council's discretion when considering future applications. Particularly as the content of the Master Plan was not yet known, Members felt unable to support the policy as drafted. Concerns were also expressed about the references in paragraph 4.31 to the possible restriction of permitted development rights for specific farming or operational purposes which could disadvantage local landowners operating in the Master Plan area.

Having noted that the report would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 18th December 2008 and that further public engagement would take place with effect from January 2009, the Panel

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet be recommended to change the words "will be granted" to "may be granted" in the first line of the policy relating to the Great Fen Project.

60. URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK - LAND AROUND BUTTSGROVE WAY, THE WHADDONS AND SUFFOLK HOUSE, HUNTINGDON

(Councillor P L E Bucknell, Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy was in attendance for this item).

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel considered the content of an Urban Design Framework (UDF) for development opportunities in this part of Huntingdon. A copy of the responses received from the recent consultation exercise also was tabled for information.

Having been acquainted with the background to the creation of the UDF, Members were advised that it was intended to establish a clear planning framework to ensure that future proposals for development within the area were well planned and appropriate. The owners of some of the existing property had already indicated their intention to redevelop the area and the Panel was informed that the UDF would assist in the formulation of the design of the new development proposals.

Members attention was drawn to the comments that had been received by way of correspondence and questionnaires completed at public exhibitions that had been held into the proposals. A formal response from the Town Council was awaited. It was noted by Members that a number of replies had contained concerns over loss of green space in the area.

In welcoming the document as a positive step and one which had helped to alleviate initial misunderstandings amongst local residents. Members commented also on the question of highway safety in Buttsgrove Way, the future housing mix of development and the need to respect the private dwellings in the area in the subsequent development proposals.

RESOLVED

that the contents of the Urban Design Framework be endorsed.

61. MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS (PLANNING OBLIGATIONS)

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Policy and Strategic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel was updated on the receipt and expenditure of money negotiated under Section 106 Agreements by the Council.

In doing so, the Panel noted that there had been a slow down in money received from developers because of the current economic climate. Members also were alerted to the future possibility of developers seeking to renegotiate agreements because properties were no longer achieving previously anticipated values.

Having agreed to note the contents of the report, the Chairman suggested that if there were any specific queries that Members wish to raise these should be directed in the first instance to the Head of Administration or the Democratic Services Section.

62. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Policy and Strategic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel considered the performance of the authority against the priority objectives identified in "Growing Success", the corporate plan updated by the Council in September 2008.

Having noted that most of the targets within the priority areas allocated to the Service Support Panel were being met or exceeded, comment was made in relation to the target of maximising leisure centre income. While this had fallen against target, Members acknowledged that the loss of income had been more than offset by reductions in expenditure in the Leisure Centres as a whole.

63. WORKPLAN STUDIES

The Panel considered and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) reviewing the Panel's programme of studies. In doing so, Councillors Harty, Godfrey and McGuire reported on the investigations being undertaken by the working groups reviewing the Section 106 process, the social consequences of alcohol abuse and maximising Council income respectively. Members were advised that the first two of the groups were in the process of compiling their final reports.

64. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)

The Panel considered and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) reviewing the Panel's progress to date on issues that had been discussed previously.

Councillor J W Davies reported that the problems with flooding from the foul sewerage system in St Audrey Lane appeared to have improved following the jetting of the surface water drain. However, he urged the Panel to continue to pursue with Anglian Water issues relating to the capacity of the pumping station at Broadleas and it was agreed that a further update would be sought in February / March 2009.

The Chairman announced that First Capital Connect would be attending the Panel's January meeting to discuss their expansion plans for the car parks at Huntingdon and St Neots, It was suggested that it might be appropriate to issue a press release to this effect.

The Head of Administration reported on discussions held recently about proposed arrangements for scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement and the role of the Joint Accountability Committee. The

Panel were also advised that proposals to undertake a review of affordable housing had been postponed pending the examination in public of the Council's Core Strategy.

65. SCRUTINY

The Panel considered and noted the latest edition of the Council's Decision Digest, summarising the Council's decisions since the previous meeting. In so doing, a number of questions were answered to the Panel's satisfaction by the Head of Administration.

Chairman

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Prepared by Councillor I C Bates
Date of Publication: 12 December 2008
For Period: 1st January to 30th April 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: Ian.Bates@huntsdc.gov.uk
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: Mike.Simpson@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor P L E Bucknell	- Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport	Compass House Pathfinder Way Warboys PE28 2RD Tel: 01487 824222 E-mail: Peter.Bucknell@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor K J Churchill	- Special Advisor to the Cabinet	51 Gordon Road Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6NJ Tel: 01480 352040 E-mail: Ken.Churchill@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor D B Dew	- Executive Councillor for Leisure	4 Weir Road Hemingford Grey Huntingdon PE28 9EH Tel: 01480 469814 E-mail: Douglas.Dew@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor C R Hyams	- Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services	22 Bluegate Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambs PE29 2EZ Tel: 01480 388968 E-mail: Colin.Hyams@huntsdc.gov.uk

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

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 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
To adopt Urban Design Framework for South of High Street, Ramsey	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	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

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
Asset Management Plan	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Previous Cabinet Reports	Keith Phillips, Estates and Property Manager Tel No. 01480 388260 or email Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	Service Support
To adopt Urban Design Framework for land at The Whaddons, Mayfield Drive, Huntingdon	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	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
ICT Strategy	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	ICT Strategy	Andrew Howes, IMD Operations Manager Tel No. 01480 388190 or email - Andrew.Howes@huntsdc.gov.uk		L M Simpson	Service Delivery
New Accommodation - Building A - Options Review	Cabinet	29 Jan 2009	Building A - Options Review	Richard Preston, New Accommodation Project Co-ordinator Tel No 01480 388340 or email Richard.Preston@huntsdc.gov.uk	To be informed by option selection.	L M Simpson	Corporate Strategic Framework
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
Local Investment Framework***	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Core Strategy	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No 01480 388430 or email Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Adopt as delivery mechanism for Core Strategy	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Capital Grant Aid Awards***	Grants	19 Feb 2009	None	Dan Smith, Community Initiatives Manager Tel No 01480 388377 or email Dan.Smith@huntsdc.gov.uk	Copy of the report made available to all Members prior to meeting	Councillors Mrs D C Reynolds and T V Rogers	Service Delivery
Structure Review Working Group - Findings***	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Previous Working Group Papers	Roy Reeves, Head of Administration Tel No 01480 388003 or email Roy.Reeves@huntsdc.gov.uk	Members	K Churchill	Service Delivery Service Support
Land Adjacent to - the Grand Cinema, Ramsey***	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	Report to Cabinet - 7th June 2007	Keith Phillips, Estates and Property Manager Tel No 01480 388260 or email Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	Service Support
Community Enterprise Centre, Sapley East - Proposals***	Cabinet	19 Feb 2009	None.	Ian Leatherbarrow, Director of Central Services Tel No 01480 388047 or email Ian.L Leatherbarrow@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	Service Support
To adopt Somersham 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

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
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	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
St. Neots Market Town Strategy***	Cabinet	12 Mar 2009	St. Neots Market Town Transport Strategy	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No 01480 388430 or email Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
Leisure Facilities Strategy***	Cabinet	12 Mar 2009	Leisure Facilities Strategy	Ms J Peadon, Leisure Development Manager Tel No 01480 388048 or email Jo.Peadon@huntsdc.gov.uk		Councillors D B Dew and L M Simpson	Service Delivery
Older Persons Housing Strategy Update	Cabinet	12 Mar 2009	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
A14 Statutory Orders Consultations****	Cabinet	2 Apr 2009	None.	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No 01480 388430 or email Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Endorse HDC's position on the orders	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	2 Apr 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
Master Plan for land Formerly East of Sapley Square, Oxmoor***	Cabinet	2 Apr 2009	Draft Issues and Options Document	Richard Probyn, Planning Policy Manager Tel No 01480 388430 or email Richard.Probyn@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for adoption as informal planning guidance	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
To adopt Godmanchester Conservation Area Boundary Changes and Character Statement***	Cabinet	2 Apr 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 following consultation with the public and statutory bodies.	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
To adopt Houghton & Wyton Conservation Area Boundary Changes and Character Statement***	Cabinet	2 Apr 2009	Draft Consultation Document		Approve changes for adoption having followed consultation with the public and statutory bodies.	P L E Bucknell	Service Support
To adopt Kimbolton Conservation Area Boundary changes and Character Statement***	Cabinet	2 Apr 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

