

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in **THE WREN ROOM, THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE, HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK, HUNTINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2009** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

APOLOGIES


**Contact
(01480)**

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Cabinet held on 19th November 2009.

**Mrs H J Taylor
388008**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 - PUBLICATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST (Pages 9 - 24)

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Customer Services to consider revised rural settlement lists.

**Mrs J Barber
388105**

4. TREASURY MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE (Pages 25 - 30)

To consider a report by the Head of Financial Services on the performance of the investment fund for the period April to September 2009.

**S Couper
338103**

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Pages 31 - 52)

To consider the quarterly monitoring report prepared by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships.

**Mrs C Garbett
388459**

6. ST. NEOTS HEALTH CHECK (Pages 53 - 54)

To consider a report by the Head of Planning Services on the findings of a health check undertaken to support the on-going growth and regeneration of St Neots.

**R Probyn
388430**

7. REVIEW OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PILOT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
(Pages 55 - 66)

To consider a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services on the outcome of two participatory budgeting pilots held recently in Huntingdonshire.

Mrs S Lammin
388280

**8. SHAPING PLACES, SHAPING SERVICES
CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CONSULTATION
DOCUMENT** (Pages 67 - 92)

With the assistance of a report by the Heads of Democratic Services, Environmental & Community Health Services and People, Performance & Partnership Services on Cambridgeshire County Council's proposed approach to Community Engagement and the implications for Huntingdonshire.

D Smith
388377

**9. AGEING WELL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE - OLDER
PEOPLES' HOUSING STRATEGY** (Pages 93 - 150)

With the aid of a report by the Head of Housing Strategy to consider the Older Peoples' Housing Strategy – "Ageing Well in Huntingdonshire: Housing and Healthy Ageing for Older People".

Ms J Emmerton
388203

**10. DRAFT SIDE ROAD ORDERS FOR THE A14 ELLINGTON
TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME** (Pages 151 -
210)

To consider a report by the Head of Planning Services

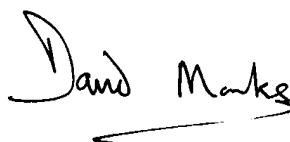
R Probyn
388430

11. PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE EDUCATION CENTRE
(Pages 211 - 212)

To consider a report by the Head of Operations outlining a proposal to provide an education centre at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

R Ward
388635

Dated this 9 day of December 2009



Chief Executive

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

2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

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

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

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

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

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Aquarius Room, St Ivo Leisure Centre, Westwood Road, St Ives on Thursday, 19 November 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

Councillors K J Churchill, D B Dew, J A Gray, A Hansard, Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers and L M Simpson.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor C R Hyams.

56. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22nd October 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor T V Rogers declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 61 by virtue of a family connection with a potential retail development on the site.

Councillor I C Bates declared a personal interest in Minute No. 63 by virtue of his membership of Cambridgeshire Horizons.

Councillor I C Bates and K J Churchill declared personal interests in Minute No. 68 by virtue of their membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

58. BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2010-2015 DRAFT PROPOSALS

By way of a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with the present position on the draft 2010/2011 budget, the Medium Term Plan for the period up to 2014/2015 and the longer term financial forecast to 2023/2024.

In reviewing the issues involved, Members' attention was drawn to the conclusions reached by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the proposals for Huntingdon bus station, public toilets and the arts service. In that respect, Members concurred with the Panel that the level of spending proposed for Huntingdon bus station should be considered further and that investigations into other lower cost options should be undertaken. In that respect, the Executive Councillors for Environment and Information Technology and for Planning Strategy and Transport agreed to revisit the proposals.

With regard to the proposal to transfer responsibility for public toilets, Members' attention was drawn to the initial reactions of the town councils to the proposal and noted that they would be meeting to discuss a collective response.

Reference having been made to the proposal to end the Council's direct activities in the arts, Members noted that the Council would retain a role through grant funding for a limited range of activities for arts in rural areas and for young people. Under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

that the draft Medium Term Financial Plan be recommended to Council as the basis for the development of the 2010/2011 budget, the revised MTP to 2014/2015 and the Financial Strategy to 2023/2024.

59. CAR PARKING REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 07/99 and by way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with the findings of the Members Car Parking Working Group into the revised charging arrangements and other operational changes that came into effect on 1st October 2008 following the review of the Council's Car Parking Policy.

In so doing, attention was drawn to a series of recommendations addressing a number of issues that have arisen as a result of the previously approved action plan. In considering the Group's conclusions, specifically the need to review the season ticket scheme given the anomalies relating to town boundaries, the Cabinet expressed disappointment that the Group apparently, had not considered environmental issues and the opportunity to promote changes to travel patterns. However, Executive Councillors acknowledged that the Group's work constituted an interim review and noted that wider environmental issues such as encouraging the use of low emission vehicles, public transport, cycling and walking would be dealt in the next scheduled review of the car parking action plan.

With regard to the Group's recommendation to introduce charging at Cambridge Street and the Riverside, St Neots with some free parking for a two hour period at the Riverside to support its recreational use, Executive Councillors expressed concern over the lack of detail for the management of this arrangement at this stage.

In discussing the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) Panel's response to the Group's proposals, the Cabinet has reiterated the need to make representations to Cambridgeshire County Council over the perceived adverse effects on the District Council's parking income and policies should they proceed with their decision to permit parking at the new Cambridgeshire Guided Bus Scheme "Park and Ride" site free of charge. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the recommendations of the Members Car Parking Working Group set out in Sections 3 and 4 of the report now submitted be approved for further development, with a view to a report being considered at a future meeting as part of a revised Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 for implementation from 1st June 2010; and
- (b) that the Members Car Parking Working Party be invited to consider those issues highlighted, specifically the promotion of environmental objectives as part of their preparations for the scheduled, comprehensive review of car parking in 2010.

60. DRAFT CAMBRIDGESHIRE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

By way of a report by the Head of Planning Services, the Cabinet has been acquainted with the work of Cambridgeshire Horizons and the Cambridgeshire authorities in producing an integrated development programme.

The programme brings together the various planning documents available to identify the infrastructure needs on a sub-regional basis. Members were advised that the exercise has been useful in determining strategic and local infrastructure along with levels of tariff in viability terms that could be applied in Cambridgeshire and would be an essential tool to guide future development. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted.

61. HUNTINGDON WEST AREA ACTION PLAN PROPOSED SUBMISSION

Further to Minute No. 09/146 and by way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with the content of the proposed submission document for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan along with the responses received on the proposals set out in a Statement of Consultation. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted and the draft proposed submission document for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan submitted to full Council for approval;
- (b) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to make any minor textual amendments to the documents and to approve the Statement of Consultation, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Equality Impact

Assessment prior to their publication; and

- (c) that the Head of Planning Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy, to complete the final submission for the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan and associated documents including a summary of the main issues raised in final representations and submission to the Secretary of State.

62. TRAVELLERS' TRANSIT SITE PROVISION

Further to Minute No. 09/23 consideration was given to a report by the Heads of Planning Services and of Housing Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which outlined the implications of the East of England Plan Policy on Gypsies and Travellers and in particular a requirement for Council's to make provision for transit sites.

Members were advised that it was likely that some form of transit provision would be required in the District particularly given demand along the A1/A1(M) corridor and the basis of the RSS guidance. Having concurred with the recommendations of the Gypsy and Traveller DPD Steering Group, that a search for a site on which to establish a transit site should be undertaken, subject to Government funding forthcoming, and in recognising the advantages of having a formal and managed site, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the recommendation of the Gypsy and Traveller DPD Steering Group be noted and the principle of searching for a transit site for Gypsies and Travellers supported; and
- (b) that officers be instructed to consider further the logistics of providing a site and prepare a bid for a Government grant at the appropriate time.

63. THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY REVIEW - THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN 2031 - RESPONSE TO THE EERA OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No. 08/24 and by way of a report by the Head of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were invited to consider suggested responses to a series of questions by EERA on four possible growth scenarios for the region for the period up to 2031 as part of the on going review of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Having considered the contents of the report and the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) on the matter, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted and the

Council's response to EERA's proposals endorsed;

- (b) that officers continue to work with all of the other Cambridgeshire authorities in order that, as far as possible, an appropriately co-ordinated joint response can be submitted to EERA; and
- (c) that the Executive Member of Planning Strategy, be authorised to agree any alterations to the Council's position may become necessary should new circumstances arise, submit any appropriate amended responses to EERA before the response deadline and to continue to liaise with the other Cambridgeshire authorities.

64. 10:10 CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

By way of a report by the Head of Environmental Management (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were acquainted with progress on the background to a community wide 10:10 climate change campaign. Members were advised that the campaign was targeting individuals, companies and institutions to pledge a reduction in their carbon footprint by 10% during 2010. Having acknowledged the contribution that the campaign would make in achieving the targets in the Council's Environmental Strategy and Carbon Management Plan, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be authorised to formally register the Council's support for the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign and therefore commit to a reduction in the Council's carbon emissions of at least 10% during 2010;
- (b) that the promotion of the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign to the widest possible audience within the District be supported.

65. ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

The Cabinet were acquainted by way of a joint report by the Heads of Environmental and Community Health Services and of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) with the implications of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 which had come into effect in October 2008.

Members were advised that the Act was an important element in delivering the Government's commitment to the implementation of the Hampton Agenda on regulatory reform and the reduction of the burden on businesses. It was reported that a range of enforcement policies would need to be updated to reflect the requirements of the Act and that there would be a continuing requirement for enforcement policies to be reviewed and updated where appropriate. Having noted that the Licensing and Protection Panel had authorised officers to review enforcement policies as and when appropriate, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report now submitted be noted.

66. STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

Further to Minute No. 117/06 and with the assistance of a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were invited to consider the content of a revised Statement of Principles under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. Having noted that the statement had been updated to take into account the latest regulations and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to approve the Statement of Principles appended to the report now submitted with effect from the 31st January 2010 for a period of three years.

67. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons.

68. LAND ADJACENT TO THE GRAND CINEMA, RAMSEY

Further to Minute No. 07/32, the Cabinet considered a report by the Estates and Property Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) regarding the proposed disposal of Council-owned land adjacent to the former Grand Cinema in Ramsey, as part of the redevelopment of the site to include a library, community facility, public toilets and residential housing.

Having considered issues surrounding the relocation of the Ramsey Customer Service Centre, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the disposal of land adjacent to the former Grand Cinema in Ramsey be approved on the terms set out in paragraph 3 of the report now submitted; and
- (b) that the Director of Central Services be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Finance and for Resources and Policy, to approve the terms for the shared use of the County Council premises.

Chairman

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**MANAGEMENT TEAM
CABINET**

**AGENDA ITEM NO:
01 DECEMBER 2009
17 DECEMBER 2009**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 (as amended)
PUBLICATION OF RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST
(Report by the Head of Customer Services)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 42 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 was amended by the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to require billing authorities, such as Huntingdonshire District Council, to compile and maintain a rural settlement list.
- 1.2 The settlements referred to are those which appear to the authority to have a population of not more than 3,000 on the last 31st December before the beginning of the chargeable financial year.
- 1.3 A rural settlement list must identify the boundary of each settlement, whether by defining the boundaries (for example, ward or parish boundaries) or referring to boundaries in a map or other document. This means that the Council can define the boundary of a rural settlement by reference to maps rather than accepting ward or parish boundaries to be the boundary of the settlement.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Rural Settlement List is to allow the Council to grant Rural Rate Relief to rural post offices, village shops, public houses and petrol stations.

2 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Officers have undertaken a review of rural settlements and advise Members that changes need to be made to the previously approved rural settlement list. This is necessary because of growth and expansion in some rural areas but specifically because of The Huntingdonshire (Parishes) Order 2009 which has affected around 3,000 properties. This report therefore revises the rural settlement list and defines new boundaries by reference to maps. For example, the rural areas of Ramsey and Farcet have been separately identified to ensure that local shops, pubs and other local businesses can continue to benefit from Rural Rate Relief as appropriate. Similarly, Offord D'Arcy and Offord Cluny have remained as separate settlements despite being merged as a local council under the 2009 Order
- 2.2 In this way, qualifying rural shops and businesses will continue to be eligible to make application for certain mandatory and/or discretionary relief under the amended 1988 Act.
- 2.3 The amended draft rural settlement list, as proposed at Annex 'A', must be published and available for inspection by 31 December.
- 2.4 Where it is necessary to define boundaries, other than those of the respective parishes, these are illustrated by reference to maps, as shown at Annex 'B'. Members should note that these boundaries relate only to the application of Rural Rate Relief and not other matters (for example, planning development).

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1** It is recommended that the Cabinet resolve that the revised rural settlement list shown at Annexes 'A' and 'B' be approved and made available for inspection as required throughout the three months preceding the beginning of the next financial year.

Contact Officer: Julia Barber – Head of Customer Services
☎ (01480) 388105

'A'

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988
RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST**

Abbotsley	Hemingford Grey
Abbots Ripton	Hilton
Alconbury	Holme
Alconbury Weston	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Alwalton	Houghton & Wyton
Barham & Woolley	Kimbolton
Bluntisham	Kings Ripton
Brington & Molesworth	Leighton Bromswold
Broughton	Morborne
Buckden	Offord Cluny*
Buckworth	Offord D'Arcy*
Bury	Old Hurst
Bythorn & Keyston	Old Weston
Catworth	Perry
Chesterton	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Colne	Ramsey Forty Foot*
Conington	Ramsey St Mary's*
Covington	Ramsey Mereside*
Denton & Caldecote	Ramsey Heights*
Diddington	Sibson-cum-Stibbington
Earith	Southoe & Midloe
Easton	Spaldwick
Ellington	Stilton
Elton	Stow Longa
Farcet (village area only)*	The Stukeleys
Farcet (rural area)*	Tilbrook
Fenstanton	Toseland
Folksworth & Washingley	Upton & Coppingford
Glatton	Upwood & the Raveleys
Grafham	Waresley-cum-Tetworth
Great & Little Gidding	Water Newton
Great Gransden	Winwick
Great Paxton	Wistow
Great Staughton	Woodhurst
Haddon	Woodwalton
Hail Weston	Wyton-on-the-Hill
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	Yelling
Hemingford Abbots	

The boundaries to be used are those which currently define the relevant parish with the exception of those marked by an asterisk (*)

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Rural Settlement List

Defined Boundaries

Legend

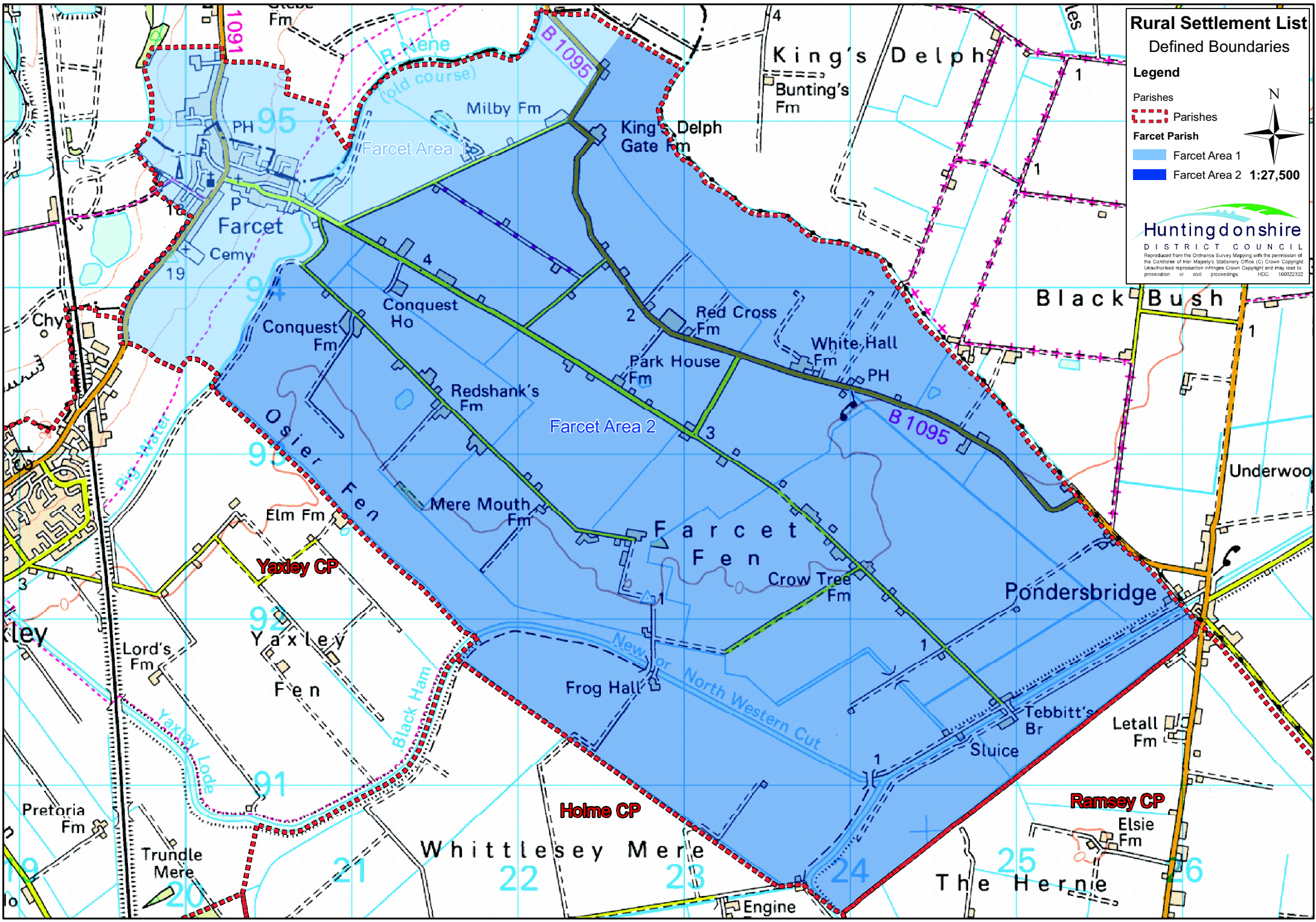
- Parishes
- Parishes
- Farcet Parish
 - Farcet Area 1
 - Farcet Area 2



1:27,500

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Rural Settlement List
 Defined Boundaries

Legend

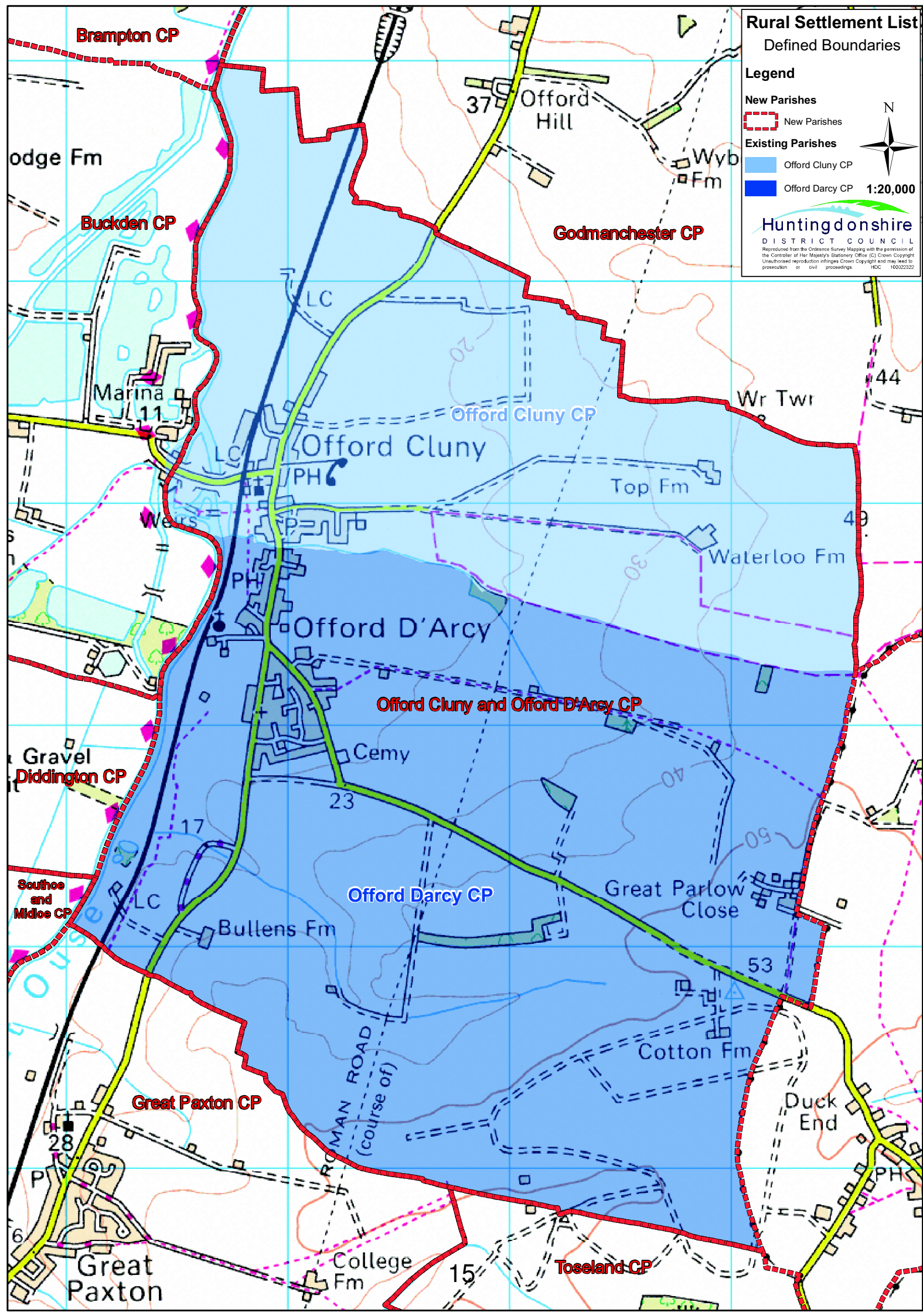
New Parishes
 [Red dashed line] New Parishes

Existing Parishes
 [Light blue box] Offord Cluny CP
 [Dark blue box] Offord Darcy CP

1:20,000

Huntingdonshire
 DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Rural Settlement List
Defined Boundaries