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 Masterplan***	Cabinet	23 Apr 2009	None	Malcolm Sharp, Director of Operational Services Tel No 01480 388301 or email Malcolm.Sharp@huntsdc.gov.uk	Consultation process in preparation.	P L E Bucknell	Service Support

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)

13TH JANUARY 2009

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ALCOHOL ABUSE (Report of the Working Group)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 9th September 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) considered a briefing paper prepared by the Head of Administration on the night time economy in Huntingdonshire in the context of the Licensing Act 2003. The issue had been raised at a previous meeting as a possible area for the Panel to undertake a detailed investigation and the paper provided details of the provisions of the Act, together with information on its impact at both a national and local level.
- 1.2 From the information provided, the Panel concluded that the majority of establishments within the District in the main appeared to be well managed and there was little that could be achieved in undertaking a review of the implications of the Act and its practical application by the Council. However Members felt that there were sufficient issues in relation to the social consequences of alcohol abuse to merit an investigation. In particular, the Panel was aware of concerns in some quarters over the number of people congregating in St Ives town centre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. With this in mind Councillors J T Bell, P M D Godfrey and Ms S L Kemp were appointed to a working group to address the situation.
- 1.3 At the request of Councillor L W McGuire, the Working Group was also asked to explore the Council's position with regard to the adoption and implementation of the Countywide Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 -2011.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 At the outset of the review, the Working Group agreed that the specific purpose of their study should be to investigate the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on levels of anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime within the District. Councillor Ms S L Kemp was appointed as the Group's rapporteur and to assist Members in their review, the following background information was obtained:-

- Cambridgeshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 – 11;

- Details of a presentation to all Members on 21st October 2008 by the Cambridgeshire Drug and Alcohol Advisory Team Co-ordinator;
 - Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2008 – 2011;
 - Bassetlaw District Council: Review of Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour;
 - Hospital admissions for alcohol related harm;
 - the Local Authority Profile of Alcohol Related Harm; and
 - the Alcohol Harm Reduction Newsletter – East of England
- 2.2 As part of its investigations, the Working Group met the District Council's Community Safety Team Leader and received information on several ongoing initiatives being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership to address the negative impact that behaviour related to alcohol consumption can have on the community. Details are attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 In doing so, the Working Group has noted the inclusion of targets within the Community Safety Plan 2008 – 11 to address alcohol related anti-social behaviour and that the Partnership's contribution towards the Countywide Alcohol Strategy will enable actions to be put in place to address the consequences of alcohol misuse. The Working Group has particularly commended the work which the Partnership is undertaking with young people and has welcomed the introduction of a "Nightwatch" initiative in St Ives which is designed to tackle the issues of crime and disorder associated with the district based night time economy in the town centre to ensure a co-ordinated response is taken when dealing with the problem individuals.
- 2.4 Members also heard evidence from representatives of Cambridgeshire Constabulary and received detailed statistical information on alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime in Huntingdonshire during 2007/08. Details of the way in which the Constabulary seeks to deal with these problems in both the town centres and villages was also provided. These included the use of additional patrols, changes in shift patterns, meetings with appropriate agencies and the use of Designated Public Place Orders to prevent the congregation of young people drinking alcohol. The Working Group has noted the Police's opinion that there is no particular problem in Huntingdonshire which is not reflected elsewhere in the country.
- 2.5 The Group was advised of the extensive range of powers available to enforcement agencies, which included the District Council's Licensing Section and the County Council's Trading Standards Service as well as the Police, to deal with alcohol related crime and disorder. Recent legislation also provides a new power for a police constable to direct a person aged 16 or above to leave a locality for up to 48 hours which

should provide an additional measure for the Constabulary to tackle the problems on the ground.

3. DELIBERATIONS

3.1 The Working Group received information on the number of instances of alcohol-related anti- social behaviour in Huntingdonshire which had been obtained from the County Council's Research Group. These are reproduced below:-

	St Ives		Huntingdon		St Neots		Huntingdonshire	
	No. of incidents	% of all ASB incs	No.of incidents	% of all ASB incs	No.of incidents	% of all ASB incs	No.of incidents	% of all ASB incs
Q1 (April – June 2007/8	122	19.5%	153	14.9%	103	14.7%	378	16.1%
Q2 (July – Sept 2007/08	156	21.1%	183	16.3%	129	14.1%	468	16.8%
Q3 (Oct – Dec 2007/08	135	22.4%	115	13.4%	94	12.8%	344	15.7%
Q4 (Jan – Mar 2007/08	92	16.5%	169	19.2%	82	12.2%	343	16.3%
Q1 (Apr – June 2008/09	139	18.6%	201	17.2%	106	15.3%	446	17.1%

3.2 It was clear to the Group that there are problems being experienced within the District in terms of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour and that these are primarily concentrated in the 3 main town centres of Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. What is less clear however is the extent to which this is a national phenomenon and how Huntingdonshire compares with the picture nationally.

3.3 The information supplied by the Police suggests that, while there are particular problem areas in Huntingdonshire, the situation is better than elsewhere in the country. This is further demonstrated by health statistics relating to hospital admissions:-

2002-2004, Deaths and Months of Life Lost from Alcohol Related Conditions

Male:	UK Average 9.55	Hunts 6.85
Female:	UK Average 5.14	Hunts 4.90

2004 – 05 Hospital Admissions for Alcohol Specific Conditions, per 100,000

Male: Uk Average 305.81 Hunts 169.25

Female: UK Average 144.62 Hunts 78.07

Hospital Admissions for alcohol specific conditions (aged under 18) 2002 -2005 per 100,000

Male: UK Average 48.97 Hunts 37.02

Female: UK Average:58.51 Hunts 41.5

- 3.4 No information is available for emergency admissions as Hinchingsbrooke Hospital does not currently record alcohol related Accident and Emergency treatment but the hospital is hoping to start a recording scheme similar to that adopted by Addenbrookes Hospital where a lead officer has been identified for this purpose.
- 3.5 While each of the market towns has its own characteristics in terms of the night time economy, St Ives is currently the busiest in terms of the number of people attracted to the town. Although this has meant that there are flourishing pub and club based entertainments in the town, it is apparent that this has also presented some adverse effects. The Police are sufficiently concerned to seek to obtain additional funding to direct two additional officers specifically to deal with the town centre at weekends and both the Community Safety Team and the Police objected to a planning application for a night club expansion earlier in the year on the grounds of the impact on crime and disorder and the capacity of the town centre to cope with additional late night outlets. Moreover the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has recommended Cabinet to review the street cleansing regimes to overcome the problems of litter on Sundays caused by Saturday evening entertainment.
- 3.6 Notwithstanding those concerns, the Group has been informed that the Council has not been asked to review its Statement of Licensing Policy which states that there is no problems in terms of the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the District, nor has any responsible authorities or interested persons in the form of residents and businesses asked the Council to review an existing premises licence on the grounds of crime and disorder or public nuisance in the town centres, or indeed elsewhere in the District.
- 3.7 The Working Group noted that the other primary aspect of concern in relation to anti-social behaviour is under-age drinking in public places which is not restricted to the towns and is an unfortunate practice in many of Huntingdonshire's villages. Clearly this is not restricted to the

District alone and is common throughout the country. The Trading Standards service has recently completed an exercise to target sales to under 18s in St Neots and the District Council's own Licensing Section issues guidance and advice, especially to small retailers concerning alcohol sales to the under 18s.

3.8 To address these issues, the Working Group has been informed that a Countywide Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was approved by Cambridgeshire Together in September 2008. The Strategy is designed to bring together relevant organisations in a multi-agency approach to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities. Supporting action plans set out a number of key tasks for the next three years to tackle the problems which include community safety, crime and anti-social behaviour and children and young people. The details of which are set out in Appendix B with several specifically targeting the control of violence and anti-social behaviour, i.e

- the implementation and support of neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood level working;
- appropriate use of enforcement measures such as Dispersal Orders and Designated Public Place Orders;
- Effectively dealing with alcohol related anti-social behaviour; and
- Developing and implementing targeted local action plans.

There are also proposals for diversionary and educational work with young people.