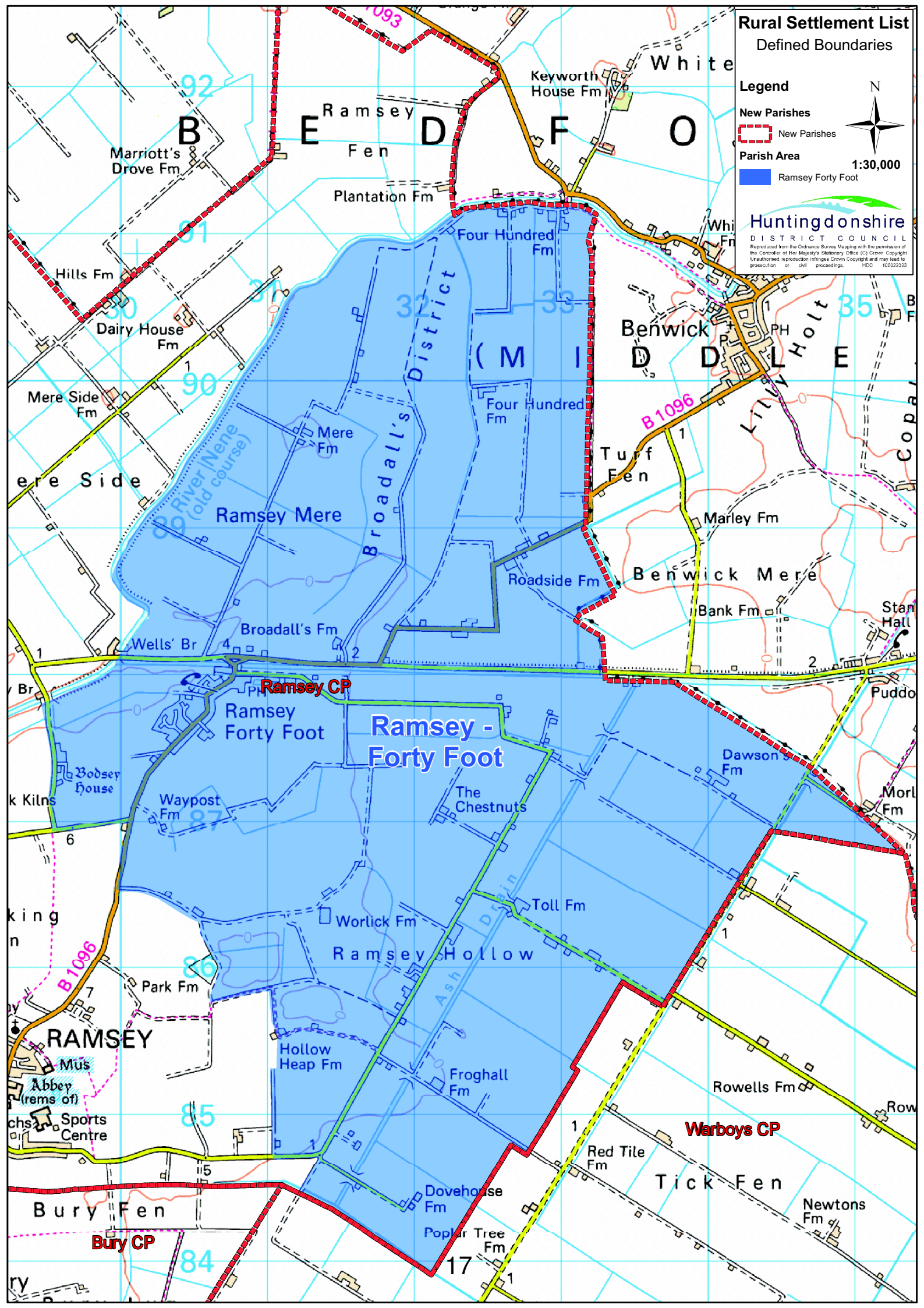
Legend

- New Parishes
- Parish Area
- Ramsey Forty Foot

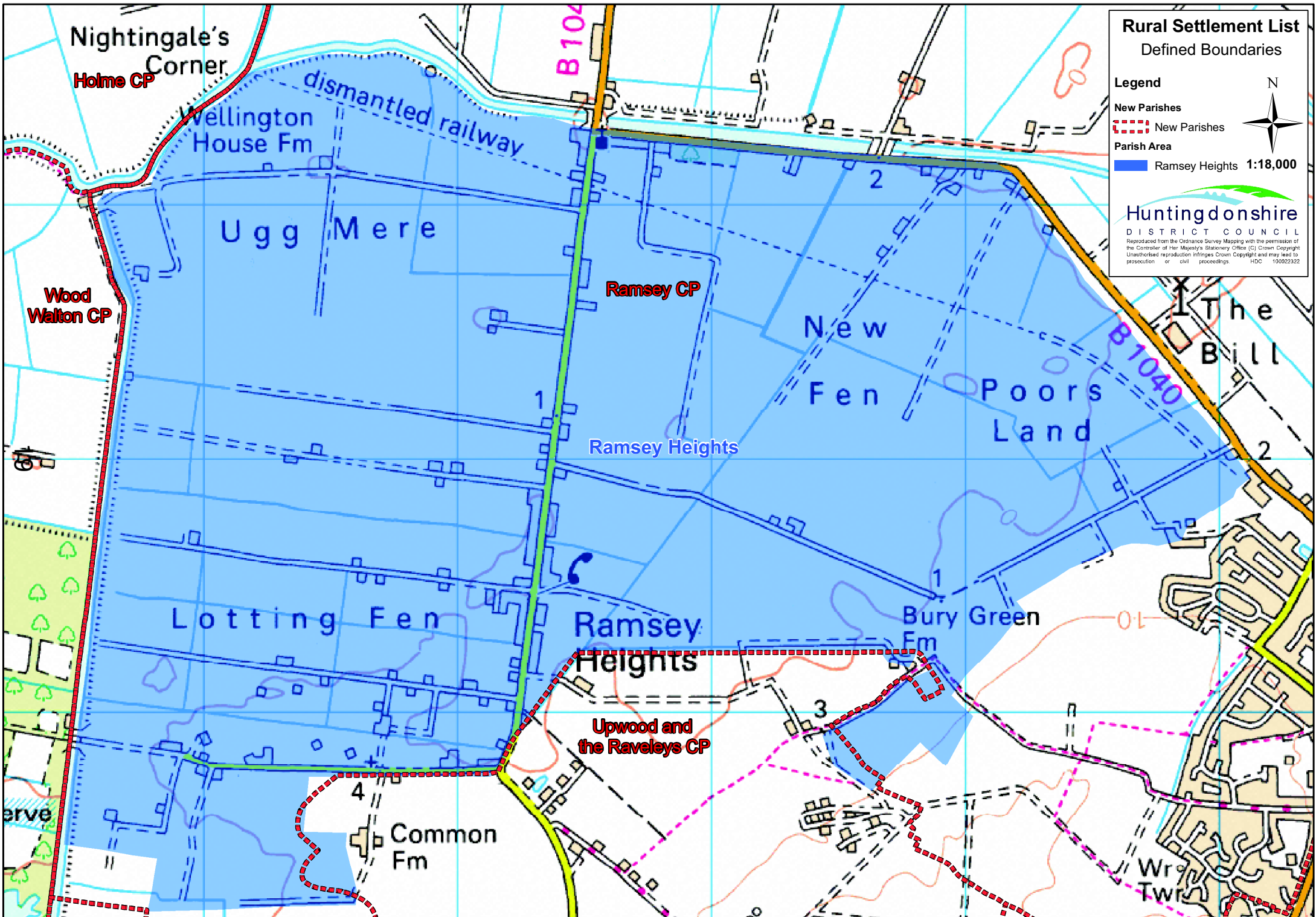
1:30,000

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Rural Settlement List
Defined Boundaries

Legend

- New Parishes (dotted red line)
- Parish Area (solid blue line)
- Ramsey Heights (solid blue area)

Scale: 1:18,000

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Nightingale's Corner
Holme CP

Wellington House Fm

dismantled railway

B1040

Ugg Mere

Ramsey CP

New Fen

Poors Land

B1040

The Bill

Ramsey Heights

Lotting Fen

Ramsey Heights

Bury Green Fm

Upwood and the Raveleys CP

Common Fm

Wr...
TWR...

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Rural Settlement List
Defined Boundaries

Legend

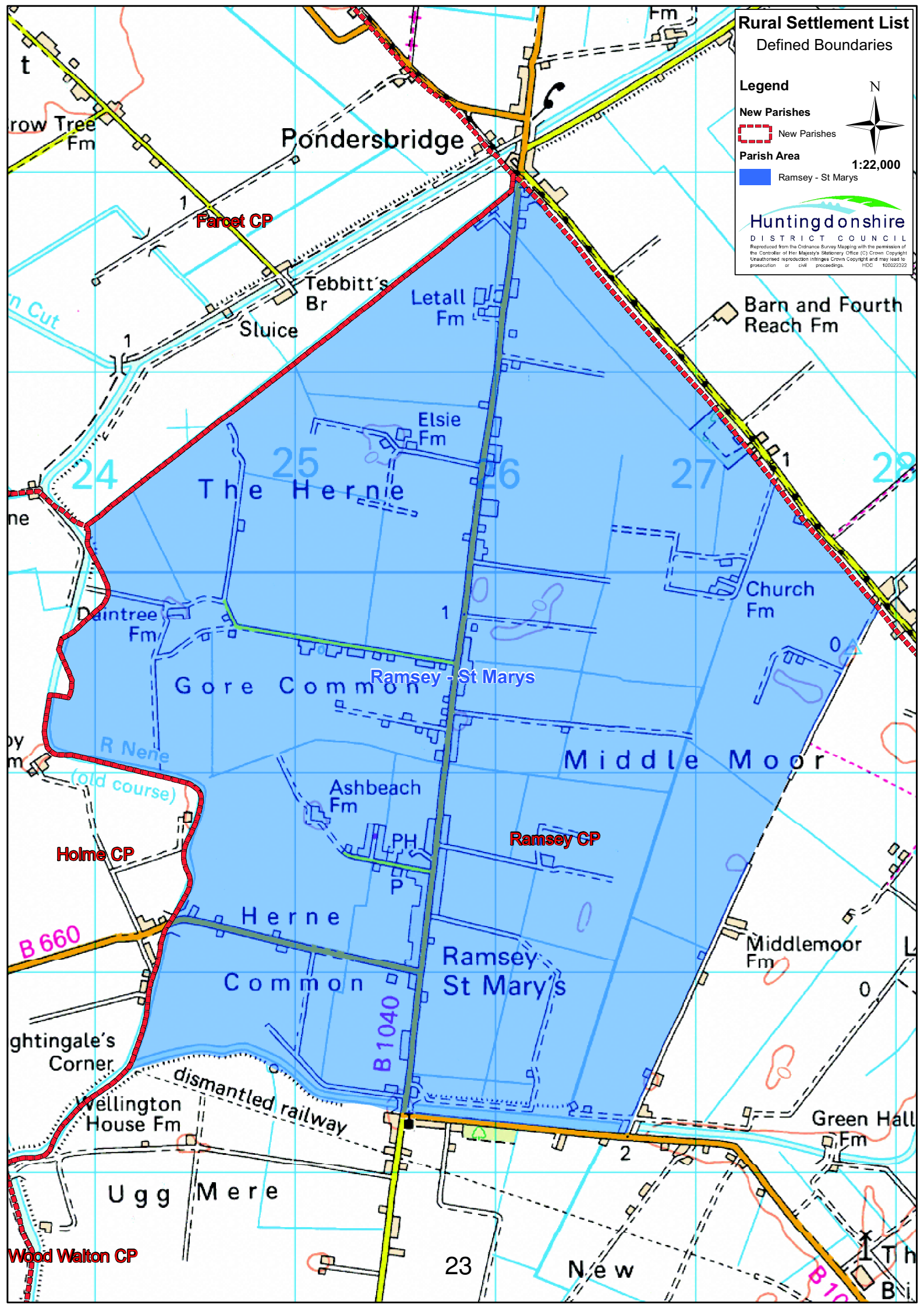
- New Parishes
- Parish Area

1:22,000

Ramsey - St Marys

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**TREASURY MANAGEMENT
INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE
(Report by the Head of Financial Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Members will be aware that due to the collapse of some Icelandic Banks in October 2008 a spotlight has been put on the treasury management practices of Local Authorities. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10 identified that whilst security and liquidity of funds are the primary concern, the interest earned was still relevant and banks and building societies should continue to be used for investments
- 1.2. The majority of the 2009/10 capital programme will need to be funded from borrowing, however, in the short-term, the borrowing can be from in-house funds rather than external funding from the PWLB or the market. The Strategy is based on long term borrowing taking place when interest rates are judged to be close to the bottom of a cycle.
- 1.3. The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet on the performance of investments, any concerns over the credit-worthiness of counterparties and borrowing to fund capital

2. IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

- 2.1. The collapse of the Icelandic Banks highlighted the reliance that Local Authorities tended to place on information from the credit rating agencies and their dependence on time deposits which could result in the credit rating deteriorating but the Authority having no rights to have its funds returned until the prearranged date. The House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee produced a report on Local Authority Investments and recommended that credit ratings should be viewed in the context of wider financial and economic information and advice. CIPFA will be issuing guidance as to what other information is available
- 3.3 In the meantime the Council's Treasury Management Advisors provide timely information on the credit ratings of counterparties and the counterparty list is amended in the light of that information. During the financial year to date there has been no concern over the credit-worthiness of any bank or building society where the Council has existing investments

3. PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Monetary Policy Committee reduced the bank base rate to 0.5% in March 2009 and it has remained at that level since then.
- 3.2 The returns are shown in Annex A
- 3.3 **CDCM**
At the start of the year CDCM managed £18m of funds but as individual investments matured they were brought in-house. Their portfolio was £12m as at 30 September 2009

3.4 The returns on the portfolio have been considerably above the benchmark of 3 month LIBID because the funds were invested some time ago at rates between 3.2% and 6.15%. The returns for the first half-year were 2.42% against a benchmark of 0.48%. Annex B shows the remaining loans together with their original investment date, rates and repayment dates. There are no current concerns about any of these counterparties.

3.5 In-house funds

The in-house portfolio historically comprised of a mixture of short-term investments and temporary borrowing to manage cash flow but now includes elements of funds returned by CDCM and previous Fund Managers together with the temporary investment of the £10m advance borrowing from the PWLB. As at 30 September 2009 this amounted to £24m and Annex B provides the details.

3.6 There are various categories of investment

- a) The temporary investment of the PWLB borrowing until December 2012 and December 2013 which were made as soon as the loan was taken in December 2008.
- b) Medium term investments taken out in November 2008 and March 2009 for up to 15 months and which are due back by March 2010.
- c) To manage day-to-day cash flow surplus monies are kept in the current account as the Council's existing bank contract gives a rate of 1.75% on credit balances but only until the bank charges for the year have been cancelled out. This in effect provides a high return compared with current market rates.
- d) Other investments are with the Alliance Leicester which provides same day return of funds if required but is still fairly competitive with market rates. Finally, once the Council's limit of £5M is exceeded with the Alliance Leicester funds are placed with UK building societies for up to 1 month.

3.7 Over these areas a performance of 1.92% compared with the benchmark of 0.22% has been achieved in the half-year

4 LONG-TERM BORROWING

4.1 Most of the capital programme will need to be funded from borrowing however in the short-term this can be 'internal borrowing' from in-house funds. The Strategy states that long-term borrowing will depend on actual borrowing rates and the perception of the future trend in rates.

4.2 The long term borrowing rate from the PWLB has not fallen below 4% this financial year and no long-term borrowing has taken place. The forecast of long-term rates is that they will not fall in the short-term and therefore it is unlikely that the Council will undertake any borrowing for capital purposes during 2009/10.

5. PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET IN 2009/10

5.1 The latest forecast outturn is an increase in investment interest on the

net budget (investment interest less borrowing costs) of £473k. This is due to lower borrowing costs offset by lower interest rates on investments.

6. CIPFA CODE OF PRACTICE ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 CIPFA will soon be publishing a new Code and has indicated that it will contain:
- a) The audit committee (or similar scrutiny committee) to be responsible for the scrutiny of the treasury management policy/strategy and procedures.
 - b) The full Council will remain responsible for approving the annual strategy (the consultation proposed allowing another committee to approve it).
 - c) A mid year report to Members will be required, and more regular reports will be recommended, so that the subject receives attention out of the budget-setting process.
 - d) The Code will recommend that authorities do not place over-reliance on credit ratings. A bulletin will be produced offering informal guidance on what other sources of credit information are available,

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note this report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Working papers in Financial Services

CONTACT OFFICER

Steve Couper – Head of Financial Services Tel. 01480 388103

ANNEX A

PERFORMANCE FOR THE 6 MONTHS APRIL 2009 – SEPTEMBER 2009					
	Performance (for half year) %	Benchmark (for half year) %	Variation from benchmark	Managed Funds	
				1 April 09	30 Sept 09
CDCM	2.42	0.48*	+1.94	£18m	£12m
In-house	1.92	0.22**	+1.70	£24.5m	£23.75m
Borrowed short-term				-£6.1m	
Borrowed long-term				-£10m	-£10m
Net investments				£26.4m	£25.75m

* 3 month LIBID

** 7 day rate

ANNEX B

CDCM investments as at 30 September 2009

	£000	Investment date	Rate %	Repayment date
Norwich and Peterborough Building Society	2,000	9/1/09	3.2	9/10/09
Northern Rock	2,000	28/11/07	5.78	28/11/09
Stroud and Swindon Building Society	3,000	21/8/08	6.15	22/2/10
Nationwide (formerly Cheshire BS)	2,000	25/6/08	3.315	24/6/10
Nationwide (formerly Dunfermline BS)	3,000	21/8/08	6.1	30/9/10
	12,000			

In-house investments as at 30 September 2009

		£000	Investment date	Rate %	Repayment date
Royal Bank of Scotland	Investment of PWLB monies	5,000	19/12/08	4.04	19/12/12
Skipton Building Society	Investment of PWLB monies	5,000	19/12/08	4.85	19/12/13
Principality BS	Medium term	4,000	24/11/08	4.4	24/2/10
Chelsea BS	Medium term	3,000	24/11/08	4.35	24/2/10
Newcastle BS	Medium term	1,000	24/11/08	4.35	24/2/10
Nottingham BS	Medium term	2,500	18/3/09	2.5	18/3/10
Alliance Leicester	Call monies	2,500	1/9/09	0.8	Call
NatWest	Current account	750		1.75	
		23,750			

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CABINET

17th December 2009

PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Report by the Head of People, Performance & Partnerships)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members performance management information on “Growing Success” – the Council’s Corporate Plan.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In September 2008 the Council adopted an updated Plan which includes 37 short, medium and long term objectives to help achieve aims and ambitions for Huntingdonshire’s communities and the Council itself. In addition the Council identified eight of these objectives which were considered to be a priority for the immediate future.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Progress against all 37 objectives is reported to Chief Officers Management Team quarterly on a service basis. A progress report from each Division includes performance data in the form of achievement against a target for each of the objectives that those services contribute towards. This is supported by narrative on achievements, other issues or risks and budgeting information. In addition, a working group jointly appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Panels continues to meet quarterly to monitor progress in the achievement of the Plan and to consider development issues.
- 3.2 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels have an important role in the Council’s Performance Management Framework and the process of regular review of performance data has been established. In adopting the updated version of Growing Success, and in particular in prioritising objectives, it was intended that Members should concentrate their monitoring on a small number of objectives to enable them to adopt a strategic overview while building confidence that the Council priorities are being achieved.
- 3.3 Executive members requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s deliberations were summarised and appended to this report. However, due to the timing of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s meeting and the distribution of the Cabinet agenda the Panels comments will now be circulated separately.

4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- 4.1 The following performance data is appended for consideration:

Annex A - Performance data from services which contribute to the Council objectives. For each measure there is a target, actual performance against target, forecast performance for the next period, an indicator showing the direction of travel compared with the previous quarter and a comments field. The data is colour coded as follows:

- green – achieving target or above;
- amber – between target and an “intervention level (the level at which performance is considered to be unacceptable and action is required);
- red – the intervention level or below; and
- grey – data not available.

Annex B - a summary of the achievements, issues and risks relating to the objectives, as identified by the Heads of Service.

Annex C - Council Improvement Plan – a rolling plan of actions identified following internal or external reviews such as the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, Use of Resources Assessment and the Annual Governance Statement.

5. DATA QUALITY

- 5.1 The appropriate Heads of Service have confirmed the accuracy of the data in the attached report and that its compilation is in accordance with the appropriate Divisions’ data measure templates. An error in a figure reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Social Well-being Panel regarding the throughput of people attending Arts activities was identified and has been corrected for this report.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members are recommended to;

Consider the results of performance for priority objectives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Performance Management reports produced from the Council’s CPMF software system

Growing Success: Corporate Plan

Contact Officer: Howard Thackray, Policy & Research Manager
☎ 01480 388035

Community/Council Aim: Healthy Living							
Objective: To promote active lifestyles							
Division: Leisure							
Divisional Objective: To increase participation in healthy physical activities							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:
33 Maintain and improve standard of facilities & match facility provision with usage demand (SCS measure)	Number of admissions/participants in activities provided or promoted by the Council (cumulative quarterly target)	846,408	820,352 (R)	1.75m	↑	Our target is to continue to grow admissions each year. Admissions relating to our latest investment in Huntingdon, particularly the Funzone have been above expectations. Impressions have also continued to grow. However pool closures in Ramsey & Huntingdon reduced admissions in the early part of the year and the economic recession has also reduced bookings for synthetic pitches.	QRT
Promotion and marketing of available activities	Number of active card holders	19,700	19,667 (A)	20,250	↓	On target for end of year forecast	QRT
Division: Lifestyles							
Divisional Objective: To promote healthy lifestyle choices							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:
Provide a range of accessible leisure opportunities such as: a Holiday Activity Programme for <17 yrs (SCS measure)	Total throughput of school, outreach and holiday activity Programmes (cumulative quarterly target)	2,000	2,567 (G)		↔		QRT
Provide and facilitate arts activities directly and in partnership	Throughput of people (target 8500 per ann) experiencing arts interventions as a result of Arts Service and Partner activities during 2009/10 (cumulative quarterly target)	4,250	13,383 (G)		↔		QRT
Provide targeted schemes to enable vulnerable people to participate in physical leisure activities (inc Exercise Referral, Community Sports and Recreation Project, Community Sports Network and Active Life scheme) (SCS measure 2.1.5)	Throughput on identified schemes (cumulative quarterly target)	5,650	9,744 (G)		↔	Problem with reporting on MRM Plus 2 meant under reporting in Q1. Issue now identified and resolved.	QRT
Provide under-represented groups with the opportunity to participate in sport and active recreation (SCS measure)	Total throughput of activity programme for disabled participants and under-represented groups (cumulative quarterly target)	500	1,017 (G)		↔		QRT

* Direction of Travel - shows change in performance since last quarter, where applicable

Support vulnerable people to be more active, Cardiac Rehabilitation programme and Health Walks	Total throughput of the Cardiac Rehabilitation programme and Health Walks in Huntingdonshire (cumulative quarterly target)	3,780	5,225 (G)		↑		QRT
Community/Council Aim: Housing that meets individuals needs							
Objective: To achieve a low level of homelessness							
Division: Housing							
Divisional Objective: To achieve a low level of homelessness							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:		Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*: Comment:
By helping to prevent people from becoming homeless by housing homeless people, where appropriate	(NI 156) No. of households living in temporary accommodation	45	55 (A)	45	↑	Number has been reducing steadily; credit crunch has been a driving factor in increased demand for Housing Advice and Homelessness services. 45 is a government target set for the District by the DCLG.	QRT
	The number of households prevented from becoming homeless in the year (cumulative quarterly measure)	130	182 (G)	260	↑	Annual target is 260. On track to achieve this.	QRT
Community/Council Aim: Developing communities sustainably							
Objective: To enable the provision of affordable housing							
Division: Housing							
Divisional Objective: To enable the provision of affordable housing							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:		Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*: Comment:
By maximising the land available for new affordable housing. By working in partnership with Housing Associations to bid for external funding. By making a financial contribution to pay for affordable homes to be built	(NI 155) Number of new affordable homes built by March 2010 (cumulative quarterly target) (local target)	144	145 (G)	307	↓	Most completions occur in Q4.	QRT
Division: Planning							
Divisional Objective: Maximise provision of affordable housing on relevant development sites							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:		Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*: Comment:
Develop Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD (to set policy framework)/Adopt Planning Obligations SPD (to set specific targets and thresholds)/Negotiate S106 Agreements (to deliver required amounts of affordable housing)	% of affordable housing (commitments) on qualifying sites (cumulative)	35	60.40 (G)		↔	Cumulative figure from April 09.	QRT
	% of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in market towns and key settlements	40			N/A	Annual measure, data to follow	YRL
	% of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in smaller settlements	29			N/A	Annual measure, data to follow	YRL

* Direction of Travel - shows change in performance since last quarter, where applicable

Community/Council Aim: A Clean, Green and Attractive Place								
Objective: To help mitigate and adapt to climate change								
Division: Environmental Management								
Divisional Objective: To help mitigate and adapt to climate change								
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
(NI 185) Green Force initiative		Number of Green Force meetings held in 2009/10 (target: 4 by year end)	2	2 (G)		↔	Training and ideas workshop held on 26th June, work programme for the year finalised during summer 2009, campaign organised for Energy Saving Week 19th 23rd October 2010.	QRT
35		% of HDC Carbon Management Plan 1st year projects on track	70	100 (G)		↔	Ten projects identified within the Carbon Management Plan for completion in 2009/10 all of which are currently on track	QRT
	(NI 185) Identify opportunities to reduce CO2 emissions from the Council's own operations	Tonnes of CO2 saved from year one carbon management projects (cumulative)	250	243 (A)		↓	10 projects identified in the Carbon Management Plan which when completed will deliver an annual CO2 saving of 511 tonnes. Fell only just short of the Second Quarter Target but with Salix Funding application being submitted in the Third Quarter projects will come on line as planned. Projects delivering savings to date include: Multi- Functional devices Pool Car usage PIR sensors at Sawtry Leisure Centre CHP at Huntingdon Leisure Centre	QRT
(NI 186) Hunts Post Green page		Deliver monthly environmental information page in Hunts Post (cumulative)	6	6 (G)		↔	Themed pages during the quarter were as follows: July - August - Sept -	QRT

* Direction of Travel - shows change in performance since last quarter, where applicable

(NI 188) Undertake risk-based assessment of current vulnerabilities to weather and climate changes and identify adaptation responses	Local risk based assessment complete by March 2010 to achieve level 2 of NI188 on target (1=Yes, 0 = No)	1	1 (G)		↔	National Indicator 188 used as the measure of success (Levels 0 to 4). Target for the current year is to reach Level 2 of the indicator by 31st March 2009. This will involve interviewing service managers and integrating the risks identified into the Council's risk management framework	QRT
(NI186) Promote energy efficiency and use of renewable energy to householders	Number of tonnes of CO2 saved through installation of energy efficiency measures and renewables in domestic properties (cumulative quarterly measure)	350	484 (G)		↔	121 tonnes of CO2 saved in second quarter in addition to the 363 tonnes saved in the first quarter.	QRT
(NI186) Retro fit project - procurement of Housing stock 36	Green House (retro fit) project - completion of building work by Jan 2010 (on target 1 = Yes, 0 = No)	1	1 (G)		↔	The specification for the properties is almost complete and the tender for refurbishment will be sent out in November 2009. It is expected that the houses will be open for public viewing in late spring 2010	QRT
(NI186) Update existing and extend Travel Plans to all of the Council's employment sites and implement to achieve a modal shift away from single occupant car use	% of council employees travelling alone to work by car	50			N/A	Annual measure, data to follow	YRL
Complete an annual review & update of Growing Awareness a plan for our environment	Review completed 2009/10 (1 = yes, 0 = no)	1	1 (G)		↔	Annual Review of Environment Strategy on course to be delivered by January 2010	QRT
Identify areas of joint working with stakeholders to help deliver aims of Growing Awareness.	HSP Environment Forum to meet at least twice annually (1=Yes, 0 = No)	1	1 (G)		↔	Second meeting of the year held on 22nd September focused on Water Management with input led by the Environment Agency. Next meeting to be held 1st December 2009	QRT
						Year two funded Environment Strategy Projects nine out of ten on track - HDC Carbon Management Plan (on track) Sustainable Homes Retro-fit	

<p>Oversee the implementation of the Environment Strategy projects</p>	<p>% of Environment Strategy Year 2 projects on target</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>90 (G)</p>	<p></p>	<p>↔</p> <p>Project (on track) Huntingdonshire Nursery - Renewables (on track) Renewables at HDC owned Sites (on track) Schools Recycling Scheme (on track) Public Travel Information boards(on track) Low Carbon Communities(on track) Pensioners Home Insulation Scheme (on track) Business Environmental Pledge scheme (re-evaluating through poor uptake) Green Force Environmental Awareness scheme(on track) Mayfield Road Showcase New Build(on track)</p>	<p>QRT</p>
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Division: IMD

Divisional Objective: Reduce the resources used by IMD

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:	Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
<p>Implement new technology to reduce power consumption</p>	<p>Percentage reduction in power consumed (target TBA)</p>				<p>N/A</p>	<p>Electricity usage on the ground floor (and server room as a separate entity) has been measured each month since June. We can now use June to September as a base line before we start implementing the Green ICT Action plan.</p>	<p>QRT</p>
<p>Reducing number of commuting miles by sole car usage (eg working from home, car sharing, walking, cycling, use of public transport)</p>	<p>Number of car commuting miles saved</p>	<p>25,000</p>	<p>26,976 (G)</p>	<p>50,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Includes travel miles saved through working from home, cycling/walking to work, using public transport, being a passenger in a car.</p>	<p>QRT</p>

Division: Planning

Divisional Objective: To encourage sustainable forms of development

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:	Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
<p>Include sustainable policies within LDF (to set a sustainable policy framework)</p>	<p>Core Strategy – Adherence to LDF timetable, on target to be adopted by August 2009 (1=Yes, 0=No)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1 (G)</p>		<p>↔</p>	<p>Adopted at September Committee</p>	<p>QRT</p>

* Direction of Travel - shows change in performance since last quarter, where applicable

Community/Council Aim: Developing communities sustainably						
Objective: To promote development opportunities in and around the market towns						
Division: People, Performance & Partnerships						
Divisional Objective: To promote development opportunities in and around the market towns						
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:	Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:
Deliver LES Physical Infrastructure Development activities in the Sustainable Economic Development service plan	% of Physical Infrastructure Development activities on track	90	100 (G)		N/A	Our campaign to promote the district when the Guided Busway opens is ready for launch.
Division: Planning						
Divisional Objective: To promote development opportunities in and around the market towns						
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:	Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:
Develop strategic policy to promote well being of our market towns	Adoption of Core Strategy on target to be adopted by August 2009 (1=Yes, 0=No)	1	1 (G)		↔	Adopted at September Committee

Community/Council Aim: To improve our systems and practices

Objective: Effective partnership

Division: People, Performance & Partnerships

Divisional Objective: Develop, adopt and support the delivery of a sustainable community strategy for Huntingdonshire

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
Ensure an appropriate performance management system for the Sustainable Community Strategy and provide policy support for this process	% of thematic groups reviewing their performance and delivery	100	83 (A)		N/A	Five out of six thematic groups reviewed their performance as expected in the last quarter.	QRT	
	Regular reports on the performance of thematic groups are submitted to the HSP Executive and Board (1=yes, 0=no)	1	1 (G)		N/A		QRT	

Divisional Objective: Effective partnership framework

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
Develop, implement and monitor strategic/operational partnership review programme	Partnership review programme on target (1=yes, 0=no)	1	1 (G)	1	↑	Policy Officer has been appointed and the partnership review programme started in October 09.	QRT	

Community/Council Aim: To learn and develop

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6

Objective: To be an Employer People Want to Work For

Division: People, Performance & Partnerships

Divisional Objective: To attract and retain staff

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
Promoting from within wherever possible	Internal promotions as percentage of all vacancies filled	33	43 (G)		N/A		QRT	
Recruitment package	% of new employees still in post after 12 months	90	100 (G)		N/A		QRT	
	% of new employees still in post after 24 months	80	90 (G)		N/A		QRT	
Retaining and releasing employees appropriately	Staff turnover – % of employees on permanent contracts leaving the Council	10	8 (G)		N/A	Annual staff turnover = 8%, quarterly staff turnover = 1.2%	QRT	
Successful wellbeing initiatives which are improving attendance rates	% attendance of HDC employees a rolling 12 month average. Target based on CIPD for public sector employees.	96	98.50 (G)		N/A	98.5% attendance achieved (based on 1395 employees)	QRT	

Community/Council Aim: To maintain sound finances

Objective: Maximise business and income opportunities including external funding and grants

Division: Leisure

Divisional Objective: Maximise leisure centre income

Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:		Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
Maintain expenditure within budget	Actual expenditure compared to budget (cumulative quarterly target)	£3.32m	£3.04m (G)	£6.49m	↑	Savings 9%	QRT	
Maximise leisure centre income	Actual income received compared to budget (cumulative quarterly target)	£2.61m	£2.36m (R)	£5.16m	↓	Down by 9%	QRT	

* Direction of Travel - shows change in performance since last quarter, where applicable

Division: People, Performance & Partnerships							
Divisional Objective: To be aware of appropriate funding opportunities and communicate to the appropriate service							
Key Activity(s) only to deliver service objective:	Key Measure:	Target:	Actual:	Forecast:	DoT*:	Comment:	
Co ordinate and maintain a system of internal control via External Funding strategy, liaise with appropriate officers, provide funding advice and assistance in compilation of bids as required	% of bids which attract funding (year to date)	70	54 (A)		N/A	Of the 13 bids submitted between April and September 2009 where a decision has been made, 7 were successful.	QRT
	% of External Funding actions on track	90	100 (G)	1	↑		QRT

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
To promote active lifestyles	Achievements:	<p><u>Leisure Centres:</u></p> <p>24,000 additional visits (14%) have been recorded at Huntingdon LC (despite pool closure) where investment and new facilities have been introduced and at St Neots (1.6% increase). Key area, Impressions, has continued to grow at 4,455 up (3.3%). Funzone at Huntingdon had nearly 10,000 visitors in the first half year and aerobics classes continue to thrive.</p> <p>19,667 customers have an active leisure card out of a total card holder population of 73,758 (27%). 60+ active users now number over 2,000 compared with 1,300 last year. 24,000 under 18's now hold a card, with a quarter in the 13-17 age category.</p> <p><u>Environmental and Community Health Services:</u></p> <p>The summer sports road-shows had the best attendances for 10 years.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	<p><u>Leisure Centres:</u></p> <p>A shortfall in admissions in quarter one was unlikely to be recovered in quarter two with the closure of two pools over the summer (Ramsey and Huntingdon) – both for essential repairs – and the deficit is now 3% down on target and 1.5% down on last year's half year total. Last year's figures included erroneous admissions for the Burgess Hall (some 40,000) and this has now been taken into account with both target for 2009-10 and actual for 2008-09. In the current economic climate this decrease is unsurprising.</p> <p>Re-branding of Leisure Centres – "One Leisure" will be launched from November 2009 to go live in January 2010. Staff, member and public awareness programme continues apace.</p> <p><u>Environmental and Community Health Services:</u></p> <p>Community Sports Network funding bid part of bid to Sport England's Ruralthemed pot. Successfully through 1st round selection, second-stage outcome due February 2010. £150M worth of bids for £10M funding in first round. HDC bid currently ranked amongst the highest and survived stringent bid-thinning in 1st round; odds have improved significantly.</p>
	Risks:	
To achieve a low level of homelessness	Achievements:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>107 households were prevented from becoming homeless in Q2, compared to 75 in Q2 last year (total of 182 in Q1 & Q2 compared to 139 for same period last year). 61 decisions were reached on homeless applications in Q2 compared to 83 in the same period last year. Of these, 39 households were accepted as homeless compared to 55 in the same period last year.</p> <p>A decrease in the number of households in temporary accommodation, from 66 households at the start of the quarter to 54 at the end. The emergency crash beds provision for young people at Paines Mill Foyer (as an alternative to placing homeless young people into B&B accommodation) has become established and successful at reducing the use of bed and breakfast for young people.</p>

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>Progress the work plan that has come out of the Home-Link review. This will continue throughout the financial year and incorporate the Home-Link brand into a wider Enhanced Housing Options Service.</p> <p>The proposed extension to Kings Ripton Court young persons supported housing scheme (providing additional training facilities and 4 emergency crash beds) has received planning approval. The project will start on site late Q3 or early Q4.</p> <p>The multi agency Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on homelessness and the Supporting People needs assessment are progressing and the outcomes will feed into the review of the Homelessness Strategy.</p> <p>Progress the development of a county-wide supported lodgings scheme for young people threatened with homelessness.</p> <p>Participate in the Supporting Review of the remodelling of floating support services.</p>
	Risks:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>Reduced provision within the private rented sector if house prices and sales increase, with more owners looking to sell rather than rent properties out. This will reduce the council's ability to prevent homelessness by helping households into private sector tenancies.</p> <p>National and/or local economic factors have increased demand but demand may increase further.</p> <p>Not delivering increased emergency accommodation facilities at Kings Ripton Court in accordance with LAA reward grant.</p>
To enable the provision of affordable housing	Achievements:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>Mayfield Road Huntingdon (exemplar scheme) now on site. Completed 113 affordable homes, bringing the cumulative total to 164.</p> <p>Supported bids totalling £17.75m to the HCA. Of those bids, we know that Brookside Extra Care and The Grand in Ramsey have definitely been funded. We await the other funding decision.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>Work in partnership with Cambs Horizons and other Cambridgeshire councils on the HCA 'Single Conversation' (their new investment process). An internal working group has been formed to consider our response.</p> <p>Prepare response to the planning appeal on RAF Upwood.</p>
	Risks:	<p><u>Housing Services:</u></p> <p>RSLs and developers not performing to timescales.</p> <p>Availability of Homes and Communities Agency funding via the bidding process.</p>

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
		<p><u>Planning Services:</u></p> <p>As stated previously the most obvious continuing current risk is the potential impacts of a prolonged downturn in the housing/development market. The nature of that risk is that a longer term downturn will impact upon the local property market knocking back householder and developer confidence and thereby undermining the delivery of new homes, new employment opportunities and community facilities. Potential impacts could be upon planning fee income, housing delivery related grant awards and the scale, content and the potential viability and delivery of S106 contributions.</p>

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
To help to mitigate and adapt to climate change	Achievements:	<p><u>Environmental Management:</u></p> <p>Local energy efficiency events/promotions ongoing: Energy saving campaign ‘Watts Going Down in Warboys’ contributes to winning Cambridgeshire Village of the year title. Project is being rolled out to other parishes (e.g. Somersham).</p> <p>Various energy efficient lighting schemes being progressed for internal and external clients (eg Sawtry and Huntingdon Leisure Centre car parks and various cycleways).</p> <p>Project management input to Leisure roofing/insulation schemes (Sawtry, The Ivo, Ramsey and Huntingdon).</p> <p>HDC Solar grants scheme uptake continues.</p> <p>St Neots market sq bus shelter upgrade includes renewable technology.</p> <p>Cycleways: Huntingdon Mill Common design ongoing, Yaxley second phase ongoing, Sallowbush to Oxmoor Lane works complete, Perry design in progress. Awaiting information from Anglian Water.</p> <p>Huntingdon bus station design completed and planning permission applied for.</p> <p>Development of climate change adaptation work with Environment Agency and County (NI 188). A Local Climate Impact Profile has been developed and will help define cost of climate change threats to HDC services. A series of meetings with internal service areas have been undertaken to establish risks to services e.g. leisure. HDC is at the forefront of Districts working in this area.</p> <p><u>IMD:</u></p> <p>During the period April to September, 11,376 commuting miles were saved by IMD due to flexible working and a further 15,600 miles were saved due to “non-sole use of car” means of travelling to work (eg walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing); recording mechanism could be used by other departments to provide a Council-wide view.</p> <p>Data collected on electricity use on the ground floor and in the server room has been measured since July. This can be used as a baseline before the Green ICT action plan is implemented.</p> <p><u>Planning Services:</u></p> <p>The Core Strategy has been formally adopted.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	<p><u>Environmental Management:</u></p> <p>St Ives Outdoor Leisure Centre wind turbine on hold pending evaluation of objection from MoD.</p> <p>Undertake strategic overview/audit of energy and water management usage in Leisure Centres and develop options for low carbon infrastructure.</p> <p>Persuade and enable Planning to incorporate best practice climate change measures into the Development Management DPD.</p>

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
	Risks:	<p><u>Environmental Management:</u></p> <p>Failure to 'green' facilities strategy/influence other services on low carbon agenda means higher long term costs (e.g. energy bills).</p> <p>Closer integration of key findings of the Carbon appraisal of the Cambridge sub region LTDP and HDC LIF continue to be critical to the delivery of long term carbon reduction measures to meet targets for: energy saving, combating climate change and meeting government targets NI 186 and 188. Findings from St Neots energy study not incorporated within the DPD and therefore don't contribute to the wider evidence base for the district.</p> <p>Political opposition to St Ives outdoor centre wind turbine proposal/ failure to gain planning permission for project (due to MoD objection).</p> <p>Focus on immediate efficiency savings for Leisure Service means lack of focus on longer term low carbon agenda/ longer term cost savings. Lack of project management/technical experience in Leisure means projects inappropriately implemented. Offer assistance/expertise in these areas and work closely together.</p> <p>Risk management approach for climate change activities not fully developed. Close working with Environment Agency and County required. This fails to materialise.</p>
To promote development opportunities in and around the market towns	Achievements:	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Developed a joint marketing campaign with Cambridgeshire County Council and Stagecoach for the Guided Bus, however a launch date for this has still not been published.</p> <p><u>Planning Services:</u></p> <p>Planning policy development work continues apace with the Core Strategy being formally adopted and the related Development Management, Allocations, Gypsy and Travellers and Huntingdon West Area Action Plan DPD's being prepared.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Promotion of the district through the Guided Bus marketing campaign is linked to the Guided Bus opening.</p>
	Risks:	

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
To enable effective partnerships	Achievements:	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Process for distribution of LPSA funding improved, performance monitoring now established. One thematic group did not follow the agreed procedure for its review of performance and delivery. We are working with Democratic Services to ensure that standing items are always included when agendas are set.</p> <p>The Partnership Review programme has now begun following the appointment of a Policy Officer.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	
	Risks:	
To be an employer people want to work for	Achievements:	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Members Employment Advisory group set up and terms of reference agreed. Comparative salary analysis undertaken and current remuneration practice presented to members for consideration. Interim findings will be present to next Employment Panel meeting.</p>
	Issues or actions for next quarter:	
	Risks:	
To maximise business and income opportunities including extended funding and grants	Achievements:	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Establishment of a funding advisory group for partners to lever in more external funding for Huntingdonshire was well received and supported by the HSP executive.</p> <p>Positive feedback received on the Dragons Den Business Competition, £10k of sponsorship was secured to support new businesses. £12k secured from Action for Market Towns for 'Make it your market programme'.</p> <p><u>Leisure Centres:</u></p> <p>Centres have, where possible, rationalized costs and made savings across the board. As a result, expenditure is over 9% saved on budget resulting in a net spend almost exactly on target. Given the circumstances, and recognising that external pressures would have an effect on centre performance, this is a reasonable mid-year position. All expenditure budget headings have recorded savings against target and this has helped balance the income shortfall.</p> <p>NNDR has been paid in full for the year (£329k) as opposed to half the year's total being paid in the first quarter of 2008/09 (£171k) Profit margins on bars and all varieties of catering are above target and overall recovery rate is 77% compared to 79% at the same stage last year.</p> <p>From September 1st 2009 Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) delegated income to Secondary Schools and Primary Schools for use of Leisure Centre facilities. As the financial years of schools and HDC do not match, CCC paid, as normal, for use of facilities in the Summer term (April-July). This contribution totalled £168k. Total income received from CCC in 2008-09 was £568k which meant that Leisure Centres would need to receive income of £400k over the following 2 terms (September-December and January-March) to hit its target.</p>

Objective		Comments from appropriate Head of Service
		<p>Schools made bookings from September in the same way that any customer would. Invoices are raised on a monthly basis. Schools were informed that only full-term bookings would be accepted and an ad-hoc approach (e.g. booking a pool from 10-11 a.m. on a Monday for 6 weeks of a 12 week term) would not be acceptable. This allows the Centres to market unwanted time to the general public on a regular basis and the policy has been broadly successful.</p> <p>Estimated income from school use for the Autumn term will be in the region of £175k. Though all bookings are not yet fully received for the Spring term, there is a guaranteed £155k to date. While it is hoped that additional bookings will be made, thereby bridging the shortfall, the total amount of income received from schools in 2009-10 will not hit £568k.</p> <p>However, Centres have been able to let unused time to the public and income from these daytime sessions will ease the situation. It is too early to say what the net effect at year end will be. This will depend on the success of the new sessions and the booking of additional time by the schools.</p>
	<p>Issues or actions for next quarter:</p>	<p><u>People, Performance & Partnerships:</u></p> <p>Recent external funding activity has highlighted the need for a clear protocol and training for officers to help them manage the process and community expectations. A draft protocol has been prepared and will be considered by COMT in due course.</p> <p><u>Leisure Centres:</u></p> <p>Income is down by over 9% on target and clearly reflects the economic climate throughout the country. All areas of the centres have been hit with hospitality, indoor activities and fitness being particularly affected.</p> <p>Improvement in income for Quarter 3 is not expected (generally quietest period of the year) but a prosperous start to 2010 alongside a rebranding, data capture and promotion campaign will attract new and more business.</p>
	<p>Risks:</p>	

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Improvement Plan

(Note: the Council's Improvement Plan is updated and monitored frequently to reflect the development areas adopted through external inspection and compliance with statutory guidance.)