3.9 The Group welcomed the preparation of the Strategy as a way of reducing the harm that alcohol currently causes across Cambridgeshire. There is a plethora of organisations currently engaged in this field and Members acknowledged the potential problems of effective co-ordination. The actions are wide ranging and the Working Group was unable to suggest any proposals that had not already been identified and included. The action plans do contain performance indicators and milestones and the Working Group felt that it would be helpful for information on achievements against the targets to be made available more widely as they develop.

3.10 The Group considered the District Council's position with regard to the adoption and implementation of the Countywide Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy in the light of the remarks in paragraph 1.3 above. In doing so, the Group has noted that both the District Council and the Local Strategic Partnership are supportive of the Strategy. However the latter decided not to support funding of the strategy implementations as an investment proposal for reward monies from the Local Public

Service Agreement given the high demand for this funding and concerns as to whether this would produce any added value in Huntingdonshire over and above the practical initiatives clearly being implemented by the Police, District Council and other partners.

- 3.11 The Group has received information on the wide range of enforcement powers available to the Police and other responsible authorities to deal with crime, disorder and public nuisance associated with alcohol consumption. Details are available at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/drug-strategy/alcoholguide?view=Binary>. Parliament has added to those powers recently in further legislation in a reaction to the perception that longer opening hours have led to greater violence and anti-social behaviour in town centres and other communities. This has included the designation of alcohol disorder zones, the use of which has been considered recently by the Licensing Committee and Cabinet and discounted.
- 3.12 One of the more helpful powers available to the Council is the use of Designated Public Place Orders which prevents alcohol consumption in a public place. Only one Order has been made to date by the Council which has designated an area in St Ives where problems were occurring but it is open to local communities to ask for other areas to be designated if documentary evidence of problems can be provided. The Police also can seize alcohol from a person under 18 years of age under the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997. It appeared to the Group that there were adequate powers available to the Police and other agencies but there was some doubt as to whether a sufficiently proactive approach was being taken by enforcement agencies, possibly as a result of limited resources.
- 3.13 With regard to the impact of licensed premises in town centres and elsewhere, the Group has noted that the Licensing Act 2003 provides an opportunity for members of the public and responsible authorities to initiate a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate if they have concerns that one or more of the licensing objectives such as the prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance are not being met. Unless a review is triggered a licence or certificate will continue in perpetuity unless amended or surrendered by the licence or certificate holder and the Licensing Authority has no discretion to act itself under the legislation other than to enforce the provisions of the Act and ensure compliance with licence conditions. However since implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 in November 2005, only 2 applications for reviews have been received, both of which were made

by the Police because of the evidence of drug dealing in licensed premises.

- 3.14 As no reviews have been initiated by the public, the Group has emphasised a need to ensure that members of the public are aware of their ability to challenge existing licences and the mechanism by which they can do so. Huntingdonshire is not unique in this respect as research has shown that the freedoms introduced by the Act are being well used but that the powers to tackle problems are not sufficiently well known and taken advantage of.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Working Group has acknowledged that problems with alcohol related anti-social behaviour and criminal activity are evident within the District. However from the evidence available, the Group is satisfied that the situation in Huntingdonshire is less problematic than in many parts of the country.

- 4.2 The powers available to the Police and other enforcement agencies are wider ranging and there is a plethora of organisations involved in tackling the impact and implications of excessive alcohol consumption. The Group has commended the initiatives which are being undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and is interested in the results of the "Nightwatch" initiative in St Ives if the Police can obtain the funding for the additional resources. The Group has also welcomed the development of the Countywide Alcohol Strategy and the associated action plan for tackling a host of specific issues. However the sheer scale of the action plan with its multitude of actions and targets is ambitious and the Working Group is concerned that there is sufficient co-ordination among the various enforcement and voluntary agencies. To that extent the Working Group shared the reservations of the Huntingdonshire Local Strategic Partnership about the use of LPSA reward grant in implementation of the Strategy.

- 4.3 The Group recognise that there is little in the way of additional initiatives that they can identify to add to those that are already in place. Nevertheless there is some concern as to whether effective use is being made of the full extent of the enforcement available and whether enforcement agencies should adopt a more proactive approach by using those powers to tackle the effects of alcohol misuse and public disorder. This is coupled with a need to ensure that members of the public are aware of their ability to initiate a review of an existing licence if they have concerns that the licensing objectives are not being met.

- 4.4 It is therefore

RECOMMENDED

- a) that the actions being taken by the various agencies in an attempt to reduce the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on levels of anti-social behaviour and alcohol related crime within the District be welcomed and encouraged;**
- b) that the Cambridgeshire Alcohol Strategy 2008 – 2011 be endorsed and Cambridgeshire Together requested be to commission regular reports on progress towards achievements of the action plan;**
- c) that enforcement agencies be encouraged to take a proactive approach by using the powers available to them to tackle the effects of alcohol misuse and resultant public disorder; and**
- d) that the District Council's Licensing Section be requested to ensure that local residents are aware of the opportunities available to them under the Licensing Act 2003 to initiate reviews of premises licences and club premises certificates where they are experiencing problems caused by public disorder emanating from these premises.**

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) on 9th September 2008.

Notes of the meetings of the Working Group held on 14th October, 3rd November and 24th November 2008.

Cambridgeshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008-11
Presentation to Council Members by Cambridgeshire DAAT Co-ordinator

Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime in Huntingdonshire
January 2007 to January 2008.

Briefing Paper by the Community Safety Team Leader
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2008 -2011

**Contact Officer: Mrs C Bulman, Democratic Services Officer
(01480) 388234**

Appendix A

The following alcohol related projects have been put in place by the Community Safety Partnership over the period 2008-09:-

- Project to work with young people at risk of using or under the influence of alcohol and those young people that are committing acts of anti-social behaviour whilst under the influence of alcohol. Focused in identified hotspots, these being Yaxley, St Neots and Ramsey. The project will also receive referrals for young people living anywhere in Huntingdonshire. This project will focus on offering education, advice and support to young people using or at risk of using.
- Commissioned from **DrinkSense** at a cost of £11k funded by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and a contribution in kind of officer time – **total £11k invested + DrinkSense Officer Time** in 2008/9.
- Targeting young people using both drugs and alcohol. Also targets young people at risk, e.g. family members with a history of alcohol usage and associated offending. Targeted hotspots are Yaxley, St Neots (including Eynesbury) and St Ives. This project will enable experienced staff to carry out detached projects in the identified areas in partnership with the Locality Teams as well as providing training for those working with young people to enable them to recognise the signs of drug/ alcohol use. This project welcomes referrals for young people living anywhere in Huntingdonshire. This project will focus on offering education, advice and support to young people using or at risk of using.
- Commissioned from **DIAL DRUG LINK** at a cost of £18k match funded by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) – **total £36k invested** in 2008/9.
- A pilot scheme that pubs and clubs in St Ives can sign up to, that will enable them to work together with key agencies to address incidents of alcohol related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. As part of the scheme an exclusion policy will be introduced, this will involve issuing 'yellow cards' to offenders; two yellow cards will result in a ban from licensed premises throughout St Ives. Members of the scheme will be issued with radios so that they have direct contact to each other as well as the Police and the District Council CCTV Control Room.
- Commissioned from **HBAC (Nightwatch)** - £11,760 Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) and £10k the Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund (Cambridgeshire Constabulary) – **total £21,670 invested** in 2008/9.

- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) are also being used to minimise the impact of nuisance street (alcohol) drinkers.
- The HDC CCTV vehicle is being used on a weekly basis to patrol identified urban and rural hotspots within the District where young people are known to be congregating and consuming alcohol, this work is carried out in partnership with the police to enable the confiscation of alcohol to take place. At this time, where appropriate Guardian Awareness Programme (GAP) letters are issued and on some occasions, young people are escorted home to their parents.
- Targeted policing operation known as Operation Kyllachy that will fund additional police officer hours to enable them to patrol specific/ identified areas/ licensed premises at key times to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour and violent crime.
- Identified by Central Division and supported by the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and funded by the Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund - £5k – **total £5k invested** in 2008/ 09.
- A number of divisionary activity schemes to be held at times when young people may be susceptible to trying / using alcohol. Fusion holiday scheme - £10k – Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund – Street Sports Project in Yaxley - £2,800 – Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund – The Buzz Project - £2k – Basic Command Unit (BCU) Fund – **total £14,800 invested** in 2008/ 09.