In progress

Completed

Subject	Area of Focus	Reference	Proposed Action	Outcome	Lead Members and Officer	Progress as at Nov 2009
Natural Resources	The Council should ensure that information and analysis about its environmental footprint is made publicly available.	Use of Resources 2007/08			Head of Environmental Services	First annual report was due in September 2009. This report will be available in December 2009
Governance	Procurement	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	improve the level of compliance of the Code of Procurement	level of compliance improved – no breaches of the code	Head of Financial Services	Review of suppliers/groups-categories currently being undertaken. (see Use of Resources below)
	Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Evaluation	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	Consideration will be given to how the Audit Commission guidance to help in the assessment of the Governance arrangements can be implemented in conjunction with the Councils own Partnership framework	Improved partnership working	Member: Andrew Hansard and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	A six monthly update will be reported to the March 2010 meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel
	Audit Letter recommendations	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	maintain focus on service performance in order to improve the rate of improvement and tackle areas of comparative under performance; and Develop a stronger focus on outcomes measures.	Improved performance and better outcome measures	Member: Andrew Hansard and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	A six monthly update will be reported to the March 2010 meeting of the Corporate Governance Panel
	Scrutiny Annual Report	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept	to ensure an Overview and Scrutiny annual report reflecting their work during 2009/10 is		Member: Andrew Hansard and Head of	An annual report will be prepared in the summer of 2010 which covers the financial year

Subject	Area of Focus	Reference	Proposed Action	Outcome	Lead Members and Officer	Progress as at Nov 2009
		2009)	prepared to for publication		Democratic & Central Services	2009/10
Financial planning	Demonstrating the Outcomes from Stakeholder Engagement in Financial Planning	Use of Resources 2008/09	We have undertaken and continue to undertake consultation on the priorities for Huntingdonshire. The council will continue to do this and develop its engagement		Head of People, Performance and Partnerships and Head of Financial Services	"Voice your choice" – participatory budgeting pilots undertaken summer 2009
	Using Service Reviews to Challenge Service Delivery	Use of Resources 2008/09	The Council has embarked on a two-fold transformation programme "Balancing the budget, securing our future" this is the council's long term plan to achieving savings and efficiencies whilst still maintaining or improving essential and priority services	understanding of costs and performance and achieve efficiencies in its activities	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology	This is a new initiative and progress will be reported in the next quarter
Financial reporting	Improving the Annual Accounts Review Process	Use of Resources 2008/09	We will strengthen the processes for reviewing our financial statements prior to their approval.	financial reporting is timely, reliable and meets the needs of internal users, stakeholders and local people	Head of Financial Services	Improvements to be included in the 2009/2010 closedown programme
Financial reporting	Demonstrating External Accountability	Use of Resources 2008/09	We will publish all the information that would be included in an Annual report periodically in District Wide, the Council's magazine distributed to all households in the district. The same information will also be	Residents and stakeholders more aware via Council annual report	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships and Head of Financial Services	The content of an annual report is being considered

Subject	Area of Focus	Reference	Proposed Action	Outcome	Lead Members and Officer	Progress as at Nov 2009
			available to view, all in one location on the internet			
Commissioning and procurement	Improving Strengthening procurement processes and contract management	Use of Resources 2008/09	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology have undertaken to report back the Corporate Governance Panel on compliance with the Code and the Council has initiated improvements to the procurement process.	Compliance with the code of procurement	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology	A report to Corporate Governance Panel in Dec 09 regarding planned action to promote compliance with the procurement code
Use of data	Look to integrate our financial and non-financial performance reporting	Use of Resources 2008/09	An exercise by Heads of Service to breakdown their budgets by Corporate objective has been undertaken. This has been reported to Members of the Corporate Plan working group at the same time as they consider the quarterly performance reports. Further consideration will be given as to how we can integrated performance reports.	Integrated financial and performance reports	Head of Financial Services and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	Budget split by corporate objective reported to corporate plan working group (Sept and Nov 09) along with performance data relating to corporate objectives. Further integrated budget/performance reporting being considered.

Subject	Area of Focus	Reference	Proposed Action	Outcome	Lead Members and Officer	Progress as at Nov 2009
Data quality	Spot-checking Performance Indicators	Use of Resources 2008/09	Managers will be reminded of the need to spot check their data and confirm this has been done. Other spot checks will be undertaken as part of the general service or reviews by internal Audit as and when appropriate. The quarterly performance reports to COMT and O & S and Cabinet now include a statement from the Head of Service confirming that the data has been collected in accordance with the appropriate Divisions' data measure templates	Accurate, consistent data	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	H of S requested to nominate an officer to undertake spot checks. The results to be included in the February quarterly performance reports. From Sept 09 all quarterly reports to COMT, Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet include a statement on the quality of the data from the appropriate Head of Service
Promote and demonstrate the principles and values of good governance	Demonstrating Outcomes from Partnership arrangements and their effectiveness	Use of Resources 2008/09	District Wide will contain articles on Partnership achievements	Residents and stakeholders aware of Partnership achievements	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	Articles were published in the winter 2008 edition of District Wide relating to LPSA partnership funding. Further articles relating to partnership achievements are planned for the January 2010 edition
Workforce planning	Long-term workforce planning linked to corporate and business planning	Use of Resources 2008/09	This is being addressed via the review of and delivery of the HR strategy.	Strategic approach to workforce planning	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	HR strategy to Employment Panel 9 th Dec. Implementation plan put into action from Jan 2010

CABINET

17TH DECEMBER 2009

ST NEOTS HEALTH CHECK (Report by Head of Planning Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In order to support the on-going growth and regeneration of St Neots a market town 'health check' was carried out by consultants between September 2008 and July 2009 in partnership with a stakeholder group formed from a variety of local organisations including the Town Council, Little Paxton Parish Council and others. The purpose of this report is to outline to Cabinet, its findings and a future programme of action.

2. SUPPORTING/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The 'health check' was commissioned by the Council in order to assist in the planning for the continued growth of the town and in particular with regard to the sustainable urban extension to the east of the town. A growth figure of approx 2200 homes and some 25ha of employment land, in addition to the Loves farm commitment of approximately 1400 homes, is anticipated to be developed up to 2026. Beyond 2026 and assuming necessary improvements are made to the A428, a further development around 1400 homes could be envisaged.
- 2.2 It was considered that such growth should be accommodated without detriment to existing communities but it was also important to ensure that the growth should also be a mechanism to provide additional infrastructure, community facilities and employment opportunities for the benefit of the existing population.
- 2.3 The health check process consisted of three distinct stages: establishing a stakeholder partnership group and compiling the health check; creating a vision and; preparing an action plan.
- 2.4 The process enabled a full assessment to take place in which the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities facing the town could be identified and an action plan produced so that any new growth can help in its implementation.
- 2.5 Three workshops were held with a wider stakeholder group during this process. The first was held shortly after the start of the project to test the emerging health check baseline exercise. The second workshop was to agree a vision and objectives for St Neots based on the outcomes of the health check exercise and the third workshop held at the end of the study agreed an action plan and who was to deliver it.

3. THE ACTION PLAN

3.1 The emerging 'action plan' set out in the final report is divided into four themes: economic and retail; environment; social, community, leisure, and transport.

3.2 Chapter 15 of the document attempts to summarise by highlighting some of the actions listed under the four themes representing the most significant of the perceived opportunities for St Neots. It provides a list of significant development sites which could deliver these projects and lists some of the key assets that are able to deliver the health check objectives. In addition it lists the key projects as follows:-

- improved secondary school provisions for existing and new communities
- the delivery of a new community hub in Eynesbury
- creation of Henbrook linear park
- delivering low carbon opportunities in new developments
- a bolstered retail offer at the eastern end of the High Street
- improvements to the Priory Quarter and Market Square
- improved river crossings
- consideration of interceptor car parks and a park and ride facility
- campaigning for an improved A428 and appropriate use of the existing road infrastructure

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The contents of the Health Check will:

- be of use in developing our ideas and a master plan for land east of railway
- act as the issues and options stage for the Area Action Plan (AAP) for the Town centre
- enable better prioritisation for sustainable travel initiatives
- be useful evidence for promoting the construction of an enhanced A428 in order to achieve the completion of the eco quarter and growth targets of Sub region

4.2 In addition the establishment of a partnership representing stakeholders will provide a means of engaging with local groups in the development of the master plan and the AAP as they progress through various stages towards approval.

5. RECOMMENDATION(S)

5.1 That Cabinet note the work undertaken to date with the production of the Health Check and the benefits of this exercise.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

St Neots Healthcheck stage 3 Final report

Contact Officer: **Richard Probyn**
 **01480 388430**

COMT
CABINET

8 December 2009
17 DECEMBER 2009

REVIEW OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PILOT PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

(Report by Head of Environmental & Community Health Services)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members about the nature and outcome of two participatory budgeting pilots run recently in Huntingdonshire; and to seek Members' views about the future contribution by Huntingdonshire District Council to any future participatory budgeting exercises within parts of the district.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government recently encouraged that all authorities should undertake some form of Participatory Budgeting (PB) by 2012. The essential uniqueness of PB is: it is about local people making the decisions about identified budgets (via public votes). This approach is believed to give people more of a direct 'stake' in local governance and increase levels of civic and community participation and action.
- 2.2 In order to test the approach Huntingdonshire District Council made £50,000 available, a similar amount was committed by Cambridgeshire County Council and Luminus Housing Association allocated £20,000 to provide funds for pilot exercises in both Huntingdon North and Eynesbury wards. The core amounts were increased by: a contribution from Youth Justice, who offered a further £5k to support projects related to young people; and the Children's Fund also provided £4k to assist with training costs for the residents working groups.
- 2.3 The Hunts North public decision-day took place on July 4th 2009 and the Eynesbury event took place on 3rd October 2009.

3. REVIEW OF THE PILOT IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- 3.1 A detailed evaluation of the Huntingdon North pilot has been produced and is available, but the general perception and consensus from all parties (including residents) is that the Huntingdon North ward pilot (branded 'Voice Your Choice') was a great success.
- 3.2 In the Huntingdon North ward, previous surveys in the area had identified local priorities that aligned with key public sector objectives for that community – these included for example: Community Safety/ASB, and Environment/Open Spaces.
- 3.3 To test that the suggestions were inline with the community's views the priorities were examined through a doorstep survey in the ward; as part of the lead-in to Voice Your Choice. The survey was carried out by the residents' working group. Questions were included in the survey which directly related to National Indicators that will be assessed in the Place Survey. This was to enable 'before and after' comparisons against these key performance areas.

250 households took part and the responses determined the allocation of the funds to priority themes:-

Tackling ASB,
Community Involvement and Social Inclusion,
Jobs, Skills and Training, and
Parks and Open Spaces.

- 3.4 The funds were allocated at a public meeting. The attendees were confirmed to be local residents. The audience received presentations from community groups and other bidders then voted for their preferred scheme(s). Allocation continued until the nominated funds were exhausted. A DVD/video of the event is available and a shorter version was posted on youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_tvb-V2wm4.

Subject: Review of Participatory Budgeting pilot projects undertaken in Huntingdonshire and recommendations for further development across District and County

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government's recent Community Empowerment directions included a requirement that all authorities undertake some form of PB by 2012. The essential point to grasp re the uniqueness of PB is that it is about local people making the decisions about identified budgets (via public votes). Unlike many other forms of engagement, this is felt to give people more of a direct 'stake' in local governance and increase levels of civic and community participation and action.
- 1.2 In order to test this Huntingdonshire District Council made £50,000 a similar amount was committed by Cambridgeshire County Council and Luminus Housing Association made available £20,000 to undertake a pilot exercise in Huntingdon North and Eynesbury wards. The above amounts were added to by Youth Justice who allocated a further £5k to support projects related to young people (the Children's Fund also provided £4k to assist with training costs for the residents working groups).
- 1.3 The Hunts North pilot public decision day took place on July 4th and the Eynesbury pilot will take place on 3rd October. A detailed evaluation of the Huntingdon North pilot has been produced and is available, but the general perception and consensus from all parties (including residents) is that the Huntingdon North ward pilot (branded 'Voice Your Choice') was a great success. A DVD/video of the event is available and a shorter version was posted on youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_tvb-V2wm4.
- 1.4 A summary of the key results from the Huntingdon North ward PB pilot exercise is provided at appendix A, but the key points are:-
- Relatively high levels of public engagement re comparative 'public meetings' (over 100 local residents of all ages in attendance, with 83 voting – all those over eight years old)
 - Value for money in investment of public money (with 27 community projects aligned to public sector priorities supported in the area – Appendix B)
 - Gains in terms of 'community spirit' (building social capital and community cohesion in an area considered as deprived)
 - Positive engagement / atmosphere contributing to the management / enhancement of reputation for all agencies involved
 - Increased potential for local neighbourhood management objectives (e.g. Neighbourhood Agreements in Hunts North now moving forward)
 - Strong indications that follow up PB exercises can and will increase all the above outputs.
- 1.5 In the meantime PB has been included in Cambridgeshire County Council's consultative draft Community Engagement Strategy and has been agreed by the all authority Stronger Officer Theme Group as one of five key priorities of the Cambridgeshire Together/LAA NI4 (involvement in decision making) delivery plan.

3.5 A summary of the key results from the Huntingdon North ward PB pilot exercise is provided at appendix A, but the key points are:-

- Relatively high levels of public engagement -over 100 local residents of all ages in attendance, with 83 voting – all those eligible over eight years old.
- Value for money - 27 community projects aligned to public sector priorities supported in the area (Appendix B)
- Improved 'community spirit' -building social capital and community cohesion
- Positive engagement - contributing to the management & enhancement of reputation for all agencies involved.
- Increased potential for local neighbourhood management objectives.

3.6 The evaluation so far suggests increased feelings of engagement have been generated by the process. However, the 'evaluation' is not complete as it is too early to measure how far the investment in the specific projects has contributed to resolving/addressing previously identified issues in the four theme areas. Ongoing monitoring will seek, over the next twelve months, to identify impacts of the spending.

4. POSSIBLE FUTURE FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

4.1 PB has been included in Cambridgeshire County Council's consultative draft Community Engagement Strategy. (This consultation is the subject of a report due to go to Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet on 17 December 2009). It has also been adopted by the Cambridgeshire Together 'Stronger' Officer Theme Group as one of five key priorities in their delivery plan; for Cambridgeshire Together to address a local area agreement priority [LAA NI4: involvement in decision making].

4.2 The pilot approach was focused on providing the community with decision-making opportunities for one-off ring-fenced funds. The County Council has postulated the idea of developing this approach further and is promoting the notion of developing civic engagement and demonstrable value for money in future by enabling community decisions about mainstream funding. The County Council is desirous of seeing this approach rolled out across Cambridgeshire.

5. THE THEORY BEHIND –PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

5.1 'Empowering communities to influence local decision making' was published by CLG on 1st June 2009. The research found, that out of six different empowerment mechanisms (petitions, redress, e-participation, asset transfer, participatory budgeting and citizen governance) only participatory budgeting and citizen governance demonstrated wider community empowerment.

5.2 The research undertaken by De Montford and Southampton Universities also indicated that PB was the only mechanism found to have potential to redistribute resources to those most in need. The empowerment benefits of PB were deemed to be:

- Building capacity of individuals in the complexities of public budget setting and political skills more generally
 - Enhanced impact on local decision making
 - Providing a better focus on issues of social exclusion and neighbourhood renewal, bringing clear benefits to the poorest neighbourhoods
 - Improving relations between citizen and council
 - Bringing diverse people together
 - Cost efficient improvements in service delivery
- 5.3 The County Research dept's recent work from Mosaic¹ and the Place survey shows that the least engaged communities in Cambridgeshire are also those who are most likely to be disadvantaged and living in more deprived areas. Affluent mosaic groups are more satisfied with their local area and also tend to be most involved in local decision making. Some residents feel they cannot influence local decision-making; this is especially true for group G, and to a lesser extent A, B, C, D, H & K.
- 5.4 'Low income families living in estate based social housing' (Mosaic group G) are 'significantly less likely' to be involved in regular volunteering, most likely to disagree that the Council provides value for money, and are most likely to feel they cannot influence decisions in their local area, (with 60% feeling that local public services do not promote the interests of local residents). It is these communities that suffer most from social exclusion and deep seated structural inequalities. Research suggests that dealing effectively with such difficulties is related to ensuring greater engagement and ownership within and from these communities.
- 5.5 It is in tackling social exclusion, deprivation, community empowerment and cohesion that the next phase of PB may be considered to be most appropriate. To most effectively achieve these benefits PB should seek to target identified localities.
- 6. POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**
- 6.1 It has been suggested opportunities could exist to explore potential application of other funding such as LAA funds, or relevant mainstream funds (e.g. the Youth Justice contribution) as is happening in some other parts of Cambridgeshire.
- 6.2 With the assistance of further research using Mosaic it could be possible to identify further areas in Huntingdonshire that are most in need and least engaged and thus may benefit from PB. Members will recall that the neighbourhood-management areas in Huntingdonshire have already been specifically designed to address issues in three areas that were identified as

¹ Mosaic Groups

- A. Career professionals living in sought after locations
- B. Younger families living in newer homes
- C. Older families living in suburbia
- D. Close-knit, inner city and manufacturing town communities
- E. Educated, young, single people living in areas of transient populations
- F. People living in social housing with uncertain employment in deprived areas
- G. Low income families living in estate based social housing
- H. Upwardly mobile families living in homes bought from social landlords
- I. Older people living in social housing with high care needs
- J. Independent older people with relatively active lifestyles
- K. People living in rural areas far from urbanisation

experiencing significant challenges or inequalities: Huntingdon North, Eynesbury and Ramsey.

- 6.3 The Neighbourhood Management scheme is itself a pilot-scheme which is currently restricted to three designated neighbourhoods. This restriction in numbers was due to constraints in resources available to manage/support community representatives and relevant service providers in establishing Management Boards. The Neighbourhood 'management support' is currently provided through: Huntingdonshire District Council in Ramsey; Cambridgeshire County Council in Huntingdon North and Luminus in Eynesbury.
- 6.3 It has been suggested that PB could be achieved through the five Neighbourhood Forums/Panels if support were lent to further develop those Neighbourhood Forums/Panels in Huntingdonshire. It has also been suggested that it is possible these forums could be venues where PB could be used to give local people a direct stake in allocating some identified local budgets. However, as currently constituted the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire are not decision-making bodies.
- 6.4 The terms of reference for Neighbourhood Forums/Panels in Huntingdonshire have only recently been agreed. The first full-year programme of Neighbourhood Forum meetings will not start until January 2010. It was envisaged that the first review would be conducted at the end of 2010. It may be premature to consider expanding the role of these meetings prior to the review when the effectiveness of these meetings can be evaluated.

7. FUNDING

- 7.1 Funding would need to be identified both: to provide money for allocating in identified areas; and to fund community development workers to implement the process.
- 7.2 The pilot in the Huntingdon North ward revealed 'overheads'. However, this was the first pilot and it needed swift expedition. Some of the main costs: i.e. training and marketing may be addressed using existing resources but a full costing exercise would be required to ensure that Huntingdonshire District Council, as a partner, had sufficient available funds and a willingness to divert some funds to this purpose.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Two participatory pilots have been run in Huntingdonshire in 2009 and the preliminary indications are that the process increased community engagement and cohesion for those that participated. The County Council have included participatory budgeting as a technique in their draft engagement strategy and there are signs that they would like to see this technique used in identified areas across the County, including Huntingdonshire. There are funding implications to this; not only providing funds to be allocated but also the cost of administering the progress and monitoring progress and outcomes. There are no specific funds currently allocated. The most obvious source of funding may be the Council's Capital Grant Aid budget this is not a substantial budget and the 2010-11 allocation is expected to be in the region of £69,000. If members agree to support PB any future support should be at a reduced level from that provided in the present financial year £50,000.

- 8.2 Huntingdonshire has three existing Neighbourhood Management areas and the PB pilot projects were located in two of these areas and proved popular. There are no plans for any expansion of Neighbourhood Management initiatives in the near future. The five Neighbourhood Forums/Panels in Huntingdonshire are new and expected to evolve over the coming year; and the process is not due for its first review until the end of 2010. It would at present be premature to consider expanding the role of the forum meetings at this stage to incorporate PB. Any change of role would require a fundamental change to the terms of reference for the forums.
- 8.3 Before the end of 2009/10 it is likely that Huntingdonshire District Council will be asked to clarify the District Council's commitment to a next phase of PB and to consider the proposals for a further phase of targeted PB (as outlined in this report).

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- 9.1 Note this report.
- 9.2 Indicate whether, in principle, they would wish to participate in participatory budgeting initiatives in one or more of the Neighbourhood Management areas in Huntingdonshire.
- 9.3 Indicate if they would wish officers to identify any potential areas from which to divert funding both for money to re-allocate locally and to support the allocation-process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cabinet Report: Neighbourhood Management 21-9-2006

Cabinet Report: Neighbourhood Management - Progress Report 1-2-2007

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

2000 Government White Paper- Communities in Control; real people, real power. (9 July 2008)

www.communities.gov

Contact Officer: Susan Lammin, Head of Environmental & Community Health Services
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APPENDIX A

Extract from Huntingdon North ward Voice Your Choice Evaluation (Key NI's)

Influencing decision-making

Before:

Doorstep Survey 39.3% of people definitely agreed or tended to agree they can influence decisions in their locality

After:

Decision Day 77.08% of people definitely agreed or tended to agree that they could influence decisions in their locality

94.44% of people definitely agreed or tended to agree that Voice Your Choice had given them more influence than before

66% said that they would like to be more involved in decisions affecting their local area (cf. National 26.6%)

87.93% of respondents said "I think Voice Your Choice should happen again"

Compare with:

Hunts Average 27.6% of people agree they can influence decisions in their locality

Cambs Average 31.2% of people agree they can influence decisions in their locality

National Average 28.9% of people agree they can influence decisions in their locality

Community Cohesion

Before:

Doorstep Survey 59.4% of people definitely agreed or tended to agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

After:

Decision Day 60.34% of respondents said "I see people in my community getting on well together"

Compare with:

Hunts Average 79.4% of people agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

Cambs Average 79.4% of people agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

National Average 76.4% of people agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together

Evaluation Statistics

58 people took part (compared to 83 voters)

What have been the best things about today?

86% of respondents said "I know more about local groups" (50 people)

71% of respondents said "I feel I can influence decisions in my area" (41 people)

41% of respondents said "I have been inspired to get involved in my community more regularly" (24 people)

60% of respondents said "I see people in my community getting on well together" (35 people)

28% of respondents chose all four options (16 people)

Which of these statements do you agree with?

59% of respondents said "I'm enjoying this event" (34 people)

67% of respondents said "I think the process is fair" (39 people)

74% of respondents said "I would tell other people about it" (43 people)

81% of respondents said "This is a good way of deciding how public money is spent" (47 people)

88% of respondents said "I think Voice Your Choice should happen again" (51 people)

41% of respondents chose all five options (24 people)

To what extent do you agree that you can influence decisions affecting your local area?

50.00% Definitely agree (24 people)

27.08% Tend to agree (13 people)

8.33% Tend to disagree (4 people)

6.25% Definitely disagree (3 people)

6.25% Don't know (3 people)

10 people did not answer this question. These were not counted as respondents for this question.

Generally speaking, would you like to be more involved in the decisions that affect your local area?

66% said "Yes" (33 people)

2% said "No" (1 person)

3% said "Depends on the issue" (15 people)

2% said "Don't know" (1 person)

8 people did not answer this question. These were not counted as respondents for this question.