APPENDIX B

No	County Action	Performance Indicator/ Milestone	Lead	Date by
2.1	<p>Target irresponsible promotion and sales</p>	<p>Community Safety, Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Work with OfCOM and the Advertising Standards Authority; industry self-regulation bodies such as the Portman Group; and the alcohol industry itself through a range of codes and standards</p> <p>Develop intelligence by working in partnership with local agencies</p> <p>Work with businesses to provide education and training in the area of underage sales</p> <p>Following educational work, undertake test purchasing activities and prosecute persistent offenders</p> <p>Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of these bodies and take action and tackle the irresponsible sale and promotion of alcohol. Where appropriate, action can be taken at a local level by Licensing Authorities on a case by case basis where there is evidence of a causal link between irresponsible retailing in an individual premises and threats to licensing objectives such as crime and disorder</p> <p>Reduce the number of premises illegally selling alcohol to young people under 18 to 25% by 2009/10 (Benchmark 40%, 35% - 07/08, 30% - 08/09)</p>	<p>All District CDRPs</p> <p>Trading Standards</p> <p>Police</p> <p>CDAAT</p>	<p>Sept 2010</p> <p>Sept 2010</p> <p>“</p> <p>“</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Sept 2010</p> <p>“</p>
2.2	<p>Monitor and assess the performance in policing and community safety and the services delivered by the police working on their own or in partnership, as part of overall performance management arrangements being developed by other</p>	<p>Maintain sales of alcohol to minors at randomly sampled premises below 15%</p> <p>Align local frameworks (e.g. criminal justice, local authorities and transport) to Home Office frameworks</p> <p>Develop a data capture system (i.e. Cardiff Model) to establish accurate linked picture of victim (age/gender), date/time, location, weapon, injury, assailant (age/gender), ?repeat offender, relationship between victim/assailant and police report</p> <p>Integrate APACS vision with policy, delivery and support functions plus</p>	<p>Police</p>	<p>April 2010</p> <p>“</p> <p>Sept 2010</p>

	partners	<p>associated regimes related to good practice, inspection and audit</p> <p>Support a balanced regime of accountability, building on the roles – including any collaborative arrangements – of partners locally, regionally and nationally</p> <p>Cover policing and community safety issues in a balanced way which reflects relative seriousness and which minimises data demands on partners</p> <p>Make best use of performance data, diagnostic data and professional judgements in producing analysis and assessments which:</p> <p>(a) show whether services are effective, equitable and provide value-for-money and whether they are perceived as such</p> <p>(b) reflect relevant Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and other strategic priorities, standards and targets as well as performance against priorities for improvement selected locally</p> <p>(c) use data focused on results (outcomes) but with the capability to use data on inputs, processes or outputs and</p> <p>(d) can monitor implementation of key operational strategies such as neighbourhood policing, alcohol misuse enforcement</p> <p>Communicate data and assessments in a timely manner and in a way which:</p> <p>(a) demonstrate service delivery to citizens, communities and opinion-formers so as to promote visibility, accountability and responsiveness and</p> <p>(b) describe performance to service providers so as to support day-to-day management.</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>“</p> <p>“</p> <p>April 2011</p>
2.3	<p>Reduce the percentage of the public who perceive alcohol use or drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area</p> <p>Make communities safer</p>	<p>Develop questionnaire/crime audits/Placed Survey relating to public perception of alcohol related crime and disorder</p> <p>Tackle crime and the key drivers of offending, reducing the disorder and anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol</p> <p>Tackle the irresponsible sale or promotion of alcohol</p>	<p>Sept 2010</p> <p>CDRP Police</p> <p>On going</p> <p>“</p>
2.5	<p>Reducing the harms caused to the community as a result of associated crime, disorder and</p>	<p>Focus prevention, information and support, and where appropriate the criminal justice system at the minority of drinkers who cause or experience the most harm to themselves, their communities and their families. These are: 18–24</p>	<p>On going</p> <p>Police Probation CJS</p>

	anti-social behaviour	year-old binge drinkers; young people under 18 who drink alcohol; and harmful drinkers Measurably reduce violence against the person offences committed in the town/city centres, recognised and identified 'hop spots' relating to the consumption of alcohol at night, particularly on Friday and Saturdays Develop a combination of penalties and health and education interventions to drive home messages about risks associated with alcohol and to promote behavioural change Measure the indicators for reducing violent crime and disorder, especially assault with injury Measure the indicator for reducing the percentage of the public who perceive drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area Joint work with police to ensure relevant indicators are embedded within their plans Develop systems for data collection and analysis from a range of multi-agency sources within the criminal justice system	A+E	Annually
2.6	Sharpen criminal justice for crime and anti-social behaviour	Pilot screening and brief interventions in criminal justice settings Reduce alcohol consumption for all those given brief advice in custody, at 3-month follow-up Measurably reduce offending rate	Police Probation CJS A+E CDAAT	Sept 2010 “ “ “ “ April 2010
2.7	Implement routine identification when people are arrested and in custody, or in other criminal justice settings, and provide brief advice to those identified	Liaise with the relevant local authority Community Safety Officer/ASB Officer to monitor cautions and ensure relevant information for consideration Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) for individuals. Agree protocols between police, Crown Prosecution Service and treatment provider Develop a systematic and criteria based approach to increase the number of conditional cautions given and Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATR)	Police Probation CJS A+E CDAAT	Sept 2011 Annually
2.8	Implement conditional cautioning for low-level and persistent alcohol related offences		Police Probation CJS A+E CDAAT	April 2010 “

		Reduce offences		
2.9	Agree and implement a multi-agency approach to tackling street drinking	Implement multi agency tailored approach to tackling street drinking to the needs of the area in which it occurs.	CDRP ALL	April 2011

	Local Action	Performance Indicator/ Milestone	Lead	Date by
Children, Young People and Families				
3.1	All young people to have access to appropriate alcohol misuse interventions across Cambridgeshire	Ensure a countywide joined-up approach to alcohol services for young people Implement robust care planning and co-ordination of care pathways across the treatment systems agencies to improve client transfers between agencies and reduce unplanned discharges from the treatment/intervention system Increase the capacity of Alcohol Outreach Workers for young people ensuring equity and parity across the county	YOUS CAMHS Drinksens e PCT Primary Care Acute Trusts ALL	Sept 2010 “ Sept 2011
3.2	Young people actively engaged in the planning and commissioning of alcohol services	Actively engage with specialist and non- specialist providers/agencies who come into contact with children and young people		On going
	Tackle underage alcohol consumption town/city centres and reduce those negative effects of underage drinking such as harm to young people and society (including anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder)	Support and develop the network: Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) Increase joint working, partnership membership and liaison with key agencies to ensure comprehensive sign up and sustainability (particularly around re Build on and take 'lessons learnt' from the Huntingdonshire Pilot to roll programme out across the county. Use this joint approach to work within its three core themes addressing; Education, Enforcement and Public Perception	ALL	On going
3.3	Improve the health and safety of children and young people in relation to alcohol misuse	Year on year measurable percentage increase of schools achieving 'Healthy Schools' status (50% at 2006/07) All schools to be 'working towards' the standards' by 2009 Reduce the number of young people who have had an alcoholic drink in past	ALL	Annually April 2009 “

		week to 35% by 2009 (38% at 2006/07)			“
3.4	Specialist alcohol services to support delivery of the PSHE curriculum in schools and other educational settings	<p>Reduce the number of young people whose intake of units in past week was over 14 to 4% by 2009 (5% at 2006/07)</p> <p>Support the on going delivery and development of the Cambridgeshire Community Drug and Alcohol Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents and community drug and alcohol awareness evenings • The PSHE Schemes of Work for PSHE (Primary Schools) • Personal Development (Secondary Schools, Special; Schools and PRUs) • The Life Education programme in primary schools <p>Each district to measurably increase the number of schools receiving PSHE sessions, including delivery of STAY campaign and links to wider risk taking e.g. sexual health</p> <p>Each district to measurably increase the year on year number of PSHE sessions delivered in schools</p> <p>Each district to measurably increase the number of Pupil Referral Units receiving PSHE/ number of sessions delivered</p>	ALL	On going	“
3.5	Improve provision of Young Users and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to vulnerable children, particularly in vulnerable circumstances and for those placed out of county	<p>All stakeholders to work with YOUS and CAMHS to continue work through service transformation to improve waiting times to assessment and treatment for children with mental health problems, so that the national target for referral to treatment of 18 weeks is fully achieved for all children</p> <p>All partner agencies to consider how they can contribute through their mainstream activity and resources towards sustaining and developing preventive work with young people over a longer time scale</p> <p>Training programme for frontline workers to be amalgamated with a wider OCYPS programme for young people's workers. This will be a staged process that should eventually be mapped against job descriptions.</p>	ALL	Sept 2010 April 2010 April 2011	“
3.6	Provide a consistent, high quality universal entitlement programme of alcohol education for all young people aged 4-18 years	<p>Identify those young people most at risk of failing to reach their potential because of alcohol misuse and provide tailored support for them</p> <p>Focus prevention, information and support, and where appropriate the criminal justice system at the minority of drinkers who cause or experience the most</p>	ALL	On going	“

		harm to themselves, their communities and their families. These are: 18–24 year-old binge drinkers; young people under 18 who drink alcohol; and harmful drinkers			“
		Deliver information on alcohol at an appropriate level to ensure a consistent, county-wide approach to delivering messages on substance misuse, in particular cannabis and alcohol			
3.7	Young travellers not in mainstream school to have access to alcohol education	Sustain and deliver targeted PSHE sessions with young travellers where required Achieve 25 young travellers engaged in project work by 2009 Proactive encouragement of parents to attend to ensure opportunities for family based learning	ALL	On going April 2009 On going	
3.8	Follow guidance for social care staff on appropriate information resources	All staff responsible for ‘Looked After’ children to be offered information and support on alcohol as part of screening for substance misuse	ALL	April 2010	
3.9	Reduce by 45% (by 2009) the teenage conception rate (under 18 year olds) per 1,000 population aged 15-17 years	Address risk-taking behaviour related to alcohol use through sexual health programme	ALL	April 2010	
3.10	Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success	Establish referral baseline to treatment services for under 18s based upon current definitions and guidance Support and train Tier 1 services in the identification of levels of alcohol use in children and adolescents who are presenting overtly for help	ALL	April 2011	
3.11	Reduce the harms caused to the development, achievement and well-being of young people and families	Address alcohol misuse amongst young people through early intervention with those we know to be most vulnerable Identify and support the most at risk families who are experiencing multiple problems, where parental alcohol misuse is often a key factor	ALL	On going	“
3.12	Reduce harms to children of alcohol misusing parents	Increase annually number of schools offering alcohol awareness sessions for parents and carers	ALL	Annually	
3.13	Children and young people are supported to make healthier choices	Measurably increase number of parents receiving information about the effects of substance misuse and where they can get help, support and advice Alcohol and sexual health services to measurably reduce the link between alcohol and unprotected sex leading to teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases	ALL	Annually	“

		Intensive Assertive Outreach worker to work with young people to explore options around pregnancy and where appropriate prevent second pregnancies		On going
		Alcohol Young People Service to promote awareness of the risks associated with alcohol use to allow young people and their parents to make informed choices		“
3.14	Children and Young People have the Best Possible Emotional Health	<p>Intensive Assertive Outreach project to work with young people to measurably improve emotional health. Accessible specialist services recognising the diverse needs of those presenting are delivered and address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting times for referral and treatment • Crisis assessment for those who self harm • Services for those with learning disabilities • Services for those in care • Specialist services for 16-17 year olds <p>Education, Prevention and Engagement Workers to work in Children's Homes and develop links with the Travelling Communities to measurably increase the numbers of engaged hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Targeted groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after children • Children with disabilities • LGBT young people • Children from Gypsy and Travelling Communities • Young Carers <p>Ensure outreach is adequately resourced; making best use of the preventive role of youth services; strengthening support for young carers, young people referred to PRUs, care leavers and children of substance misusing parents</p> <p>Adopt the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee: December 2007</p>	ALL	On going
3.15	Vulnerable Children and Young People and their parents are supported to achieve the best possible outcomes	<p>Education, Prevention and Engagement Workers to work in Children's Homes and develop links with the Travelling Communities to measurably increase the numbers of engaged hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Targeted groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked after children • Children with disabilities • LGBT young people • Children from Gypsy and Travelling Communities • Young Carers <p>Ensure outreach is adequately resourced; making best use of the preventive role of youth services; strengthening support for young carers, young people referred to PRUs, care leavers and children of substance misusing parents</p> <p>Adopt the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee: December 2007</p>	ALL	Annually
3.16	Improve the Education and Information on Drug and Alcohol Issues for Young People aged 11-18	<p>Ensure outreach is adequately resourced; making best use of the preventive role of youth services; strengthening support for young carers, young people referred to PRUs, care leavers and children of substance misusing parents</p> <p>Adopt the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire County Council Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee: December 2007</p>	All	Annually
				2011

Agenda Item 6

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)

13th JANUARY 2009

WORK PLAN: STUDIES (Report by the Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Members of the Panel to review their programme of studies.

2. STUDIES

- 2.1 The Council has a duty to improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of the District. This gives the Overview and Scrutiny Panels a wide remit to examine any issues that affect the District by conducting in-depth studies.

- 2.2 Studies are allocated according to the current Executive responsibilities. These were advised in agreement with the Panel Chairmen with effect from September 2008.

Service Delivery:

Customer Services &
Information Technology
Leisure
Housing & Public Health
Operational & Countryside Services

Service Support:

Finance & Environment
Resources & Policy
Planning Strategy /Transportation
Special Advisor to the Cabinet

- 2.3 Ongoing studies have been allocated between the Panels accordingly –

STUDY	PANEL	STATUS
Process and Procedures involved with the adoption of roads and sewers.	Service Delivery	Investigations ongoing. Further meeting arranged with the Head of Planning Services and a representative from the County Council on 29 th January 2009.
The Processes involved in Applying for Community Grant Aid and the Effectiveness of Grant Schemes.	Service Delivery	Panel has considered the Working Group's final report. Due to appear before the Cabinet on 29 th January 2009.
Disability Access	Service Delivery	Final Report to be considered by the Panel at their January meeting.
Section 106	Service Support	Further meeting to be held on 8 th January 2009. Final report to be presented to February Panel meeting.
Social Consequences of Alcohol Abuse	Service Support	Final report to be considered by the Panel at their January meeting.
Maximising Council Income	Service Support	Further meeting to be held on 3 rd March 2009.

Provision of Leisure Facilities for Young People	Service Delivery	Subject raised as an area for potential study. Scoping report requested with the Heads of Operations and Environmental & Community Health Services.
Homelessness and the Housing Market	Service Delivery	Report on the issue of homelessness and the housing market to be considered by the Panel at their January meeting.
Recycled Materials	Service Delivery	Report requested with the Head of Operations on trends in the value of recycled materials.
Future Governance of Hinchingbrooke Hospital: Consultation Arrangements	Service Delivery	Dr S Dunn, Director of Strategy, East of England Strategic Health Authority and Hinchingbrooke Next Steps Project Director and Ms J Bawden, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, NHS Cambridgeshire to attend January Panel meeting to discuss the proposals for public and stakeholder engagement in plans for the future governance and operation of Hinchingbrooke Hospital.

- 2.4 The Service Support Panel have also identified the following as possible future studies:-

Review of the incentives of the Council's Travel Plan.	Service Support
The Council's Future Borrowing Arrangements.	Service Support

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Panel is requested to note the progress of the studies selected.