To what extent do you agree that Voice Your Choice has given you *MORE* influence than before?

70.37% Definitely agree (38 people)

24.07% Tend to agree (13 people)

1.85% Tend to disagree (1 person)

0.00% Definitely disagree

3.70% Don't know (2 people)

Voice Your Choice: The Winning Groups- Huntingdon North

Theme: Anti Social Behaviour

- ◆ **St John's Eagles £3,010** to set up an after school netball club for children from 7-11 years old, including equipment, rent, coaching and kit
- ◆ **Cambs Police Boxing Club £3,010** to replace equipment such as head guards and gloves
- ◆ **Kanazawa Budo Club £1,510** for rent, equipment, insurance and teaching costs for Judo classes for victims of bullying
- ◆ **Street Sports £4,810** to pay for 2 workers, a level 1 coaching certificate, balls, football kit and after school astro turf hire
- ◆ **Blue Vision Twirling £3,010** for training and competition fees to give members the opportunity to compete in the UK Federation of Majorettes National Championship
- ◆ **Wendy Burke School of Dance £2,010** for costumes and rehearsal space costs for dance classes for young people

Theme: Community involvement and activities to bring people together

- ◆ **Moor Special Time £1,000** for specialist toys and messy play equipment and resources for families with children who have special needs
- ◆ **Friends of Thongsley £2,500** to improve their community room and kitchen facilities for learning, including baby changing facilities and toys
- ◆ **Moor Play £750** for more toys to enhance children's development and to bring together people from different backgrounds
- ◆ **BRJ Club £4,000** for baby changing units and football strips to bring people of different backgrounds together
- ◆ **Community Newsletter Association £1,000** for paper, ink and equipment maintenance to give residents a voice
- ◆ **Oxmoor Community Action Group £1,390** for admin and accountants fees, advertising and hire of equipment and staff
- ◆ **Care Network Cambridgeshire £585** for a development worker, venue hire and refreshments to help adults with disabilities and those who are vulnerable.
- ◆ **Huntingdonshire Community Group £583** for office rent, telephone and internet costs and Unity in the Community to celebrate different cultures
- ◆ **Moor Community Café £583** to provide a lounge area in the cafe

Theme: Jobs, Skills and Training

- ◆ **Friends of Thongsley £2,500** for food and activities for their breakfast club which provides childcare for working parents
- ◆ **St Johns Breakfast Club £2,500** for food for their breakfast club which provides safe childcare for working parents
- ◆ **Huntingdon District Sea Cadets £1,880** to buy a new pulling boat and to provide training opportunities for young people
- ◆ **St Barnabas Learning Centre £4,500** to provide people with access to computers, a tutor and paper/ink etc to prepare CV's and build confidence
- ◆ **Oxmoor Learning Champions £600** to enable volunteers to access IT, meeting space and print facilities at St Barnabas Learning Centre
- ◆ **Home-Start £500** for advertising, training and expenses for volunteers who can support teenage and young mums
- ◆ **Medway Craft Group £870** to hire the Medway Centre and buy sewing machines and craft materials
- ◆ **The UGA Hunts Group £870** for training individuals for new skills

Theme: Parks and Open Space

- ◆ **Huntingdon Allotments Association £2,000** to develop the demonstration plots at Sallowbush Road allotments
- ◆ **Youth Advisory Committee £5,000** for outdoor gym equipment outside Huntingdon Youth Centre
- ◆ **MUGA Mania £5,000** to help with funding for a multi-use games area (MUGA) which would be a safe environment for people to play
- ◆ **Oxmoor Community Action Group £530** to continue to provide free Coneygear Park firework display and enhance area with plants and trees

Voice Your Choice: The Winning Groups- Eynesbury

Theme: Community Empowerment £12,500

- ◆ **Eynesbury Friendship Club £ 1,400**
- ◆ **Eynesbury Village Association £ 6,000**
- ◆ **Hunts Mind £ 4,600**
- ◆ **Church Walk Day-centre £ 83**
- ◆ **Life After Debt £ 83**
- ◆ **Cambridgeshire Community Services £ 83**
- ◆ **Eynesbury Regeneration project £ 83**
- ◆ **Homestart West Cambs £ 83**

Theme: Reducing Crime and ASB £24,000

- ◆ **St Neots Holidays@home £ 7,500**
- ◆ **Equilibrium Dance Troupe £ 2,000**
- ◆ **Riverside Theatre Company £ 2,650**
- ◆ **SNAP £ 4,500**
- ◆ **St Neots Hockey Club £ 2,570**
- ◆ **Eynesbury Rovers FC £ 3,780**
- ◆ **Natural High £ 333**
- ◆ **Diamonite Twirlers £ 333**
- ◆ **St Neots Sentinels £ 333**

Theme: Education, skills + employment £ 8,500

- ◆ **Eynesbury C of E school £ 4,750**
- ◆ **St Neots Community archive £ 500**
- ◆ **Cambs Search + Rescue £ 2,500**
- ◆ **St Neots U3A £ 250**
- ◆ **Women's Institute £ 250**
- ◆ **Eynesbury Learning Partnership £ 250**

Theme: Enhancing the environment £ 25,000

- ◆ **Eynesbury Heritage Partnership £ 3,750**
- ◆ **St John Ambulance £ 7,000**
- ◆ **Green fingers £ 900**
- ◆ **St Neots Eco School College £ 7,000**
- ◆ **Samuel Peypes School £ 5,000**
- ◆ **St Neots in Bloom £ 675**
- ◆ **St Neots Angling Society £ 675**

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COMT
CABINET

8 December 2009
17 DECEMBER 2009

**SHAPING PLACES, SHAPING SERVICES CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
(Report by Heads Of Democratic & Central Services,
Environmental & Community Health Services and
People, Performance & Partnership Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to acquaint Members with those elements of Cambridgeshire County Council's proposed approach to Community Engagement that may impact on the residents of Huntingdonshire and/or Huntingdonshire District Council and to afford the opportunity for Members to feedback any views to the County Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed engagement strategy and action plan is currently being circulated to attract consultation responses. However, the document is due to be considered by Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet on 16 December 2009. The relevant County Council Officers have been advised that this report will be considered by this Cabinet the next day and alerted to the possibility of late feedback.
- 2.2 The aim of the community engagement strategy is to increase the potential for local people influence the development of their communities and the services provided; in line with the 2008 White Paper: Communities in Control.
- 2.3 Attached to this report, at Appendix 'A', is the 'Shaping places, Shaping services' consultation-draft document and, at Appendix 'B', the Community Engagement Strategy Draft Action Plan, which sets out the objectives, activities, timeframe and tasks that will be required to implement the strategy.
- 2.4 The 'Shaping places, Shaping services' consultation draft document is expounds general principles which officers consider are unlikely to conflict with current or future practice. However some of the proposals contained within the proposed action plan would be contrary to the district council's current policies and procedures and could have a financial impact on this authority.

3. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CONSULTATION EVENTS

- 3.1 Officers consider that a number of activities and tasks outlined in the action plan lack clarity and fail identify fully the actions and resources needed, from organisations other than the County Council, to address the objectives set out in the action plan. There are six specific areas that may need detailed consideration by this authority. These are set out below and the numbering is linked to that set out in Appendix 'B':-

(Note: the numbering in this table reflects the numbering in the action plan)

1.2 Comment :	Point 4: "Focus on Fenland given the place survey results" - This proposal has the potential to see a reduction in County Council resources for Huntingdonshire residents.
3.1 Comment :	Point 1: "Establish Parish Charter between three tiers of local government" It is not clear within the action plan how these charters will be established so there is no direct obligation on HDC stated however not all parishes are affiliated to CPALC so there may be potential implications for HDC who might be expected to undertake development of the charter locally.
3.2 Comment:	Point 1: "Hard data – informing members of ward, District and County information" There is a potential for inequality of access to information between Members of Huntingdonshire District Council; between those who are also County Council Members and those who are not.
4.1 Comment:	Roll out Participatory Budgeting across the county (subject to the review of pilot projects undertaken in Huntingdonshire) Point 3: Implement roll-out across the county It is not clear within the action plan how this roll-out will be achieved or who will provide the funding. There may be an expectation that District council's, including Huntingdonshire, will financially support the roll out of PB. [Huntingdonshire District Council's Cabinet has not yet had the opportunity to debate the issue of their preferred role in any Participatory Budgeting in Huntingdonshire, a report goes to Cabinet 17 December 2009]
4.3 Comment:	It is proposed to "deliver a pilot project in East Cambridgeshire focusing on developing Neighbourhood Panels (Forums in Huntingdonshire) through linking them to Parish Planning and Participatory Budgeting" If this approach was to be adopted it would be contrary to the current terms of reference only recently agreed for Neighbourhood Forums are operated in Huntingdonshire. Participatory Budgeting by its nature is a decision-making process and the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire are currently open forums for the public to offer comment, to a range of representatives from public services, on both their neighbourhoods and the services offered – they are not currently designed as decision-making bodies.
4.5 Comment:	Point 1: All locality managers (OCYPS) to establish mechanisms to enable young people to be involved/influence decisions at Neighbourhood Panels (Forums) The mechanisms envisaged are not detailed in the plan. There may be a potential for a conflicting approach. In Huntingdonshire we are beginning to explore parallel consultation methods for children and young people as we are advised, by experts in the subject, that the Neighbourhood Forums may be too daunting to allow proper engagement by children or young people in that setting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the comments on the consultation document set out in section 3 of this report and comment on any matters that they would wish to have fed back to Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to their proposed engagement strategy and action plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
2000 Government White Paper- Communities in Control; real people, real power.
(9 July 2008) www.communities.gov

Contact Officer: Dan Smith, Community Manager
☎ 01480 388377

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Community Engagement Strategy Draft Action Plan

1 Keeping communities informed					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
1.1 NI 4	Ensure communities have easy access to information and opportunities to discuss local priorities via IT	Develop web-based tools for discussion and deliberation of issues affecting local communities (possibly to include e-petitioning)	By Jan 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit of Spirit of Democracy bid. 2. Implement the Spirit of Democracy project. 3. Investigate options for and implement an e-petitioning tool 4. Conduct e-based questionnaires with business representative organisations eg Chamber of Commerce, Cambridge Network 5. Ensure we are actively tackling digital inclusion issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Director, Customer Service and Transformation
1.2 NI 4	Deliver information to citizens in an accessible and timely manner	Develop a Corporate Communications Strategy that embeds the principles of community engagement and cohesion within communication processes across the organisation	By Dec 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicise the Corporate Communications Strategy 2. Strategy activities to be split into service areas, links with Big Plan 2 etc. 3. Promote accessible options for reading publications (different formats/languages) 4. Focus on Fenland, given the Place Survey results. 5. Strategy to acknowledge the need for business engagement 6. Ensure council services are aware of and use existing community and service user groups and take issues/policies/consultations to these groups rather than setting up new ones. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Director, Customer Service and Transformation • Head of Communications
1.3 NI 1	Make sure Cambridgeshire's communities are more aware of and comfortable with the diversity of the county	Promote positive perceptions of the diverse communities of Cambridgeshire	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote positive perceptions of young people 2. Promote positive perceptions of adult client groups 3. Promote positive perceptions of BME groups 4. Photo bank is increased to include a greater range of diverse groups of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Communications

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1.4 NI 4	Be smarter about consultation	Refresh and relaunch the consultation database and toolkit including an internal self-service facility for reference to prevent the same groups being consulted	By Dec 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a facility that services are able to use themselves 2. Develop a facility for the public to use to access information on current/planned consultations 3. Build up content on existing linked web pages 4. Refresh Toolkit and consider other ways of doing this i.e. surveys, focus groups 5. Include in the Consultation Toolkit guidance on consistent standards for working with communities to inform/influence the shape of services: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure appropriate information is stored i.e. names and addresses b) Ensure usability and consistency of form c) Ensure consistent format of surveys d) Feedback on complaints (i.e. people who can/can't use surveys, quality of services) e) Ensure questions are appropriately worded to prevent surveys prompting people to answer in a certain way f) Ensure the toolkit is developed in an inclusive way which links to the Compact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Research and Financial Strategy
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2 Supporting people to be involved in their local communities					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
2.1 NI 7	Support communities to achieve their potential through a strong and thriving Third Sector	Develop a Third Sector Strategy for Cambridgeshire	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the VCS infrastructure 2. Increase the opportunities for the VCS to engage at a strategic level (e.g. in the LAA). 3. Provide development support to organisations regarding commissioning and contracts. 4. Deliver COMPACT. 5. Develop an approach for commissioning that values work of smaller groups. 6. Work jointly with CVSIC on the development of the strategy. 7. Ensure that the Strategy sets out the contractual relationship services have with the Third Sector (e.g. Adult Services) and defines and values the Third Sector as a business partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Community Development • Service Director, Community Learning and Development • Service Director, Community Development (Fenland) •

2.2 NI 1 NI 4 NI 5 NI 7	Provide improved services and more opportunities for local people to influence decision making in localities	Support neighbourhood management/community development work within the county's most deprived areas and within other pockets of deprivation contained without more affluent areas	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Neighbourhood boards 2. Produce Neighbourhood Plans and link to Neighbourhood Panels 3. Pilot Neighbourhood charters in Huntingdonshire 4. Develop stronger links with the work of the Districts in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Community Development
2.3 NI 4 NI 7	Strengthen communities through their being in control of community assets	Develop and improve systems for the transfer of assets to communities	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revise the current protocol to bring it up to date (Estates and CD). 2. Review the impact of implementation with specific reference to Third Sector capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Strategy and Estates • Head of Community Development
2.4 NI 4 NI 7	Enable more people in receipt of Adult Social Care Services to be involved in their communities	Increase service providers' awareness of support services available in the community	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the development of the Opportunities Trust (a multi-agency group providing support and activities to people with disabilities and impairments in Cambridgeshire). 2. Support user-led groups to identify users' voices and help them to be heard. 3. Improve the consistency of support offered to provider services and user-led groups across Adult and Children's Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Adult Support Services • Service Director, Children's Social Care
2.5 NI 4	Enable service users to have more choice and control Ensure communities are more responsive to people in their communities	Work with service providers and community groups to provide ongoing consultation and participation opportunities (following the consultation on the Transforming Adult Social Care Strategy)	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with formal and informal community groups, and the Districts, to enable supportive and responsive communities. 2. Promote the informal infrastructures in communities to support people to stay safely in their own homes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Community and Adult Services

3 Promoting local democracy					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
3.1 NI 4 NI 7	Build stronger communities through stronger and more effective first tier local government	Support and strengthen Parish Councils in Cambridgeshire	By Dec 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish Parish Charter between three tiers of local government 2. Support 15% of Parish Councils to become Quality Parish Councils 3. Identify the potential for employing a rural officer to link to Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Community Development • CPALC

3.2 NI 4	Equip members with what they need to know	Provide a comprehensive member development programme for existing Councillors	By Dec 2009	Provide: 1. Hard data - informing members of Ward, District and County information 2. Soft data - community feedback through the Neighbourhood Panel process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O D & L Manager • Head of Research & Financial Strategy • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)
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4 Supporting community involvement in shaping places					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
4.1 NI 4 NI 5	Increase community engagement	Roll out Participatory Budgeting across the county (subject to the review of the pilots in Hunts)	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report to cabinet on the Participatory Budgeting Pilots in Hunts. 2. Implement the findings from this review. 3. Implement roll-out across the county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland) • Head of Community Development
4.2 NI 7 NI 4	Have more parishes and neighbourhoods with parish/community plans	Commission the Voluntary and Community Sector to support communities to develop parish/community plans	By Dec 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase number of Parish Plans completed across the County to 24 2. Link parish and community planning to neighbourhood panels 3. Introduce a programme of feedback as to actions delivered against Parish Plans 4. Ensure cohesive links to LSPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Community and Adult Services
4.3 NI 1 NI 4 NI 7	Strengthen and develop the role of the neighbourhood panels	Deliver a pilot in East Cambs focussing on developing Neighbourhood Panels through linking them to Parish Planning and Participatory Budgeting	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop project plan 2. Set up Project Board 3. Complete pilot 4. Develop explicit links between Neighbourhood Panels, Parish Councils and Local Strategic Partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)
4.4 NI 4	Enable communities to influence policy-making	Establish a network of panels to enable local people to influence policy-making and link to the democratic process	By Aug 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure the Young People's Assembly to meet full Council once per year 2. Establish a Business Panel with reference to existing groups and link into existing democratic processes (via GCP's Business Forum) 3. Establish a BME Panel and link into existing democratic processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)

4.5 NI 1 NI 4	Involve young people in decision-making and in shaping places in their localities	Make sure young people's views influence decision-making at neighbourhood panels in each community and across the county	By Dec 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All locality managers to have established mechanisms to enable young people to be involved/influence decisions at Neighbourhood Panels. 2. All locality managers to have established mechanisms to ensure young people have the opportunity to feed thematic priorities raised via Neighbourhood Panel interaction into the Countywide Youth Assembly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Children's Enhanced and Preventative Services • Area Managers, Localities and Partnerships CYPS
4.6 NI 4	Support rural communities so their voice are heard and listened to	Develop and implement a rural strategy	By Oct 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the development of a Rural Strategy (via Cambridgeshire ACRE) which sets out a model to enable rural communities to have a voice 2. Implement Rural Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)
4.7 NI 1	Have greater involvement of vulnerable people in shaping their local places	Implement initiative to support vulnerable people to feel safe and able to contribute to community life and ensure such initiatives are sustainable thus enabling communities to continue the work after officers have withdrawn from the initiatives	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate the potential for bringing in the community to projects across the Council. 2. Extend the Community Alcohol Project. 3. Implement and review the Young People and Alcohol initiative (LPSA funded). 4. Implement and review the Young People and tobacco initiative (LPSA funded). 5. Promote initiatives which see the Business Sector as part of the solution. 6. Promote the Home Shield initiative to provide a real opportunity to join up services. 7. Promote floating support for Domestic Violence victims. 8. Promote awareness of Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SOVA). 9. Ensure that people with learning disabilities understand abuse and safety issues by working with Social Training Enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Trading Standards • Supporting People Manager • Service Director, Adult Support Services • Adult Protection Coordinator
4.8 NI 4	Enable individual and communities to take local ownership of transport issues and solutions	Deliver more projects that develop local ownership of issues and solutions	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete and evaluate the Community Speedwatch pilots 2. Complete and evaluate the Lorry Watch pilot. 3. Implement the findings of the evaluation of the Highways pilot project of parish link officers, and, if successful, offer this scheme to all interested parishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Highways and Access

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5 Supporting community involvement in shaping services					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
5.1 NI 4	Provide a better way for young people and disabled people to communicate	Develop and use tools and techniques for engaging users so they can influence the design of web-delivered services as part of service transformation projects	By March 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate accessibility and usability, web channel methods and techniques, how functionality works on the website 2. Develop appropriate training for teams 3. Obtain relevant software tools 4. Improve processes 5. Recruit a list of citizens to call on for website testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web Development Manager, Direct Channel Strategy
5.2 NI 4	Involve service users and carers in recruiting people who will contribute to the delivery of services they receive	Promote the practice of including community representatives in recruitment processes across the Council following the existing models	By Dec 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current practice, where user/carer representatives are involved in interview processes, and what value this adds. 2. Ensure all relevant CYPS appointments have a young people's panel. 3. Ensure, where possible, Adult Support Services posts up to director level which directly impact on service users/carers will have such representatives on the interview panel. 4. Ensure other key posts across all service areas to work towards having appropriate representatives on the interview panels. 5. Ensure community representatives' time is recognised (through satisfactory ways of recompensing them) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services • Executive Director, Community and Adult Services
5.3 NI 4	Involve service users and family carers in tendering processes relating to the services they receive	Include service user representatives in all tendering processes across the Council	By Jan 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with procurement teams in ASS and CYPS to identify an effective model. 2. Run pilot. 3. Implement across the council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Adult Support Services • Service Director, Strategy and Commissioning CYPS
5.4 NI 4	Make sure service users have their voices heard	Increase support for advocacy services across Adult and Children's Services	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the provision of specialist advocacy support services (some groups of service users currently have no advocacy service). 2. Build a relationship with the network of advocacy services so that issues raised by the people they support can be aggregated by themes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Adult Support Services • Service Director, Children's Social Care

5.5 NI 4	Continue the implementation of self-directed support and personal budgets to meet eligible social care needs	Change the social care operating system to one that facilitates genuine levels of greater choice and control for service users and their families over how they choose to meet their social care needs	By March 2010	1. Work to a Board level agreed phased roll-out plan to achieve 35% uptake.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Adult Support Services • Service Director, Strategy and Commissioning CYPS
5.6 NI 4	Hear and listen to the voices of services users and family carers on the Transformation Strategy	Consult on the Transformation Strategy (the overarching strategy for Adult Social Care) thus fulfilling the Putting People First agenda	By Dec 2009	1. Conduct full consultation, analyse responses, and feedback results to service users and family carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Transformation, Adult Support Services
5.7 NI 4	Make sure more service users/carers feel they have a voice and are listened to	Support all social care-related partnership boards and "In Control Total" reference group to enable them to grow and progress in a way that is relevant to the people they are supporting	By Aug 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop consistent terms of reference for all social care related partnership boards and the 'in Control Total' reference group. 3. Implement clear reporting and decision-making arrangements for them. 4. Explore whether an equivalent partnership board exists for Mental Health, and, if there is none, explore how to support the creation of such a group. 5. Establish clear networking arrangements between the groups through the development of a Chairs Network. 6. Develop a consistent approach for working with partners in the Districts etc. and clear arrangements for liaison with District Groups, where they exist. 7. Conduct a mapping exercise to establish which groups have user/carer representatives on them, and to clarify what those groups without such representatives are doing to ensure service user/carer involvement/input. 8. Develop a central role in strategic planning for the partnership boards. 9. Develop a Participation Strategy for Adult Support Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Community and Adult Services • Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services

5.8 NI 4	Make sure more children and young people, and their parents/carers, who are in receipt of our services feel they have a voice and are listened to	Support children, young people and their parents/carers to have a voice in the development of Children and Young People's Services	By March 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend the role of the voluntary organisation PinPoint to support parents/carers in developing and shaping local service provision for children and young people with disabilities 2. Commission the voluntary organisation Speaking Up to support young people to be involved in commissioning arrangements and assessing providers' participation arrangements 3. Support the project VoiCes to develop the voice of the voluntary sector. 4. Encourage the work of Papworth Trust to bring together disabled and non-disabled children to say what they want. <p>All of the above projects contribute to the Aiming High objectives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Children and Young People's Services
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6 Improving our understanding of how our communities work					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
6.1 NI 4	Improve engagement between partners, directorates and services	Develop stakeholder forums to enable officers across services and partner organisations to share local/community knowledge	By Aug 2010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop pilot process by both theme and locality to evaluate how this might work in the future 2. Maintain and develop the Migrant Workers and Race and Asylum Seekers Network 3. Maintain and develop the Travellers Liaison Group 4. Develop and support a Faith Network, in liaison with the District Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)
6.2 NI 4	Equip officers to work with communities	Develop a training programme for officers to develop their skills to engage with our communities	By Oct 2009	<p>Training programme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Communication skills □ Community Development skills <p>Training programme to draw on models of good practice i.e. Community in Context</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational Development and Learning Manager
6.3 NI 4	Deliver services according to local need	Gather and use local knowledge to plan services that fit with local needs through use of Customer Insight, Community Profiles etc	By March 2011	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Map Place Survey to Mosaic 2. Target campaigning accordingly 3. Ensure there is a local focus 4. Link to Participatory Budgeting initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Research and Financial Strategy

7 Coordinating our community engagement activity					
No & NI	Objective Our objective is to:	Activities To achieve our objective we will:	Target Date	This will require us to:	Lead Officer
7.1 NI 1 NI 4 NI 7	Acquire a better shared knowledge of our communities, along with our partners Minimise duplication of publications, consultations and activities	Work in partnership internally and externally to: 1. Share knowledge and good practice 2. Deliver joined-up effective publications, consultations and activities	By March 2011	1. Develop a joint event calendar joining up activities and events from partners and CCC which is accessible to all 2. Map what we are trying to join up - both CCC and external 3. Scope the work 4. Hold a joint event with our partners to promote 'event calendar' 5. Co-ordinate service providers to avoid duplication 6. Develop an effective Stronger Communities Officer Group 7. Map and coordinate business consultation across the council, and share best practice in relation to engaging businesses	• Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)
7.2 NI 1 NI 4 NI 7	Measure and report on outcomes of the Community Engagement Strategy	Develop a performance monitoring framework for monitoring the strategy and measuring the outcomes of this action plan	By March 2010	Develop and implement a performance framework.	• Service Director, Community Engagement (Fenland)

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Shaping places, shaping services

Cambridgeshire County Council's approach to community engagement

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Consultation Draft

1.0 Introduction

This strategy supports the County Council's vision for Cambridgeshire of creating communities where people want to live and work now and in the future.

It has been developed through consultation with our councillors, officers from across the Council's services and our partners, and is supported by a plan of action. It is part of a wider strand of work which will be developed over the coming year to ensure that we are supporting our communities to be as active, inclusive and cohesive as possible. This work will be defined in an overarching Community Cohesion Strategy.

Increasing the potential for local people to influence the development of their communities and the services provided in their area is a clear priority for central Government. Key themes of the 2008 White Paper *Communities in Control* include:

- **Promoting local democracy, by increasing understanding of the democratic process and the role of Councillors**
- **Promoting local accountability, developing mechanisms for local people to be able to raise issues with their local council**
- **Supporting local people to take a more active role in decision-making about local services**
- **Supporting local people to become more actively involved in their local area.**

2.0 What is the aim of this strategy?

This strategy aims to create stronger and more cohesive communities supported by responsive and enabling local authorities.

Our vision is for all people in Cambridgeshire to feel informed and have the skills and confidence to take part in decision-making. We want people to believe they belong to a community. We want communities to be able to shape their local area and the services they receive, whether they live in a rural community, a market town or in our cities.

We want everyone in our communities to have access to opportunities to engage in a way that suits them and meets their own needs. In developing our strategy, we have considered the needs of different groups and will ensure that the services we deliver do not discriminate in any way and that there is equality of access for all. We want our services and community engagement activity to be fair to all, but personal to each.

In achieving this vision, we believe the quality of life of the people who live and work in or visit Cambridgeshire will be improved across the county.



Cambridge Market Place

3.0 Why is community engagement important?

Local authorities are here to serve local people. Engaging communities should be an integral part of the way the County Council operates on a day-to-day basis. To provide services effectively, we have to know what local people want. Effective engagement with our communities therefore means better local government, and a better served local community. Benefits include:

- **Ensuring more efficient and effective services that better reflect the needs of local people**
- **Higher levels of customer satisfaction**
- **Safer, stronger and more inclusive communities**
- **Greater numbers of people feeling they can influence decisions in their local area**



Wisbech Market Place

4.0 What do we mean by community engagement?

Community engagement can mean different things to different people, different communities, and different councils. Community engagement is often described as the process of involving people in decisions that affect them. This can mean involving communities in the planning, development and management of services. Or, it may be about tackling the problems of a neighbourhood, such as crime, drug misuse or lack of play facilities for children.

There are a number of different ways of engaging people; these can be illustrated as a 'ladder' of participation:

Empowering	Supporting the local community to take action on its own & develop and implement its own plans
Involving	Deciding together and acting together with the local community
Consulting	Asking people what they think so that decision-makers can make better decisions
Informing	Giving people knowledge so that they can be informed

Every type of involvement is important and different methods will be used depending on circumstances - our aim is to move more towards involving and empowering communities wherever this activity will make improvements to places and services.

5.0 Where are we now?

In Cambridgeshire, community engagement is about making sure that there are opportunities for local people to get involved in ways which suit them. Below are some examples of what we are currently doing across the Council to ensure that communities are able to participate at various levels to influence service delivery, decision-making and change in their local area.

Informing

We publish a range of newsletters and leaflets to keep communities informed about our services, including 'Your Cambridgeshire', the County-wide magazine delivered to all households across the County. The Council's website also provides a wide range of information about all of our customer-facing services, highlighting the services on offer and providing links to useful information such as bus timetables and booking appointments with the Registration service. We have also recently re-launched a website to provide residents and communities in Cambridgeshire with easy online access to local information and services: www.cambridgeshire.net

We advertise services on our buses and the local radio, and issue regular information about road works through the web. Our Trading Standards team can often be seen out and about carrying out regular leaflet campaigns on topics such as how to avoid rogue traders at Christmas; while our Waste team run 'slim your bin' campaigns.



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Consulting

We regularly consult communities across Cambridgeshire using a range of approaches. We have held a number of community consultation events based in the heart of local communities and in partnership with other services such as the Police, in the market squares of our towns and the cities.

One particular example of a plan we have consulted on is the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Big Plan. In 2005/06, 1800 young people were consulted, through groups focusing on children and young people with particular needs as well as countywide focus groups open to all children and young people. Families were also engaged through work in schools, web consultation and consultation documents in GP surgeries. When recently updating the Big Plan in 2009, the views of children and young people were used through ongoing participation work such as Agenda Days and Kids Aloud groups as well as through survey work and talking to the Youth Assembly.

Involving/ Participating

We work with neighbourhood management areas in Oxmoor (Huntingdon North), Eynesbury, Ramsey, Wisbech and surrounding areas. These programmes bring a wide range of partners together to work with local communities to identify and respond to the major issues in the area. The benefits of this work are huge - in Huntingdon North, results from the Household Survey tell us that residents feel the area is improving, and national data reveals that the area is less deprived than it was at the start of the neighbourhood management initiative.

We also work in partnership with colleagues in the Police and District Councils to deliver 29 Neighbourhood Panels operating across the county. We want to develop these so that they can further involve local people in raising and addressing local needs. Our parishes are increasingly developing parish plans which set out their vision for their community, and we are looking at ways of taking these parish plans into account in our planning processes. Other ways of involving people in decision-making include Youth Panels, where young people have a say in how funding is allocated to youth projects.



Empowering

In Huntingdonshire, we are carrying out two Participatory Budgeting Pilots which will involve the local community directly in making decision to fund local projects that meet their local objectives. We are also enabling young people to have the opportunity to choose which positive activities to spend their funding on through the pilot G2G card scheme.

We are developing opportunities for adults and children who need support to choose and design their own, individualised services. Using Personal Budgets, people are creating personalised packages of support that promote their independence; enable them to engage in meaningful activities; enable them to remain in their own homes as long as possible and to be active citizens within the community.

An example of an individual being 'empowered' to take control of a service they receive is set out below:

Case Study - In Control Total

Dev is a young man with learning disability who lives at home with his family. He has had a personal budget to spend on social care support for a year. Before receiving his personal budget Dev did not go out, did not take part in any activities and felt very low. He lacked self-confidence and self esteem, and his family life was being affected.

Dev's sister manages his personal budget which she says has changed the whole family's lives in a positive way: *'Dev now goes out horse riding, swimming and for regular walks. He also goes out with support from agency workers and this has helped improve his confidence and enabled him to do things without his family. In turn this has helped the family unit to be sustained and improved things for the family as well as Dev.'*

In future Dev would like to continue to do the activities he now enjoys, but also plans to try and experience new things. His support plan plans to use some of his personal budget to buy a computer for Dev to use at home to help his communication. Dev's family believe that a personal budget has been a fantastic move for him and has improved his quality of life immensely.



6.0 What are our priorities?

Working in partnership with Cambridgeshire Together, we have jointly agreed three priorities to focus on over the following years. These priorities are to:

- Increase the percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together
- Increase the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- Increase overall/general satisfaction with the local area

7.0 What are our objectives?

What we will do

1. Keep communities informed
2. Support people to be involved in their local communities
3. Promote local democracy
4. Support community involvement in shaping places
5. Support community involvement in shaping services

How we will do it

6. Improve our understanding of how our communities work
7. Coordinate our community engagement activity

8.0 What difference will this make?

We will know we have made a difference when any member of our community can say the following things:

“I know what’s happening in my local area and where to go if I want more information.”



“I feel like my view can make a difference and things can change as a result.”



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“I’ve got everything I need to get involved in my community.”



We will also know we’ve been successful when any of our councillors or officers can say:

“Because we have such a strong understanding of our communities, the services we deliver genuinely meet people’s needs.”



9.0 How will we achieve our objectives?

An action plan has been developed which sets out how we will achieve these objectives and is available on request. Below are our priorities for each objective which will form the core of the action plan.

Objective 1 - Keeping communities informed

We will:

- Work to understand the information needs of people who live and work in or visit the County so that we provide the right information in the most accessible way and at the right time.
- Test the effectiveness of the communication methods we currently use and explore ways of using new web technologies to reach out to communities who are at ease in this medium, such as younger people, and those who may prefer to make their views known through 'virtual' communication rather than through attending meetings.
- Be clear about the purpose of communication and ensure that we feed back the results of consultation to communities.

Objective 2 - Supporting people to be involved in their local communities

We will:

- Work with and support our partners, particularly the Voluntary and Community Sector, to promote opportunities for involvement and volunteering in local areas.
- Promote the health improving, crime reducing and social well being effects of active communities in areas of greatest need

- Work with communities to ensure that those with social care needs are able to take a full part in community life.

Objective 3 - Promoting local democracy

We will:

- Develop ways to help our local communities understand local democratic processes more thoroughly, so that they understand what councillors do and the impact they can have.
- Encourage people to seek office and take part in local democracy at all levels.
- Support and make greater use of existing local government structures such as Parish Councils
- Support all of our councillors through a comprehensive councillor development programme to help them in their frontline community leadership role, to make themselves more visible in their local areas, and to further develop the skills they need to lead and to serve their communities fully.



Lode waterway

Objective 4 - Supporting community involvement in shaping places

We will:

- Ensure that relationships are built on the ground, face-to-face, between community groups and people living in the area as well as with councillors and officers from a range of organisations.
- Continue to invest in community development activities to help build the capacity of our communities so that they can release their own potential and engage fully in the opportunities available within their area.
- Develop our approach to neighbourhood management and neighbourhood panels by supporting parishes and neighbourhoods to develop their own plans, and agreeing with them how the Council could support them to deliver the actions they identify.
- Support Parish and Town Councils to become more representative of the communities that they serve.
- Provide opportunities for our communities to influence the spending of public money to improve their local areas, and investigate the potential for some communities to have control over specific budgets to deliver projects that meet their priorities.
- Work closely to support a thriving local Voluntary and Community Sector and ensure that the Voluntary and Community Sector perspective is represented at strategic decision-making levels. We remain committed to our Compact agreement to joint working with the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Objective 5 - Supporting community involvement in shaping services

We will:

- Ask people's views of their services through consultation, listen to those views and respond to them, whether it is to say that we can do what they ask, or are not able to, and if not, why not.
- Take a more active role in working with individuals and communities to decide which organisation is best placed to provide services for individuals, such as, for example, giving vulnerable adults more assistance to live independently.
- Strengthen our internal planning processes so that issues raised by the community make a real difference to the ways that we plan and deliver services.
- Make sure that we feed back the results on any involvement in developing our services so that people understand what difference their input has made.
- Give people an opportunity to have their say about whether what we've done has really made a difference to them, or whether there is further work we need to do.



Council Chamber, Shire Hall

Objective 6 - Improving our understanding of how our communities work

We will:

- Build on our existing knowledge of our communities through pulling together a range of data from sources including customer feedback systems, research, and the knowledge of our Councillors and officers working in the community, to build a 'map' of communities' needs.
- Ensure that we work with and understand the needs of underrepresented groups such as travellers, new arrivals and the minority and 'hard to hear' groups.
- Conduct regular surveys both to develop our understanding of our communities, and to track our performance in meeting targets for improving local people's satisfaction with Cambridgeshire as a place to live and work.

Objective 7 - Coordinating our community engagement activity

We will:

- Better support, coordinate and promote the community engagement work already underway across the county.
- Share best practice and promote opportunities for joint-working with partners, so that we do not 'over-consult' communities.
- Develop training and guidelines for all officers involved in community engagement activity.

10. How will we measure our achievements?

We will manage, monitor and report on the delivery of the action plan we have developed to support this strategy, which is available to download from

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/communityengagementconsultation

We will also use our residents' survey to measure the achievement of our Cambridgeshire Together Local Area Agreement partnership priorities set out in section 6.

Our overall progress and efforts to strengthen our partnership work will be tested through external inspection mechanisms such as the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

The results of these assessments will be publicised widely to Councillors, partners and the public and our strategy will be reviewed and updated within this context. This will enable us to ensure that we effectively and flexibly respond to the changing needs of our communities over the coming years.



The Dog and Duck, Linton

Glossary

Community Engagement

- Means interaction between the Council and the local community, including individuals and groups in Cambridgeshire.

Community

- A term used to describe communities of place, communities of identity and communities of interest.

People can be members of several different kinds of community for different reasons:

- They may identify with the local area they live in when they are concerned with neighbours, housing and local services
- Their networks of friendship, family, identity, culture, faith, ethnicity, political commitment, colleagues or leisure interests may be rooted in their local area but equally may be spread across large areas.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

- A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three year agreement between Central Government and a local area. The primary objective of an LAA is to set out the key priorities for the area and deliver better outcomes for local people.

Cambridgeshire Together

- Cambridgeshire's LAA partnership is called Cambridgeshire Together. The Cambridgeshire Together Board is made up of a number of representatives including members of the County Council, the District and City Councils, the Police Authority, the Health Authority, the Fire Service, the Voluntary and Community Sector, and the Business Sector.

Comprehensive Area Agreement (CAA)

- Comprehensive Area Assessment is an independent inspection made up of seven inspectorates:
 - Audit Commission
 - Commission for Social Care Inspection
 - Healthcare Commission
 - HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
 - HM Inspectorate of Prisons
 - HM Inspectorate of Probation
 - Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

Through CAA, these inspectorates will make a joint assessment of how well local authorities and other public sector organisations are influencing the outcomes for people in local areas and the future prospects of

sustainable improvement for those areas.

Compact Agreement

The Cambridgeshire Compact is a public statement of how the County Council and other statutory partners will work with the voluntary and community sector. It helps to ensure the establishment and development of stronger links between the voluntary sector and Council business.

In Control Total / Personal Budgets

- 'In Control Total' is a project for all adults living in Cambridgeshire who are eligible to receive social care support. It gives people who are eligible for support the opportunity to identify their own needs and plan how to meet them using a Personal Budget – a clear upfront allocation of funding.

Kids Aloud

- Kids Aloud is made up of four groups of young people aged between 5 and 11 who meet monthly to talk about issues that they feel are important to young people, and make sure the views of young people across Cambridgeshire are heard by County Councillors and council officers.

Neighbourhood Management

- Neighbourhood management is a way for communities within specific deprived neighbourhoods to work with local agencies to improve and have more say over their services at a local level.

Neighbourhood Panels

- Neighbourhood Panels are multi-agency public meetings, taking place in local areas across Cambridgeshire. County Councillors and officers attend the meetings. The aim of panels is to give local people the opportunity to influence the services they receive and to empower them to contribute to the development of their local community.

Participatory Budgeting

- Participatory budgeting (PB) directly involves local people in making decision on the priorities and spending for a defined public budget. This means engaging residents and community groups representative of all parts of the community to discuss and vote on spending priorities, make spending proposals, and vote on them, as well as giving local people a role in the scrutiny and monitoring of the process.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1 December 2009

CABINET

17 December 2009

**AGEING WELL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE –
OLDER PEOPLES’ HOUSING STRATEGY
(Report by the Head of Housing Services)**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the draft Older Peoples’ Housing Strategy titled ‘Ageing Well in Huntingdonshire: Housing and Healthy Ageing for Older People’.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire has an ageing population. The 65+ age group in Huntingdonshire is due to increase by 59% (13,700 people) between 2007 and 2021 – higher than the county average (58%) and higher than the national average (33%)¹. People are living for longer and are getting frailer. Rates of dementia are on the increase. Half of people aged over 65 live alone and this increases in later age groups. The ratio of people aged 65+ to those aged 0-64 is due to increase. This presents challenges for future workforce planning as there will be less people of employment age available to care for, and pay the taxes to support the ageing population. This is a sector that already struggles to recruit and retain staff.
- 2.2 This demographic profile has long-term planning and resource implications for the Council, in its role as the strategic and enabling housing authority, and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in their provision of health and social care services. A joint strategy has been prepared that examines the issues and sets out the housing and related services that Huntingdonshire District Council and partners can deliver to support NHS Cambridgeshire in promoting healthy ageing and improving the quality of life for older people.
- 2.3 The draft Strategy has been the subject of extensive consultation with partners. A copy was placed on the front of the Council’s web site and press releases were issued to alert the public to the opportunity to contribute to the strategy process. A double-page article featured in the local paper, the Hunts Post on 12 August 2009. The consultation was open for 12 weeks in line with the Compact Agreement for working with Voluntary Organisations in Cambridgeshire. A questionnaire asking for people’s feedback and views on specific areas of the strategy was sent out with a pre-paid reply envelope to encourage feedback. 37 questionnaires were

¹ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group website
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/population/population/Researchgrouppopulationestimates.htm>

received by post. A further 5 responses were received via the web site; 1 phone call; and a further 3 written responses were received (no questionnaire).

- 98% of respondents agreed that the priorities set out in this document are the correct ones.
- 92% agreed that extra care should take priority over the development of sheltered housing.
- 94% of respondents think that extra care should be focussed on the larger settlements.
- 89% of respondents agreed that extra care should include a % of leasehold to enable home ownership.
- 95% of respondents thought that this document is either acceptable, good or excellent.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There is an action plan at the end of the Strategy. Some of the actions are straight forward, others will have their own SMART action plan.
- 3.2 Most of the actions can be funded by existing resources. Any actions which require a new funding commitment will be subject to separate bids. Approval of the action plan does not commit the Council to identifying new resources for implementation.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The ageing population provides the Council, the PCT and partners with future challenges. The Strategy sets out the key issues that need to be addressed.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- a) approve the Strategy and action plan

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Putting people first, transforming social care, making a strategic shift towards prevention and early intervention, key messages for decision makers (DoH, October 2008)
- Living well with dementia: a national dementia strategy (DoH, Feb 2009)
- Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (DCLG, July 2007)
- The White Paper, Our health, our care, our say,(DoH, Jan 2006) High quality care for all: NHS next stage review final report (Darzi review of NHS, DoH, 2008)

- Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods: a national strategy for housing in an ageing society (joint publication from DCLG; DoH; and DWP 25 Feb 2008).

**Contact
Officer:**

Jo Emmerton Housing Strategy Manager

☎ (01480) 388203

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Huntingdonshire District Council
&
NHS Cambridgeshire

Ageing Well in Huntingdonshire:
Housing and Healthy Ageing for Older People

2009-2014

If you would like a translation of this document, a large text version or an audio version, please contact us on 01480 388229 and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই ডকুমেন্টের বাংলা অনুবাদ চান, তাহলে মেহেববানি করে 01480 388229 টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন এবং আমরা আপনার পয়োজন মেটাতে চেষ্টা করবো।

Chinese

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Urdu

اردو
اگر آپ اس دستاویز (کاغذ) کا اردو میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں تو براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 01480 388229 پر رابطہ قائم کیجئے اور ہم آپ کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کی کوشش کریں گے۔

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Foreword

Huntingdonshire is changing. Our population is growing and people are getting older and living for longer. Over recent years we have worked in partnership with our Primary Care Trust (PCT); Cambridgeshire County Council; housing associations and other partners on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life for older people. More community alarms; the provision of much needed adaptations; and a new project to improve the thermal efficiency of vulnerable people's homes are among our achievements.

There is more to do. Over the lifetime of this Strategy, our biggest ambition is to increase the provision of extra care housing for frail older people. The Council is working with Luminus on a scheme in Huntingdon and we want to build up a development pipeline of more schemes. Helping to develop a Handyperson service; increasing services to help people remain in their own homes; and implementing the Government's 'Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods' strategy are also important objectives.

We have prepared this document because we recognise the important role that housing plays in people's lives. Good quality, affordable and accessible housing is important to people's health and well-being and this becomes critical as people get older. We are committed to playing our part in helping to promote independence and reduce the reliance on more expensive, institutional forms of care.

Many organisations including housing associations; care and support providers; builders; developers and the third sector all play an important role in helping to achieve the direction set out in this Strategy. We are grateful for their valuable input. Staff and Members remain committed to working in partnership to implement this strategy and to maximising the quality of life for older people. We are proud of our achievements so far and look forward to more successes in coming years.