Contact Officer: Mrs Claire Bulman - ☎ (01480) 388234.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Minutes and Reports from previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

AREA OF REVIEW	DETAILS/COMMENTS
Title of Study (name of Working Group)	Section 106 Working Group
Appointing Panel	Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support) Panel
Members Assigned (including date Working Group appointed)	Councillors P J Downes, D Harty, M F Newman and R G Tuplin Appointed by Panel on 12 th February 2008.
Possible Co-Options to the Group	Councillor T D Sanderson Appointed by Panel on 8 th April 2008.
Interests Declared	Councillors P J Downes and D Harty as members of Cambridgeshire County Council.
Rapporteur	Councillor D Harty
Officer Support	Mr Roy Reeves – Head of Administration, HDC Mrs Claire Bulman – Democratic Services, HDC Mr Steve Ingram – Head of Planning Services, HDC Mr A Moffatt – Development Control Manager Mr Robert Ward – Head of Operations Mr Steve Plant – Head of Housing Mr Colin Meadowcroft – Head of Legal Mr Ian Leatherbarrow – Head of Policy & Strategic Services Mr R Probyn – Planning Policy Officer
Purpose of Study / Objective (specify exactly what the study should achieve)	To investigate the Section 106 process adopted by the Council including the relationship with other infrastructure partners and make recommendations if improvements are thought to be necessary.
Rationale (key issues and/or reason for conducting a study)	The Panel's interest in the subject was prompted by the scale of income received from this source and the time taken in some cases, to secure its expenditure. As sums are negotiated for other public sector infrastructure providers, the Panel also was interested in ensuring that a transparent audit trail existed to ensure that receipts were being expended locally.
Terms of Reference	
Links to Council Policies/Strategies	Links to Council Aim – to improve our systems and practices.

ACTION BY WORKING GROUP	
Methodology / Approach (what types of enquiries will be used to gather evidence)	Information from Heads of Service, Partner Organisations and other Members of the Council.
External/Specialist Support	N/A
Existing Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Current / Previous quarterly monitoring reports ◆ Report of the Cycling Working Group ~ Feb 2008

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Details of Reviews undertaken by Cardiff, Stoke on Trent, Bradford
Evidence to be Obtained (e.g. witnesses, documents, site visits, consultation, research, etc)	<p>Most of the evidence will be obtained by the Democratic Services Team together with information from Environmental & Community Services Directorate, Legal Department and Policy Division.</p> <p>Written Evidence provided as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Affordable Housing and Section 106 Agreements (Paper by Housing Division) ◆ Existing s106 Obligation Process – Presentation by Development Control Manager ◆ Response to Group’s questions by Head of Planning Services ◆ Briefing Paper by Cambridgeshire County Council – Section 106 process ◆ Notes of working group meetings held on 20th May, 3rd July, 21st July and 28th August 2008. ◆ Information from Head of Financial Services
Reference Sites	None at present.
Investigations	<p>Initially discussions arranged with Heads of Planning Services, Operations, Housing Services and Legal. Representatives from Fire & Rescue, Constabulary and PCT also attended.</p> <p>Demonstration of current Section 106 database.</p> <p>Further meeting with Head of Planning Services and Development Control Manager to review issues identified from previous discussions.</p> <p>Further held on 7th October 2008 to summarise current position. Final report currently being compiled with further meeting to be held on 8th January 2009.</p>
Witnesses	As above.
Site Visits (if necessary) (where and when)	N/A at current time.
Meetings of the Working Group	20th May 2008. 3 rd July 2008 21 st July 2008 28 th August 2008 7 th October 2008 8 th January 2009
Costs (resource requirements, additional expenditure, time)	<p>Officer time ~ both to provide support and to conduct research.</p> <p>No other external costs identified to date.</p>

Possible Barriers to the Study (potential weaknesses)	None identified.
Projected Timescale (Start and end times)	Start ~ 12 th February 2008 Finish – January 2009

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AREA OF REVIEW	DETAILS/COMMENTS
Title of Study (name of Working Group)	Social Consequences of Alcohol Abuse
Appointing Panel	Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support)
Members Assigned (including date Working Group appointed)	Councillors J T Bell, P M D Godfrey and Ms S L Kemp. Appointed 9 th September 2008.
Possible Co-Options to the Group	N/A
Interests Declared	Ms S L Kemp as a patron of licensed premises in St Ives and Huntingdon Town Centre
Rapporteur	Councillor Ms S L Kemp
Officer Support	Mr Roy Reeves, Head of Administration Mrs Claire Bulman, Democratic Services Officer Dr Sue Lammin, Head of Environmental and Community Health Services Ms C Walters, Team Leader, Community Safety
Purpose of Study / Objective (specify exactly what the study should achieve)	To investigate the impact of excessive alcohol consumption on levels of Anti Social Behaviour and Alcohol Related Crime within the District.
Rationale (key issues and/or reason for conducting a study)	To respond to Members concerns about the social consequences of alcohol abuse
Terms of Reference	
Links to Council Policies/Strategies	Links to Community Aim: Safe, Vibrant and Inclusive Communities: To prevent crime and anti-social behaviour

ACTION BY WORKING GROUP	
Methodology / Approach (what types of enquiries will be used to gather evidence)	Information from Head of Environmental and Community Health Services / HCSP Interviews / Information from Partner organisations / relevant agencies Reviews undertaken by other authorities Collation of Statistical Evidence
External/Specialist Support	N/A
Existing Documentation	Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership: Community Safety Plan 2008 -2011 Local Authority Profile of Alcohol Related Harm Hospital Admissions for alcohol related harm Bassetlaw District Council: Review of Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour Draft Cambridgeshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2008 -2011 Presentation Slides from Presentation to all Members Alcohol Harm Reduction Newsletter: East of England

Evidence to be Obtained (e.g. witnesses, documents, site visits, consultation, research, etc)	Interview Chairman of HCSP and representatives of Cambridgeshire Constabulary Briefing Paper by Community Safety Team Leader Information on new Nightwatch scheme Allocation of LPSA Reward Monies. Statistics from NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Constabulary National Statistics Statistics / Information from Head of Environmental and Community Services
Reference Sites	www.huntsdc.gov.uk www.cambsdaat.org
Investigations	As outlined in evidence to be obtained
Witnesses	Dr S Lammin, Chairman of HCSP C Waters, Community Safety Team Leader Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Site Visits (if necessary) (where and when)	None currently identified.
Meetings of the Working Group	14 th October 2008 3 rd November 2008 24 th November 2008
Costs (resource requirements, additional expenditure, time)	Officer time – both to provide support and conduct research
Possible Barriers to the Study (potential weaknesses)	None currently identified
Projected Timescale (Start and end times)	Start: September 2008 End: November 2008

AREA OF REVIEW	DETAILS/COMMENTS
Title of Study (name of Working Group)	Maximising Income Generation
Appointing Panel	Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support)
Members Assigned (including date Working Group appointed)	Councillors P J Downes, L W McGuire and R J West. Appointed 9 th September 2008.
Possible Co-Options to the Group	N/A
Interests Declared	None declared.
Rapporteur	Councillor L W McGuire
Officer Support	Mr Roy Reeves, Head of Administration Mrs Claire Bulman, Democratic Services Officer Mr S Couper, Head of Financial Services Mr D Harwood, Audit & Risk Manager Mr H Thackray, Policy & Strategic Services Manager Ms K Shaw, External Funding Officer
Purpose of Study / Objective (specify exactly what the study should achieve)	To investigate ways in which the Council could maximise its income opportunities and grant availability.
Rationale (key issues and/or reason for conducting a study)	Study suggested by Councillor P J Downes.
Terms of Reference	
Links to Council Policies/Strategies	Links to Council Aim: To maintain sound finances To maximise external funding to support & promote our objectives.

ACTION BY WORKING GROUP	
Methodology / Approach (what types of enquiries will be used to gather evidence)	Information from Head of Financial Services Information from Internal Audit Service Information from Policy & Strategic Services Manager & External Funding Officer.
External/Specialist Support	N/A
Existing Documentation	Charging for Council Services – Draft Report by the Internal Audit Service Income Generation – External Grant Funding – Draft Report by the Internal Audit Service External Funding Prospects – Report by the External Funding Officer Maximising External Funding – Report by the Head of Policy & Strategic Services.
Evidence to be Obtained (e.g. witnesses, documents, site visits, consultation, research,	Further discussion with Head of Financial Services Further discussion with External Funding Officer. Progress on actions within Internal Audit reports.

etc)	
Reference Sites	N/A
Investigations	As outlined above.
Witnesses	Mr S Couper, Head of Financial Services Mr D Harwood, Audit & Risk Manager Mr H Thackray, Policy & Strategic Services Manager Ms K Shaw, External Funding Officer
Site Visits (if necessary) (where and when)	None currently identified.
Meetings of the Working Group	1 st December 2008 Further meeting to be held on 3 rd March 2009.
Costs (resource requirements, additional expenditure, time)	Officer time – both to provide support and conduct research
Possible Barriers to the Study (potential weaknesses)	None currently identified
Projected Timescale (Start and end times)	Start: September 2008 End:

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE SUPPORT)

13TH JANUARY 2009

PROGRESS TO DATE (Report by the Head of Administration)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Panel have asked for the submission of a brief progress report to their monthly meetings to monitor action taken and the response to any recommendations which they have made.