Cllr Ken Churchill
Executive Councillor for Housing

signature

Someone from
NHS Cambridgeshire

Glossary and Abbreviations

Term	Explanation
Assistive technology	Assistive Technology is any product or service designed to enable independence for disabled and older people. It refers to <i>'any device or system that allows an individual to perform a task that they would otherwise be unable to do, or increases the ease and safety with which the task can be performed'</i> (Royal Commission on Long Term Care 1999) for example, community alarm, heat / movement sensors, reminder devices.
BVR	Best value review
Community alarms	People who live alone, and/or are at risk from falls or sudden attacks of illness, can arrange to wear an alarm on their person so that they can summon help in an emergency.
Cambridgeshire LAA	Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a way for local authorities and partner agencies to work together to improve services in the area.
Choice based lettings (CBL)	A method of allocating affordable housing based on people bidding for vacant properties
Decent Homes	A government-set minimum housing standard which all council housing and housing association-owned housing must meet.
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	A grant to help towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities, so that a disabled person can continue to live at home.
Extra care housing	It is defined as specialist accommodation designed to maximise the independence of older people by providing a safe, secure and stimulating environment. Residents retain the independence of having their own home and at the same time benefit from the availability of around the clock social care and housing support.
Floating support	A support service that is made available to people in their own homes, rather than people needing to move to specific accommodation to receive the service.
Handyperson scheme	A scheme to holistically assess an older person's needs including the need for advice, signposting, minor property repairs and adaptations, for example grab rails and half steps. The scheme aims to promote people's

	independence and prevent falls.
HIA	Home improvement agency. Home improvement agencies are locally based, not-for-profit organisations. They help older, disabled and vulnerable homeowners or private tenants to repair, improve, maintain or adapt their homes.
Intermediate Care	Intermediate Care is a generic term that covers a wide range of services that help prevent unnecessary admission to hospital, or help facilitate early discharge. Intermediate care is a short period (normally no longer than 6 weeks) of intensive rehabilitation and treatment or intensive care.
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - A document setting out Cambridgeshire's current and future health and wellbeing needs. This means councils and PCTs can pinpoint their commissioning priorities to improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.
Lifetime homes	A physical standard to which properties are to be built including 16 criteria which aim to enable the property to be adapted as the occupant's needs may change over time e.g. wider doorways, electrical sockets at height etc.
LPSA	Local public service agreement The Local PSA is a voluntary contract negotiated between Cambridgeshire County Council and the Government to deliver improved public services locally with the County Council as the legal contracted party.
PCT	Primary Care Trust consists of NHS Cambridgeshire – Commissioners ; and Cambridgeshire Community Services – Providers of Health & Social Care Services.
Re-ablement	Re-ablement is the active process of helping an individual to regain skills, confidence and independence, often following a specific period of illness or injury. Re-ablement services are usually provided as a short-term, intensive alternative to home care.
Repairs Assistance	Is a way that HDC can offer home-owners financial assistance for essential work to keep their home weather-proof and water-tight.
Residential Care/Care homes	Provide living accommodation, meals, help with personal care such as dressing, supervision of medication, companionship and someone on call at

	night.
RSL	Registered Social Landlord also known as a housing association
Supporting People (S.P)	Government funded housing related support
Warm Front	This is a grant to assist with paying for improvements to the heating system or the insulation of a home.

Summary

Older people make a significant contribution to society. For many older people, later life is a time to enjoy the rewards of years spent contributing to the growth and well-being of their families, their communities and their workplaces. Older people remain partners, parents, friends, daughters and sons, often caring for grandchildren or parents, and sometimes both. They are volunteers, employees, chief executives and board members. A recent study has estimated that the total economic value of the contributions of older people aged 50 and over to the economy is £200 billion per annum¹.

This Strategy identifies the housing and related services that Huntingdonshire District Council and partners can deliver to work with NHS Cambridgeshire in promoting healthy ageing and improving the quality of life for older people. Healthy ageing is defined by the World Health Organisation as ‘the process of optimising opportunities for physical, social and mental health to enable older people to take an active part in society without discrimination and to enjoy an independent and good quality of life’.²

Since the previous document in 2005, we have achieved a range of things that improve the quality of life for older people. A few highlights include an increase in the number of community alarms; a new scheme to improve thermal efficiency and achieve Decent Homes for vulnerable people housed in the private sector; and development of plans for a new extra care scheme in Huntingdon which will be built over the next few years.

Our partners play an important role in helping to achieving the strategic direction that is set out in this document. Our strategic objectives are to:

- Meet the needs of people in their own home
- Make better use of sheltered housing, rationalise provision and enable a strategic shift from residential to extra care housing
- Work in Partnership and Involve Users
- Provide information, empowerment and choice
- Promote healthy ageing
- Be effective at resourcing and commissioning

There are a number of challenges for the Council and partners to work together on. The 65+ age group in Huntingdonshire is due to increase by 59% (13,700) between 2007 and 2021 – higher than the county average (58%) and higher than the national average (33%)³. People are living for longer and are getting frailer. Rates of dementia are on the increase. Half of people aged over 65 live alone and this increases in later age groups. The ratio of people aged 65+ to those aged 0-64 is due to increase. This presents challenges for future workforce

¹ Cambridgeshire Older Persons’ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2008

² World Health Organisation. (2007) *Healthy Ageing: a challenge for Europe*. 5.2007:01. Sweden. The Swedish National Institute for Public Health

³ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group website

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/population/population/Researchgrouppopulationestimates.htm>

planning as there will be less people of employment age available to care for, and pay the taxes to support the ageing population. This is a sector that already struggles to recruit and retain staff.

The majority of older people are owner occupiers (72.9%)⁴. Given that the built environment is a long-term resource, the planning system has a vital role to play in ensuring that new homes are suitable for people as they get older and frailer. The Government's recent Strategy 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society'⁵ sets some challenging targets, among other things to ensure that all public housing is built to Lifetime Homes standards by 2011 with all private housing being built to the standard by 2013.

This is not the only area in which the private sector has an important role to play. The Best Value Review (BVR) of sheltered housing sets out plans to enable a strategic shift from residential care towards extra care with a levelling up of provision within Cambridgeshire. There are targets to achieve an increase in extra care units of accommodation in this district, and RSL partners are planning to develop schemes which will make a valuable contribution to this target. It is important that new schemes acknowledge the tenure balance in the district and that opportunities for home ownership within extra care are enabled. Likewise the increase in dementia needs to be considered in the design of housing and services and the role of Assistive Technology in supporting people needs to be facilitated. Some of the sheltered housing schemes in the district do not meet modern day standards and will need to be remodelled. The Council is keen to work with providers on their plans to improve existing stock. Encouraging the private sector to make provision on new sites and to remodel outdated residential care are also opportunities that we need to explore. The current economic downturn challenges these ambitions and we will work with partners to appraise options as opportunities arise.

People's expectations are increasing. The population as a whole is more IT-literate and remote access to services and incorporating IT access into new homes are all issues to consider in the future design of services.

This Strategy sets out the future challenges which include: developing extra care; increasing services to help people remain in their own home; improving housing conditions and energy efficiency; in partnership, commissioning a Handyperson scheme; and supporting the development of self directed support; and a countywide re-ablement service as they relate to housing.

⁴ ONS Census, 2001

⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/lifetimehomesneighbourhoods>

Introduction

Older people make a significant contribution to society. Huntingdonshire has a growing and ageing population. The 65+ age group in Huntingdonshire is due to increase by 59% between 2007 and 2021 – higher than the county average (58%), and higher than the national average (33%).

This significant demographic shift places pressure on local services and requires a joined up approach to help people to remain independent for as long as possible thereby maintaining or improving their quality of life and reducing the reliance on more intensive, more expensive and sometimes more institutional forms of care.

In partnership, we developed a joint Housing, Health and Social Care Strategy for Older People in September 2005. Since then, Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire NHS, the local PCT, have worked closely together with other partners to improve the quality of life for older people and increase the range of services that are available.

There have been significant changes since the previous document was written. The five PCTs in Cambridgeshire have been merged to form one countywide organisation. The new organisation has now split into ‘commissioner’ or ‘provider’ roles.

This Strategy sets out what we have achieved since 2005 and identifies the housing and related services that Huntingdonshire District Council and partners can deliver to support NHS Cambridgeshire in improving the quality of life for older people. It sets the direction for the next 5 years.

The Strategy draws on information set out in the countywide Best Value Review (BVR) of Sheltered Housing; the Strategic Housing Market Assessment; stock condition survey; the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment of Older People; and the census and related statistics.

Consultation: What older people, our partners and customers think....

Consultation on this document

A copy of this strategy was sent out to all partners including housing associations, support providers, registered care homes, voluntary sector organisations, social services, PCT, Parish Councils and District Councillors.

A copy was placed on the front of the Council's web site and press releases were issued to alert the public to the opportunity to contribute to the strategy. A double-page article featured in the Hunts Post on 12 August 2009.

The consultation was open for 12 weeks in line with the Compact Agreement for working with Voluntary Organisations in Cambridgeshire. A questionnaire asking for people's feedback and views on specific areas of the strategy was sent out with a pre-paid reply envelope to encourage feedback.

37 questionnaires were received by post. A further 5 responses were received via the web site; 1 phone call; and a further 3 written responses were received (no questionnaire).

- 98% of respondents agreed that the priorities set out in this document are the correct ones.
- 92% agreed that extra care should take priority over the development of sheltered housing.
- 94% of respondents think that extra care should be focussed on the larger settlements.
- 89% of respondents agreed that extra care should include a % of leasehold to enable home ownership.
- 95% of respondents thought that this document is either acceptable, good or excellent.

A number of helpful comments have been made and this document has been amended in line with some of the suggestions.

Cambridgeshire Together's Consultation with Older People (Oct 2008)

Cambridgeshire County Council commissioned mruk research, an independent market research organisation, to consult with residents and organisations in Cambridgeshire about their Older People Strategy.

Out of seven options, irrespective of age, gender and disability, 'home and housing' was the most important aspect for all respondents and 'information' and 'neighbourhood' were the least important aspects. 'Income' is the second most important aspect for those aged 60-69 years which may indicate changes after retirement. 'Social activities and getting out' and about are considered more important for respondents aged 80 years and over.

In July 2007 a Quality of Life survey was posted out to older people registered with a sample of GP surgeries in the Cambridgeshire PCT. Four questions were asked:

- 1) Do you feel secure?

- 2) Do you feel in control?
- 3) Do you feel isolated?
- 4) Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your quality of life?

The survey achieved 1,034 valid responses.

- Their responses indicated that:
- 96.7% felt secure (always and usually) in their home
- 96.2% did not feel isolated (never or rarely)
- 98.3% felt in control of their daily life (always and usually)
- 79.7% had a good quality of life

Age Concern Best Value research 2007

In 2007 Age Concern published a report entitled *Achieving quality of life when "No-one trains us to be old"* which was based on the output of discussions with two focus groups.

The findings included the following:

- Some people felt strongly that being independent was about doing everything for oneself. Others felt that making full use of available services and support helped to maintain independence.
- More attention should be given to what older people believe will make a difference in their lives. Such as 'I don't want someone to come and put my sock on for me – although I might need it – I want someone to come and do my cleaning'.
- It is crucial that services are consistent, for example 'kneeling buses' need to operate on both out and return journeys.
- Local services are very important and include Post Offices, clubs and groups and affordable, accessible transport.
- Suitable accommodation could make a significant difference to quality of life.
- There was huge reliance on the GP as the 'first point of contact'. There was a general feeling that older people benefited from winter fuel allowance, free TV licence and bus passes.
- There is not just one way of getting your voice heard.
- Above everything else, social contact and being able to get out and about are felt to be crucial to health and well-being.

Best Value Review (BVR) Sheltered Housing Consultation 2004

As part of the Best Value Review of sheltered housing in Cambridgeshire⁶, focus groups were held with residents living in nine sheltered schemes and older people living in non sheltered accommodation. The residents living in sheltered housing lived in both rural and urban locations and two groups were held with participants living in non-sheltered accommodation.

⁶ BVR Sheltered Housing in Cambridgeshire was concluded in 2004. It was carried out by consultants, Peter Fletcher Associates.

Age Concern Consultation

Leading up to the integration of older people's services in Cambridgeshire, Age Concern completed a consultation exercise with older people in Huntingdonshire. The results show the following issues are important to older people:

- Social contact / getting out and about;
- Transport;
- Feeling safe at home;
- Help at home – especially with household chores;
- Information – and help with form filling;
- Simple assessment processes;
- Adequate income; and
- Dignity and respect.

The findings set out in this chapter have shaped the vision for this Strategy and have informed both strategic objectives and the action plan. More detail is available about each of these consultations on request.

Our Vision, principles and objectives

We will work with Older People to improve their Quality of Life by:

- Listening to what older people have to say and involving them in the development of services as far as is practicable
- Challenging and addressing ageism whilst promoting positive views of older people
- Working with others to promote well-being for older people
- Promoting independent living
- Designing and delivering services around individual needs with a view to enabling older people to live in a safe home and environment
 - Tailored to meet their needs
 - In an active community
 - In a secure environment

Our objectives (in no order of priority) are:

1. Meet the needs of people in their own home

- Maximise people's independence through flexible support including Assistive Technology as needs change
- Deliver appropriate housing, support and repair solutions in partnership with others to enable people to remain safe, warm and secure in their own home.
- Work in partnership with the private sector and housing associations to provide additional affordable and private sector housing that is suitable for people as they get older.
- Recognise that the majority of people (76%) are owner occupiers and therefore, the Council's intervention in the private sector is equally as important as the provision of new affordable homes.
- Acknowledge that the built environment is a very long-term resource and the planning system plays an essential role in influencing the sustainability of new developments for older people
- Recognise the impact that poor quality housing can have on people's health and general quality of life and that some of the poorest conditions can be found in the private rented sector.
- Respond quickly and flexibly to provide housing solutions to frail older people following hospital admission

2. Make better use of sheltered housing and rationalise provision and enable a Strategic shift from residential to extra care

- Work with partners to implement the findings of the Best Value Review of Sheltered Housing.
- Work in partnership to:
 - enable a shift from residential care homes to extra care housing
 - enable the increase in the provision of care for older people with mental disorder and / or dementia

- enable the provision of intermediate care to enable timely hospital discharge and avoid unnecessary or inappropriate hospital admission promoting enablement
- Facilitate the use of Assistive Technology in helping to keep people safe and secure in their homes.

3. Work in Partnership and Involve Users

- Continue to involve customers in the design, monitoring and review of services
- Support and encourage the statutory and voluntary sectors in their preventative work and to adopt a whole systems approach to the provision of services
- Develop joint commissioning where appropriate and achieve a greater sharing of ideas and initiatives across local strategists and service providers to encourage new service models and provision
- Work in partnership to achieve the aims of this strategy and to ensure that other strategies take due account of the needs of older people.
- Implement this Strategy and develop new services in collaboration with the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership
- Recognise the important role that housing plays on the health and well being of the occupant

4. Empowerment Information Assessment and Choice

- Enable older people to make informed choices by ensuring that they can access the information they need to understand their housing and care options
- Support practitioners and professionals from all agencies in their work
- Support the identification of older people at risk
- Maximise people's income

5. Promote healthy ageing

The Huntingdonshire Health & Well-Being Group has strategic responsibility for identifying priorities for promoting health and well-being in Huntingdonshire. Priorities relate to both children and adults; aims include to enable people to prepare for a healthier later life. The following strategic health and well-being priorities are outlined in the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-2028):

- Provision of culture and leisure opportunities
- A reduction in health inequalities
- Support to individuals who wish to adopt a healthier lifestyle
- A reduction in accidents
- Increased opportunities for vulnerable people to live independently

Examples of specific programmes for 2009-10 outlined in the Huntingdonshire Health & Well-Being Delivery Plan are to:

- Increase adult participation in sport
- Deliver an 'Active at 50' project to encourage older people to be more active

- Support vulnerable people to be more active through the targeted cardiac rehabilitation programme
- Introduce 'easy' green walks into the existing Health Walks scheme
- Provide Stop Smoking Services to people in Huntingdonshire who wish to quit
- Deliver a Community Health Improvement Programme in the community, and a Fit for the Future programme in Primary Care to people who are obese
- Reduce the death rate from suicide and undetermined injury
- Develop a comprehensive Falls Prevention Service
- Establish a Handyperson scheme
- Promote mental well-being and the inclusion of older people by implementing programmes such as Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age
- Increase the provision of extra sheltered frail elderly housing

The Huntingdonshire Health & Well-Being Delivery Plan will continue to be informed by the:

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Older People
- Cambridgeshire Long Term Conditions Strategy
- Cambridgeshire Older People Strategy

6. Effective Resourcing and Commissioning

- Work in partnership to implement this Strategy
- Jointly commission services where appropriate
- Strategically plan to meet the needs of a growing population of older people
- Draw in external resources where possible and make best use of existing resources to implement this Strategy

Main Achievements since the Previous Strategy (2005):

- ✓ Developed a Choice Based Lettings project in partnership which enables greater choice and mobility in housing across the Cambridge sub-region and a full housing advice and options service
- ✓ Worked with Age Concern to start up a community warden scheme in Ramsey currently supporting 13 older people
- ✓ Increased the provision of community alarms by using the Local Public Service Agreement pump priming money to purchase the alarms and targeted these at vulnerable older people on low incomes, increasing availability from 615 in April 2006 to 703 in April 2008
- ✓ Established the baseline for the numbers of vulnerable people living in non-decent homes in the private sector; and brought 129 homes of people who are older or otherwise vulnerable, up to the Decent Homes standard
- ✓ Commenced a project to improve the thermal efficiency of vulnerable people's homes using specific grant awarded by Government
- ✓ Implemented the core specification for HIA services in Cambridgeshire and undertaken a strategic review of the service
- ✓ Maximised new affordable housing development opportunities and worked with housing associations to develop 45 bungalows in 8 locations since Sept 2005
- ✓ Supported 930 people to remain independent in their own homes through Disabled Facilities works between 2005/6-2008/9 via the multi agency funded Home Improvement Agency
- ✓ Improved the homes of 123 older people through Repairs Assistance between 2005/6-2008/9
- ✓ Over 4000 households have been referred to Warm Front for energy efficiency improvements to their homes since April 05. This helps reduce running costs of the home; and promote health and well being, preventing excess winter deaths from cold homes. A large proportion of the Households assisted were pensioner households.
- ✓ Contributed to the development of the Supporting People programme including a 'white paper' setting out minimum standards for sheltered housing
- ✓ Supported Luminus in their plans to develop extra care in Huntingdon (yet to be built but will provide circa 35 units of accommodation)

- ✓ Raised awareness of the implications of the ageing population through the Strategic Partnership; public and private sector providers; and locality practitioner and voluntary / faith based organisations
- ✓ Developed the information available to older people on their housing options including a directory and web-site development and the Healthy Homes Healthy Ageing project aiming to improve the information available to support housing / health / social care practitioners in their work
- ✓ Bid for resources to help achieve the aims of this Strategy, drawing in funds from LPSA; Housing Corporation; Supporting People; HDC; PCT and County Council
- ✓ Awarded greater priority in housing allocations to people who are under occupying existing accommodation but want to downsize to housing that is more appropriate for their needs (via the Choice Based Lettings policy)
- ✓ Together with NHS Cambridgeshire, we have enabled more people to be supported to live at home resulting in a reduction in the number of people entering residential care.

Future Workplan

To further achieve our objectives, over the next five years we want to:

- Enable, where appropriate, the development of a range of housing provision including forms of home ownership which offers choice and independence
- Work with providers to remodel existing schemes to meet the new standards where possible and investigate other solutions where remodelling is not possible / viable
- Encourage providers to develop the use of sheltered housing as a community hub from which a range of flexible services can be provided
- Plan for an increase in extra care housing schemes, taking the increase in dementia into account in the design of the building and planning of services
- Increase the services available to help people remain in their own home e.g. Assistive Technology; community alarms; floating support; income maximisation; Disabled adaptations
- Commission a new house condition survey to produce a comprehensive review of current housing conditions and improve housing to the Decent Homes standard for vulnerable people living in the private sector
- Raise awareness of affordable warmth grant opportunities to reduce fuel poverty and prevent winter deaths.
- Implement the findings of the Home Improvement Agency Review
- Following the successful bid for funds to start a Handyperson scheme, establish the project with partners
- Implement the recommendations in the Government's paper 'Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods' including the target to achieve Lifetime Home standard in all new affordable housing from 2011 and in all housing from 2013
- Encourage the development of new neighbourhoods which are appropriate for people as they age e.g. including safe walking routes to shops etc
- Implement the Supporting People strategy for Cambridgeshire including commissioning floating support, and new extra care schemes
- Ensure older and vulnerable people get assistance with bidding for housing in the Choice Based Lettings programme, where appropriate

- Raise the profile of the needs data and the strategic shift away from residential care and towards extra care housing, as set out in this document, with private sector providers
- Support the development of self directed support as it may impact on housing and related services in the future (increasing choice and control)
- Support the introduction of a countywide re-enablement service as it relates to housing (e.g. adaptations, support, Assistive Technology; intermediate care)

A Few Facts about Older People in Huntingdonshire....

The following key conclusions can be drawn from the statistical appendix at Appendix 1. The information sources for these conclusions include the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; the BVR sheltered housing; the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Census and related projections.

- Older people make a significant contribution to society. For many older people, later life is a time to enjoy the rewards of years contributing to the growth and well-being of their families, their communities and their workplaces. Older people remain partners, parents, friends, daughters and sons, often caring for grandchildren or parents, and sometimes both. They are volunteers, employees, chief executives and board members. A recent study has estimated that the total economic value of the contributions of older people aged 50 and over to the economy is £200 billion per annum⁷
- Huntingdonshire has a growing and ageing population. The 65+ age group in Huntingdonshire is due to increase by 59% (13,700) between 2007 and 2021 – higher than the county average (58%) and than the national average (33%)⁸.
- The wards with the highest 65+ population are Huntingdon East, Ramsey, The Hemingfords, and St Ives South, all with over 1,300 65+ residents⁹. Projecting forward to 2021, Yaxley & Farcet, St Ives South, Ramsey, The Hemingfords and Huntingdon East contain the most people over 65¹⁰, all with over 65 populations of 2,000 or over.
- People are living for longer and are getting frailer. Rates of dementia are on the increase. Half of people aged over 65 live alone and this increases in later age groups. Women outnumber men from 65 onwards and the 50+ population is considerably less diverse than that under 50, with only 0.5% non-White UK. Whilst services need to be flexible, it should be recognised that the majority of service users will be women who live alone. This is particularly true in the 85+ age group.

⁷ Cambridgeshire Older Persons' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2008

⁸ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group website

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/population/population/Researchgrouppopulationestimates.htm>

⁹ ONS Census, 2001

¹⁰ Cambridgeshire County Council Population Projections,

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BC5713AD-FD97-4E14-81DB-77B3218A6036/0/LApopbyward1008nopet.xls>

- The ratio of people aged 65+ to those aged 0-64 is due to increase bringing challenges for future workforce planning given that there will be less people of employment age available to care for and pay the taxes to support the ageing population, a sector that already struggles to recruit and retain staff.
- The majority of pensioners are owner occupiers (72.9%)¹¹. Given that the built environment is a long-term resource, the planning system has a vital role to play in ensuring that new homes are suitable for people, as they get older and frailer. A significant percentage of older people (28.1%)¹² currently rent their home from housing associations or private landlords. Older people are also more likely to live in park homes than the general population.
- There will be a growing need for decent affordable homes that are suitable for older people in addition to other publicly funded housing related services like the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants.
- When compared to the national average, Huntingdonshire residents claim one third less Attendance Allowance. This could reflect better health than the national population or mask problems with benefit take up. Likewise, take up of Pension Credit varies throughout the district which is more likely to reflect pockets of wealth / poverty. The demand for some public services depends upon an individual's ability to pay, for example, housing benefit or disabled facilities grants. Therefore future demand for some public services will depend upon trends in projected income. There is no data readily available which projects the future income levels of the over 65 population. We do not know if future generations of over 65s will be richer or poorer than they are today, but we know that final salary schemes are ending, and there remain a significant number of older people on very limited incomes. If income levels of tomorrows' over 65s are the same as they are today, and the over 65 population increases by 59% (over the next 10 years) then you might broadly predict the demand for public services to increase by 59%.
- People's expectations are increasing. The population as a whole is more IT-literate and remote access to services along with incorporating IT access into new homes are all issues to consider in the future design of services.