2. PROGRESS REPORT


- 2.1 The monthly progress report therefore is attached which covers all outstanding items. Actions previously reported upon as having been completed have been deleted from the report as the process rolls forward. The report is in tabular form and comprises a brief synopsis of the Panel's decisions and the subsequent action taken.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Panel are requested to note the contents of the attached report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes and Reports of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance/
Service Support)

Contact Officer: Mrs C Bulman –Democratic Services Officer
 (01480) 388234

Panel Date	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Date</u>
	HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE PARKING IN THE DISTRICT			
10/06/08	Endorsed the Working Group's report and recommendations for submission of the Cabinet.	Recommendations endorsed by the Cabinet at their meeting on 26 th June 2008.	Agreed with Chairman / Vice Chairman that issue be taken forward by the Freight Quality Partnership.	
09/09/08	Head of Administration was asked to establish the current position with regard to the Panel's recommendations following their referral to the Freight Quality Partnership.	Freight Quality Partnership has now met.	Matter included for discussion on agenda for LAA Reference Group. Update to be circulated at January meeting. Three County Group established to pool information and develop a strategy for future provision post 2015.	Jan 09
	PETITION BY ST AUDREY LANE AREA RESIDENTS, ST IVES			
08/07/08	Representatives from Anglian Water in attendance at Panel's July meeting. Requested that an update be provided in 6 months time and that residents be informed of the outcome of their investigations.	Email requesting update sent – 21/10/08	CCTV survey of St Audrey Lane and Pig Lane Surface Water sewer completed. Funding now available to Jet Sewer – will be carried out shortly.	
09/12/08	Councillor J W Davies reported that the situation had improved following jetting of sewer. Urged Panel to pursue capacity issues relating to the pumping station.	Further update to be sought from Anglian Water in Feb / March 2009.		Feb / Mar 09

Panel Date	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Date</u>
14/10/08	<p>PETITION TO CONTROL COMMUTER PARKING IN THE LONGSANDS AREA OF STNEOTS</p> <p>Chairman to write to the Chairman of Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee outlining the Panel's concerns and requesting that the matter be progressed at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>A representative from First Capital Connect to be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss their expansion plans for the car parks at Huntingdon and St Neots.</p>	<p>Letter sent 21/10/08</p> <p>Letter sent 21/10/08</p>	<p>Response received. Further information to be received in New Year once investigation report from Cambridgeshire County Council received.</p> <p>Item deferred until a later date. See item on agenda.</p>	Jan 2009
12/02/08	<p>CYCLING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE</p> <p>Endorsed the Working Group's report and recommendations for submission of the Cabinet and requested that the study recommendations be placed on the progress report for future monitoring.</p> <p><i>[Recommendations are appended to this report].</i></p>	<p>Considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 12th February 2008. Cabinet noted the recommendations and requested a further report by officers addressing the wider issue of Section 106 funding and partnership working. Agreed that discussions should be held with Cambridgeshire County Council regarding their offer to update the Huntingdonshire Cycling Strategy and the issue of partnership working on cycling provision.</p>	<p>Report updating the Panel on the current position the review of the Cycling Strategy and the provision for funding for Huntingdonshire in the LTP included on Agenda for the meeting for June 08 meeting.</p>	June 08
10/06/08	<p>Asked the Transportation Team Leader to email all Members of the Council asking about any specific issues with regard to cycle routes in their wards. Requested sight of the draft report on the prioritisation of cycle schemes before any consideration by the AJC.</p>	<p>Since the June Panel meeting, it has come to light that the list of potential cycle routes have already been scored and prioritised. A report will be considered by the AJC at their meeting on 7th July 2008, seeking ratification of the cycle routes as scored. Requests have been made for reviews to be undertaken annually, with the first review with Members to start in the autumn.</p>	<p>Priority List endorsed by the AJC. District Council members will be contacted before the next review in Summer 2009 to ask about specific issues within their ward.</p>	Spring 2009

Panel Date	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Date</u>
09/09/08	MAXIMISING COUNCIL INCOME Appointed Councillors P J Downes, L W McGuire and R J West to a Working Group for the purpose of undertaking the above review.	First meeting held on 1 st December 2008 to discuss recent reviews by the Internal Audit Service on income generation and discretionary charging.	Further meeting to be held on 3 rd March 2009 with External Funding Officer and Head of Financial Services.	Mar 09
14/05/08	CORPORATE PLAN – GROWING SUCCESS Councillors M G Baker, J A Gray and R G Tuplin appointed to Corporate Plan Working Group.	Quarterly reports submitted to Overview & Scrutiny.	Next quarterly meeting to be arranged for March 2009.	Mar 09
15/01/08	LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS Minutes of future meetings of the Cambridgeshire Together Local Accountability Committee should be circulated to all Panel Members.	Next meeting 24 th February 2009.		Feb 09
14/05/08	Councillor J A Gray appointed to Joint Accountability Committee. Substitute members to be appointed in consultation with Head of Administration.			
14/10/08	REVIEW OF LOCAL PROCUREMENT Agreed to hold further meeting with business representatives in the New Year.	Meeting to be held on 12 th March 2009 at 4pm.		Mar 09

Panel Date	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Date</u>
	LICENSING ACT – IMPACT ON NIGHTTIME ECONOMY			
08/07/08	Head of Administration to prepare a scoping report for a future meeting.	Report submitted to September 2008 meeting.		
09/09/08	Agreed to establish a working group comprising Councillors J T Bell, P M D Godfrey and Ms S L Kemp to undertake a review of the problems of alcohol abuse and its social consequences. Working Group asked to establish why the Local Strategic Partnership had not signed up to the recent countywide Alcohol Strategy.	First meeting held on 14 th October 2008. Further meetings held on 3 rd and 24 th November 2008.	Final Report now prepared. See agenda for further details.	Jan 09
	MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS			
14/04/05	Quarterly reports to be submitted to the Panel.	Next report due March 2009		Mar 09
12/02/08	Agreed to establish a working Group comprising Councillors P J Downes, D Harty, M F Newman and R G Tuplin to investigate the current Section 106 Agreement Mechanism for the negotiation of agreements and the distribution of money received.	Further meeting to be held with Working Group on 8 th January 2009. Final report expected in February 2009.		Feb 09
	GREAT FEN PROJECT			
08/07/08	Director of Environmental & Community Services to make presentation to future meeting. All Scrutiny Members to be invited.	Comments submitted to Cabinet meeting on 20 th November 2008.		
11/11/08	Report on the content of the collaboration agreement to be submitted to a future Panel meeting before its consideration by Cabinet.	Expected for February meeting.		

Panel Date	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Date</u>
	FORWARD PLAN			
09/10/07	Huntingdon West Area Action Plan Requested that the report should be considered at a future meeting of the Panel.			Feb 09
13/11/07	Parish Plans and Local Plan Policy Circulate report when this becomes available.			TBC
08/07/08	Proposals for Huntingdon Riverside Park Requested that report should be considered at a future meeting of the Panel.			Feb 09
08/07/08	Developer Contributions SPD Requested that report should be considered at a future meeting of the Panel.			Mar 09
14/10/08	A14 Statutory Orders - Consultations			Mar 09

RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM CYCLING IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- (a) that the offer by the County Council to update the Council's existing cycling strategy and to prepare an action plan for its implementation be welcomed and officers requested to conclude this work within the next six months;
- (b) that, following completion of the strategy and action plan, specific contributions be sought in Section 106 Agreements for cycleway provision in Huntingdonshire in appropriate cases;
- (c) that contributions negotiated under (b) above be retained by the District Council for expenditure on implementation of the cycling strategy action plan;
- (d) that the District Council seek the allocation of specific funding through the Local Transport Plan for cycleway provision in Huntingdonshire;
- (e) that the approval of individual cycleway schemes continue to be the responsibility of the Huntingdonshire Traffic Management Area Joint Committee with District Council expenditure continuing to be allocated on a scheme by scheme basis.

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Decision Digest

Edition 90

Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 1st to 17th December 2008.

DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) has considered the content of the Development Management DPD which sets out the Council's policies for managing future development in Huntingdonshire.

The Panel has commented on a variety of issues including parking provision and energy conservation in new development, the implications of the new Community Infrastructure levy and the retention of historic orchard. Members also noted that a framework had been developed for the first time to establish contributions from developers towards indoor sports facilities.

In respect of the draft policy concerning development as part of the Great Fen project, Members expressed concern that the policy was overly prescriptive and not consistent with the more conditional language adopted elsewhere in the document. The Panel felt that the terminology whereby "planning permission for development will be granted for proposals which will deliver the implementation of the

Great Fen project as identified on the Proposals Map and which are consistent with the Master Plan" could fetter the Council's discretion when considering future planning applications. As the content of the Master Plan was not yet known, Members felt unable to support the policy as drafted. With this in mind, the Panel has recommended to the Cabinet that they adopt a change in terminology with respect to this policy area.

Concerns were also expressed about the references within the document to the possible restriction of permitted development rights for specific farming or operational purposes which could disadvantage local landowners operating in the Master Plan area.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Overview and Scrutiny Panels have considered the performance of the authority against the priority objectives identified in "Growing Success", the corporate plan updated by the Council in September 2008.

The Service Support Panel has noted that most of the targets within their priority areas were being met or exceeded. However comment

was made in relation to the target of maximising leisure centre income. Whilst this had fallen against target, Members acknowledged that the loss of income had been more than offset by reductions in expenditure in the Leisure Centres as a whole.

The Service Delivery Panel has endorsed the comments made by the Corporate Plan Working Group. However comment was made about the two priority areas where targets were not being met – namely the promotion of energy efficiency to householders and the percentage of affordable housing on qualifying sites. With regard to the latter the Panel has noted that the target was likely to be amended to reflect targets in the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Members also concurred with a suggestion that further measures should be taken to promote the Warmer Homes for Life scheme.

MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) has been updated on the receipt & expenditure of money negotiated under Section 106 Agreements by the Council.

Members were advised of the impact of the current economic climate and alerted to the future possibility of developers seeking to renegotiate agreements because properties were no longer achieving the previously anticipated values.

URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK – LAND AROUND BUTTSGROVE WAY, THE WHADDONS AND SUFFOLK HOUSE, HUNTINGDON

The contents of a draft Urban Design Framework for development opportunities in this part of Huntingdon was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny (Service Support).

Members attention was drawn to the comments that had been received by way of correspondence and questionnaires completed at public exhibitions that had been held on the proposals. It was noted that a number of replies had contained concerns over loss of green space in the area.

In welcoming the document as a positive step and one which had helped to alleviate initial misunderstanding, Members commented also on the question of highway safety in Buttsgrove Way, the future housing mix of development and the need to respect the private dwellings in the area in the subsequent development proposals.

CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2009/10

In accordance with the legal requirement placed on the Council, the Corporate Governance Panel has set the tax base for the whole of the District for the year 2009/10 as 57,960 with figures apportioned for each Parish of the District.

REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Corporate Governance Panel has endorsed the content of a revised Risk Management Strategy. In addition an exercise is currently underway to ensure that any partnership risks would be flagged up by the Council's performance management system.

REVIEW OF THE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY

The outcome of a review of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy has been reported to the Corporate Governance Panel. The review has identified the need for several changes principally arising from the External Auditor's Use of Resources report and best practice guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Association of Local Authority Risk Managers (ALARM).

WHISTLEBLOWING: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The annual review of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure has taken place and the Corporate Governance Panel has endorsed proposed changes to the guidance notes issued on Whistleblowing. At the Panel's request, future Whistleblowing reports will be submitted to the Panel at the same time as the annual Housing Benefit Fraud Investigation Activity report.

FEEDBACK PROCEDURE

Following a review of the Council's complaints procedure, the Corporate Governance Panel has endorsed proposals for changes to the procedure which will introduce a new feedback procedure allowing complimentary views and comments on services received other than complaints also to be formally registered.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

The Standards Committee has responded on behalf of the District Council to a consultation paper published by DCLG entitled "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power" which had invited comments on proposals to review the Members' Code of Conduct. It is the intention to publish a revised code to come into effect by May 2009. The most significant revision to the code involves the issue of "private capacity" to cover those occasions when a Member's criminal behaviour in a private capacity brings disrepute upon the local authority.

USE OF RESOURCES JUDGEMENTS 2007/08

To comply with Audit Commission requirements, the Standards Committee has undertaken "an annual assessment of standards of ethical conduct across the organisation." As there does not appear to be any trend emerging in terms of the aspects of code which give rise to the most complaints, the Committee has endorsed the continuation of the approach

towards training being adopted by the Monitoring Officer which involves responding to Parish Councils as circumstances evolve and the need for training is identified. However, the Committee has requested the Monitoring Officer to establish whether the Quality Status awarded to Parish Councils requires Code of Conduct training and refresher sessions to be undertaken.

OTHER STANDARDS ISSUES

The Standards Committee has noted the nature of the Code of Conduct enquiries which had been logged by the Monitoring Officer since their last meeting and have extended an invitation to both the Leaders of the Council and of the Opposition Group to address them at future meetings on their expectations in terms of the Committee's contribution to the Council and to maintaining standards and conduct locally.

SCHEME OF DELEGATED POWERS – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PANEL

The Development Control Panel has reviewed its delegated powers and proposed several minor amendments to the current scheme to sustain performance levels, make best use of resources and to ensure that Members continue to focus on those applications considered to be major or controversial. The changes will take place with immediate effect but will not vary the opportunity which exists for Members to request the Head of Planning Services, within 21 days of the publication of the weekly list to submit an

application to the Panel for determination.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEVELOPMENT IN ST IVES AND ST NEOTS

The outcome of a review of the services delivered by the St Ives and St Neots Customer Service Centres has been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery). The review had been prompted following the adoption of the Customer Services Strategy in 2008.

The Panel expressed general support for the recommendations – namely the proposal to increase the range of services in St Ives and St Neots, the principle of relocating the St Neots Tourist Information Centre and the investigation of alternative accommodation in St Neots and St Ives.

Members discussed the importance of offering customers a private meeting area, the incorporation of other services and facilities within the proposals, the importance of locating the Customer Service Centres in an accessible and highly visible location and the need to consult with Ward Councillors on any proposals to change the location of the Centres.

The Panel has acknowledged the financial implications for St Neots Museum of amalgamating the two current offices in St Neots, but concurred with a suggestion that the customer service facility should be in one single unit to enable efficiency savings to be achieved.

Further information was requested on the Town Council's position in the event that the District Council considers relocating its facilities which are currently located within the Priory Centre.

The Panel has also suggested that the provision of outreach services in larger villages should be investigated.

CARE QUALITY COMMISSION: ENFORCEMENT POLICY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has considered a consultation document issued by the Care Quality Commission on its draft enforcement policy. The Commission has been established as an independent regulator of health, mental health and adult social care in England, and brings together the work of the three Commissions for Social Care Inspection, Healthcare and Mental Health.

The Panel has made a number of comments in response to the questions raised in the consultation paper and has requested that a report summarising their response be submitted to the next meeting.

In acknowledging the complexity of the framework represented in the consultation document, the Panel has invited a representative of the Care Quality Commission to attend a future meeting to deliver a presentation on its work.

ENHANCED SERVICES

CLEANING

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has been advised of the Cabinet's response to the recommendations arising from their study on enhanced cleansing services in the District's market towns.

Having noted that the Cabinet had endorsed the principle of introducing enhanced cleansing on Sundays but that work was required before its implementation would be considered, Members have requested further clarification as to how this would be completed from the Head of Operations.

IMPACT OF THE NEW A14 IN TERMS OF AIR QUALITY AND NOISE POLLUTION

Councillor M F Shellens has reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) his initial findings into the potential impact that the new A14 would have on air quality and noise pollution. Having been advised that relevant information contained in the Local Air Quality Management Further Review and Assessment Report had been presented to a previous meeting of the Licensing & Protection Panel, Councillor Shellens undertook to discuss this document with Officers in the Planning and Environmental and Community Health Services Divisions.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) – STUDIES

Having discussed a number of options for future study areas, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) has requested the submission of reports to their future meetings on the provision of leisure facilities for young people and on trends in the value of recycled materials. The Panel also intend to discuss the future governance arrangements for Hinchingsbrooke Hospital at their January meeting.