¹¹ ONS Census, 2001

¹² Ibid

Best Value Review (BVR) of Sheltered Housing in Cambridgeshire

Although completed in 2005, the county-wide BVR of sheltered housing remains an important policy document that sets the direction for the future of sheltered and extra care housing in Cambridgeshire.

All providers of sheltered and extra sheltered housing were invited to join in this cross boundary review. The providers of approximately 50% of schemes in Huntingdonshire took part. The remainder were subject to the usual Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) for Supporting People purposes.

The BVR aimed to:

- evaluate the effectiveness of existing services for current and future residents of the sheltered housing service across Cambridgeshire
- assess fitness for purpose under the Best Value and the Supporting People Quality Assessment Framework
- draw conclusions on the way forward for sheltered housing in Cambridgeshire.

The BVR considered the provision of sheltered housing and extra sheltered housing across the County. It concluded that, when compared to other districts in Cambridgeshire, there was a shortfall of both types of provision in Huntingdonshire. The BVR concluded that a 'levelling up' of provision in Cambridgeshire is required to deliver equity of service.

Cambridgeshire County Council and the PCT, in line with national objectives, aim to decrease dependence on residential care and increase the provision of extra sheltered housing. This strategic shift will enable people to maximise their independence. It is also a more cost effective model of provision.

The BVR was agreed by the Commissioning Body following consultation with providers. This set out management and scheme standards that schemes in receipt of Supporting People revenue should meet to continue to be eligible for funding.

In Huntingdonshire, the aim is to achieve an increase in extra care. This increase is reliant upon a commensurate shift in Supporting People and adult social care revenue resources into extra care. Therefore the pace of change is not entirely within the Council's control, it does depend on effective partnership working. The task for the Council is to plan where future services might be needed and how these might be delivered in partnership. The timescale within which these can be achieved will have to be considered separately, in conjunction with the BVR Project Group.

Prioritising Models of Provision

Given the resource requirements of the targets, it is necessary to prioritise whether sheltered or extra sheltered forms the highest local priority.

Given that there are only 49 bedspaces of extra sheltered housing, the growing and ageing population, increasing rates of frailty and dementia, the development of additional extra sheltered housing schemes should take priority over sheltered housing schemes.

Other drivers for this decision include the fact that people want to remain in their own home for longer and other peripatetic services like floating support and community alarms along side physical adaptations to the property can be made available to support people in their homes. Extending provision of sheltered housing could be achieved through increasing the capacity of existing scheme managers to provide wider neighbourhood services and extending floating support.

That said, we should recognise that sheltered and extra sheltered provision is closely linked and flexible models of service provision can enable the 'step up' from sheltered to extra sheltered housing.

Location of New Extra Care Schemes

The decision on the location of new extra sheltered housing needs to take account of two variables:

1. Area where it is most needed
 - where older people currently live;
 - where existing services are located; and
 - where the PCT, as commissioner of care, perceives the highest level of need.

2. Where it can realistically be provided
 - new development sites;
 - location of sheltered housing that could be remodelled (but acknowledging that this will result in a further shortfall of sheltered housing);
 - location of residential care that could be remodelled i.e. response from private sector residential care providers that may wish to remodel accommodation into extra care.

It should be noted that extra care schemes will house older people living at home, who meet the adult social care eligibility criteria (Fair Access to Care).

In considering proposals for either new build or remodelled services for extra care, the following criteria needs to be considered:

1. The population of likely residents for such a scheme
2. The population likely to provide the staff resources for the scheme
3. The services in the surrounding area available to support continued independence

It is therefore likely that provision will be in the main towns and larger villages.

Tenure of Extra Care

An appropriate tenure balance needs to be achieved. This should be considered on a scheme by scheme basis bearing in mind the following:

- in responding to private sector provision, s106 policies should be applied to achieve a mix of tenure
- 72% of older people are currently owner occupiers and this % is due to increase so enabling owner occupation in extra sheltered housing is important
- owner occupiers' assets may be insufficient to enable full purchase and therefore models of low cost home ownership should be included in addition to social rent
- when remodelling existing, or building new schemes, owner occupier's capital will help to make the overall scheme more affordable to the provider and therefore more attractive to the Homes and Communities Agency
- in all cases the level of charge for care / support / housing / other charges should be considered and benchmarked against others.

The Council is mindful that the current economic downturn (in 2009) may impact on this strategic direction and opportunities will need to be appraised on their merits.

Remodelling outdated sheltered housing

A number of sheltered housing schemes in the district do not meet modern day scheme standards. Providers of schemes have been consulted and asked for their response on how improvements can be made. The Council is keen to work with providers on developing robust plans where schemes have to be remodelled or improved.

Resources to Deliver this Strategy

Home Improvement Agency (HIA)

The HIA is a joint project funded by Huntingdonshire District Council; Cambridgeshire County Council; PCT; Supporting People and the HIA also generate fee income based on the grant work they complete.

Disabled Facilities Grant

The Council receives £300-400k from Government towards the cost of DFGs. The budget is set at £1.2m per year. The Council is supportive of the provision of DFGs and where increases in demand are experienced, Cabinet have given a commitment to fund DFG applications as expeditiously as possible.

Repairs Assistance

The Council funds £200k per year for Repairs Assistance to help people on low incomes to repair or maintain their homes. Owner occupiers generally receive a loan for this work.

Energy efficiency projects to help eradicate fuel poverty, reduce winter deaths and keep homes warm and healthy

The Council support and promote Warm Front, a Government funded scheme that helps vulnerable people on low incomes to improve the thermal efficiency / heating system of their home. This reduces running costs and improves health and well being, reducing the occurrence of winter deaths as a result of living in a cold home. Where there is a shortfall in the cost of work compared to the available grant, the Council has a top-up grant system.

The Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) funding provides insulation to people over 65 who do not qualify for welfare benefits.

The Pensioner Home Insulation Scheme (PHIS) has just started in Huntingdonshire, funded by a one-off regional grant of £100k. Funding is available for people in receipt of state pension to pay for loft or cavity wall insulation.

Decent Homes for Vulnerable People in the Private Sector

The Government has given an allocation for the Council to improve the numbers of vulnerable people that occupy decent homes in the private sector. This money funds the Warmer Homes for Life scheme and can be used to tackle category 1 hazards in the homes of vulnerable people where these are detected in the post-work inspection.

Floating support

The Council makes a contribution to the Ramsey Warden scheme supporting vulnerable people in their own homes. The scheme currently supports 13 older people.

Community Alarms

In 2006/7 the Council bid for money (from the LPSA) to purchase community alarms to support older and vulnerable people in their own homes.

New Extra Care Housing

There are significant resource requirements to achieve the targets set out in the BVR. These include the availability of

- land to build new schemes;
- revenue for the support and care elements of the service; and
- capital to fund any new build or remodelling works.

The Council will continue to maximise land for new affordable housing by using its planning powers effectively.

Supporting People

Revenue to pay for the support and care service would come from Supporting People and the PCT and is subject to strategic commissioning. A countywide approach to commissioning extra care recognising the commensurate shift from residential care is due to be developed and we will play an active role in developing and implementing this approach over the coming years.

Handyperson

A successful bid has been made for resources to kick-start a Handyperson scheme in Huntingdonshire. £50k has been allocated to start the scheme in 2009/10 and the future funding of this service needs to be considered.

Homes and Communities Agency Capital

The Council has a good track record of supporting RSL partners to secure Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) capital for new affordable housing. The Council will continue to support RSL partners in securing HCA to fund new opportunities in the district.

Council Capital

The Council has a budget of £500k for new affordable homes each year.

NHS Cambridgeshire Resources

Cambridgeshire County Council and NHS Cambridgeshire commit £90m per year to a pooled service budget for older people across Cambridgeshire. Approximately £27m is currently spent on services in Huntingdonshire

National Policy Drivers

Since the previous document, Government has launched more policy papers that inform the direction to be taken locally. These include:

Putting people first, transforming social care, making a strategic shift towards prevention and early intervention, key messages for decision makers (DoH, October 2008). At its heart are four main themes:

1. Facilitating access to universal services
2. Building social capital within local communities
3. Making a strategic shift to prevention and early intervention
4. Ensuring people have greater choice and control over meeting needs

Living well with dementia: a national dementia strategy (DoH, Feb 2009) The national dementia strategy is backed by £150 million over the first two years. It will increase awareness of dementia, ensure early diagnosis and intervention and radically improve the quality of care that people with the condition receive. Proposals include the introduction of a dementia specialist into every general hospital and care home and for mental health teams to assess people with dementia.

High quality care for all: NHS next stage review final report (Darzi review of NHS, DoH, 2008) The final report of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review. It sets out a vision for an NHS with quality at its heart.

The White Paper, Our health, our care, our say, (DoH, Jan 2006) sets out a vision for the future of health and social care and is driving improvements in services for older people across four areas:

1. better prevention and early intervention;
2. choice and involvement in services;
3. tackling inequality and improved access to community services; and
4. providing more support to people with long term needs.

Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (DCLG, July 2007) This green paper announces the Government's ambitions for more homes, more affordable homes and greener homes. It recognises that older people make up 48% of all new growth in households up to 2024 and that new housing design needs to be appropriate for people as they age. Lifetime Home standards and the Code for Sustainable Homes will all encourage more sensitive housing design in the future.

Lifetime homes, lifetime neighbourhoods: a national strategy for housing in an ageing society (joint publication from DCLG; DoH; and DWP 25 Feb 2008). This document sets out plans to:

- build more housing;
- strengthen local information services;
- launch a new rapid repairs and adaptations service to support handyperson schemes;
- increase funding for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) and simplify the process;
- continued support for extra care;
- ensure that all public housing is built to Lifetime Homes standards by 2011 with all private housing being built to the standard by 2013;
- launch a new Beacon Council theme on inclusive planning recognising the role of the built environment in helping people to age healthily and to remain independent;
- joined up assessment, services and commissioning across the housing / health / social care spectrum;
- greater emphasis on prevention, choice and personal budgets; and
- embed priorities in Local Public Agreements.

Towards lifetime neighbourhoods – designing sustainable communities for all - a discussion paper (DCLG, 19 Nov 2007). Whilst lifetime neighbourhoods is not a new concept, it is yet to feature meaningfully in the design of new housing. This paper promotes consideration of the elements that would make up a lifetime neighbourhood. One where a high quality home environment promotes people to stay at home, independently for as long as possible with the best chances of health, well being and social inclusion.

Rugg review of private rented sector

In January 2008 the Minister of Housing commissioned an independent review of the private rented sector (PRS). In October 2008 the final report was published, known as the 'Rugg Review'. The report acknowledges the general decline in the number of older people housed within the PRS but that those who live in this sector are likely to be among the most vulnerable and on low incomes. Given that privately rented homes have a higher incidence of fuel poverty than in other sectors, it is appropriate for the Council to continue to support measures that help improve conditions.

Other relevant documents include:

- Opportunity age, (DWP March 2005)
- Independent living strategy (cross-dept, 2006)
- All party parliamentary local Government group inquiry into services for older people
- Getting on well together – new good practice publication, LGA, 6 May 2009).

Local Policy Context

Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11

The multi agency group responsible for the LAA, Cambridgeshire Together, has set five key goals, each with priorities to achieve for Cambridgeshire. These are:

- Growth
- Economic Prosperity
- Environmental Sustainability
- Equality and Inclusion
- Safer and Stronger Communities

The Cambridgeshire LAA has a delivery plan lasting three years and a number of targets relate to services for older people:

- NI 125 – Achieving independence for older people through rehabilitation / intermediate care
- NI 131 – Delayed transfers of care from hospital
- (per 100,000
- NI 135 – Carers receiving needs assessment or review & a specific carers service, or advice and information
- NI 136 – People supported to live independently through social services
- NI 141 – Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living
- NI155 – Affordable homes delivered.

With the exception of NI 155, none of the Council's services directly report on these indicators but we influence and support them through the provision of preventative services. For example, sheltered housing and the provision of intermediate care in sheltered housing can facilitate early hospital discharge or prevent emergency admission; and DFGs, energy efficiency measures, Decent Homes etc can help to enable people to remain living in their own homes.

Cambridgeshire Together's older people strategy 2008-11

The Cambridgeshire Together partnership (LAA) have produced a joint strategy which aims to address opportunities, services and support for people over 55 years in the county. The strategy has an overall vision:

To enable older people to remain healthy, happy and active and to continue to make a positive contribution to society for as long as possible.

The document is structured around seven themes:

- Housing and the home
- Neighbourhood
- Social activities, social networks, and keeping busy
- Getting out and about
- Income
- Information
- Health and healthy living

The document sets out the strategic shift needed within the county to enable the move from residential care towards extra care and the geographic redistribution of resources.

The Joint Commissioning Strategy (NHS Cambridgeshire and Cambridgeshire County Council 2008)

This sets out the vision for Older People:

“Our vision is to develop communities in which older people are truly engaged, exercising choice and control over their lives”

“Our focus is on independence, empowerment, respect, dignity, the promotion of wellbeing through the prevention of illness and social breakdown”

The priorities are:

- Support more people to live at home to maximise independence
- Reduce the number of older people living in residential care
- Ensure that older people and their families / carers have as much choice as possible in their care, support and treatment options as part of a person-centred approach
- Develop alternatives to residential living e.g. extra care schemes
- Develop community based services which respond to older people's needs and prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital
- Provide more responsive and integrated services for older people
- Encourage older people to directly buy services to suit their needs through self-directed support

Huntingdonshire sustainable community strategy

The Council is responsible for promoting the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our communities, so that we can all enjoy a good quality of life. To do this we must work with and bring together a variety of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership is responsible for the Huntingdonshire sustainable community strategy. This sets out how, by working together, we can meet local and national priorities.

The community strategy's long term vision is based on what local people have told us is important for them now and in the future, which is:

Huntingdonshire is a place where current and future generations have a good quality of life and can –

- Make the most of opportunities that come from living in a growing and developing district;
- Enjoy the benefits of continued economic success;
- Access suitable homes, jobs, services, shops, culture and leisure opportunities;
- Realise their full potential;
- Maintain the special character of our market towns, villages and countryside; and

- Live in an environment that is safe and protected from the effects of climate change and where valuable natural resources are used wisely.

The **Health and Well-Being Thematic Group** has an action plan that is a driver for this strategy. Reducing health inequalities; promoting mental health and well being; preventing falls in older people through development of a Handyperson service and prompt delivery of disabled adaptations are all priority objectives. Increasing the opportunities for vulnerable people to live independently by increasing the provision of extra care housing are objectives in the action plan and are also reflected in this strategy.

Growing Success, the Council's Corporate Plan sets out how we will achieve our part of the sustainable community strategy. It is based on detailed research and importantly what our communities have told us. The Council needs to balance and reconcile many competing demands and this plan will be used to help us prioritise and allocate resources.

The community aims that this strategy relates to are:

- Housing that meets individual needs
- Safe, active and inclusive communities
- Developing communities sustainably
- Healthy living

Cambridgeshire Supporting People Strategy 2008-2010

The vision for Cambridgeshire is:

'To improve quality of life and well-being by ensuring housing and housing support is available that reduces risk and enables vulnerable people to live as full a life as possible'

Underlying the vision is the following commitment and principle:

'The vision will require all partners to work together, and with communities, to develop preventative services, anticipate and avert crises, and support people to maintain or regain their independence in those ways that best meet needs'

The Supporting People programme in Cambridgeshire is committed to the following priorities:

1. Prevention
2. Community Development
3. Social inclusion
4. Promoting independence
5. User control

These priorities are closely aligned to wider priorities for the health, housing and social care partners. The Supporting People programme is seen as a mechanism for ensuring these priorities are delivered. Expansion of floating support and extra care and the need to achieve equity in sheltered housing are priorities in the strategy.

Supporting People Review of Home Improvement Agencies (HIA)

The Supporting People review of HIAs, undertaken in 2008 found that HIAs play a key role in promoting independence and contribute to targets on prevention and the LAA. However, they are vulnerable to fluctuations in workload arising from variable OT referrals. Whilst similarly staffed, they offer slightly different approaches to the service and have very different funding arrangements in place. Workload and value for money varies throughout the HIAs and the report has a presumption that *'unless an exemption is granted from the County Council's procurement Contract Regulations, the service will be re-commissioned (put out to tender) when steady state contracts are renewed. Contracts are due for renewal on 1 April 2010.'* Market testing of the Cambridgeshire HIAs is under consideration and may form a work stream over the next few years.

Needs Analysis: the Statistical Appendix

This section sets out the intelligence driving this Strategy. The four main sources of this information are:

1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

In Jan 2008, Cambs County Council and PCT produced a JSNA for older people. The document includes a wealth of information about older people in Cambridgeshire including population projections, frailty, income and deprivation, health inequalities and illness, demand for services, user views and service developments.

2. Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Published in 2008, the SHMA provides a great deal of information about housing and related issues in the Cambridge sub-region. The SHMA details population, health, frailty, the need for sheltered, extra care and nursing care for older people alongside community based services like community alarms. Much of the information is taken from the strategic direction first set out in the BVR sheltered housing.

3. Demographic Information

Mostly taken from the 2001 census and the Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group; the latter have been updated with new population projections since the last Older Persons' Housing Strategy was written, which have altered the statistics. Similarly, updated statistics from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) have been interpolated in the report.

4. Best Value Review of sheltered housing in Cambridgeshire

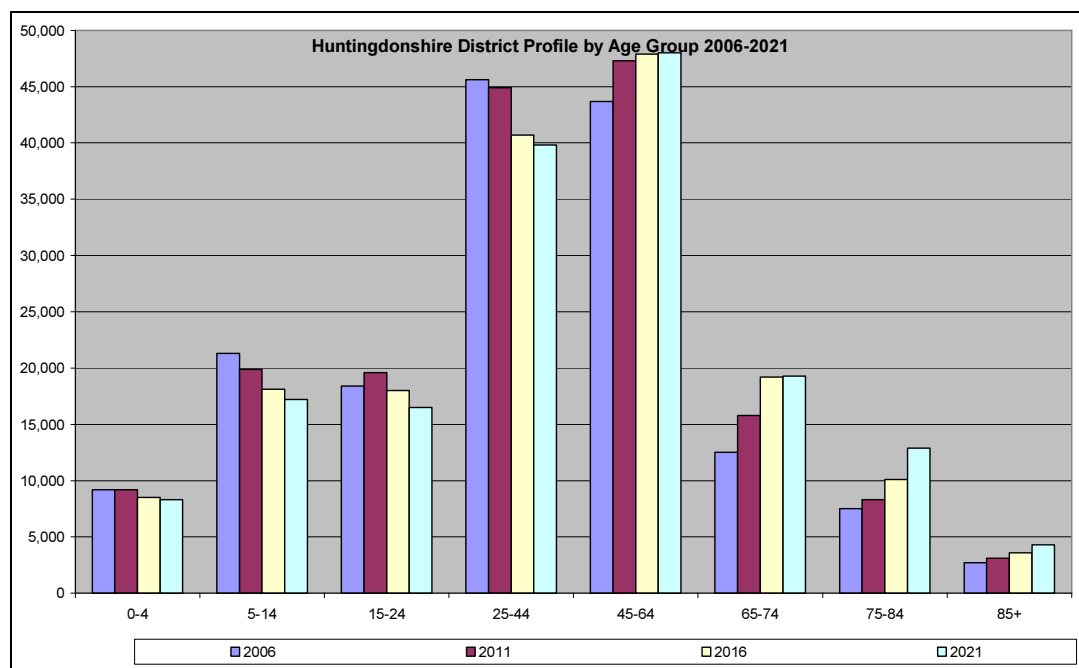
The BVR Sheltered Housing was carried out in 2005 and is the master document suggesting the way forward for housing and related services for older people in Cambridgeshire. The JSNA; Cambs County Council and PCT Older People Strategy; and SHMA all reiterate this direction of travel.

Population Projections

Population projections for Huntingdonshire from the time of the 2001 Census to the year 2021 are given below.

Of particular note is the fact that the 65+ age group in Huntingdonshire is due to increase by 59% (13,700) between 2007 and 2021 – this is higher than the county average (+58%) and than the national average (+33%)¹³.

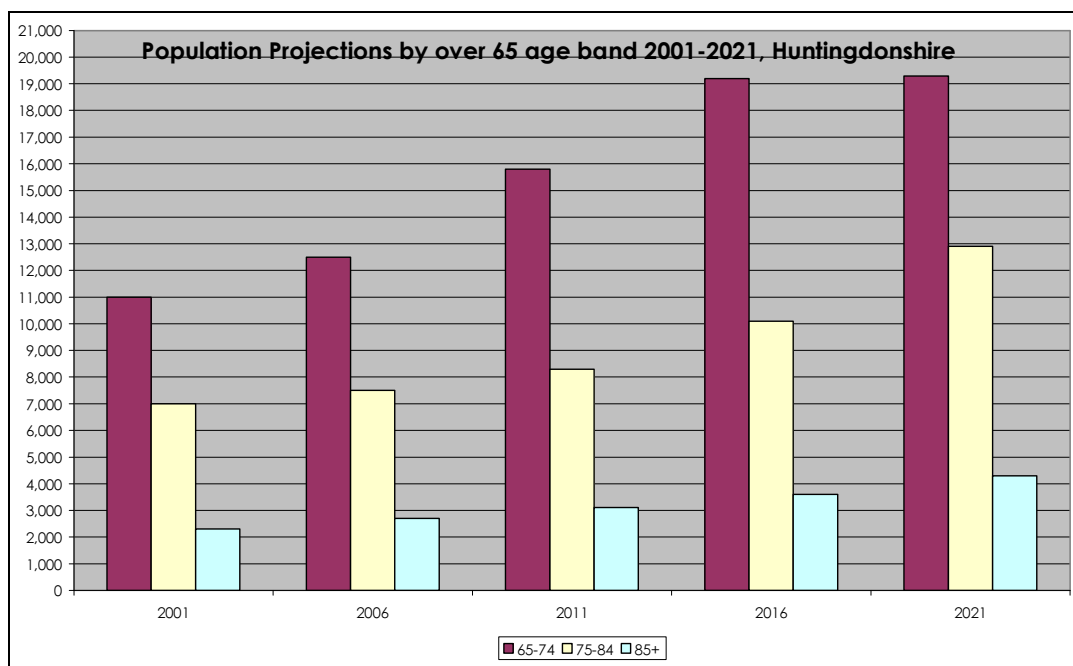
There is a projected 51.5% increase in the 65-74 years age group age groups during this period (2007-2021); 72% increase in the 75-84 age range and 60% projected increase in the 85+ age groups¹⁴. This means that people are getting older and frailer and there are likely to be more higher end service users in the future.



The over 65 age groups are shown overleaf in greater detail.

¹³ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group website
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/population/population/Researchgrouppopulationestimates.htm>

¹⁴ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group Population Projections 2007
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/ronlyres/302EDC28-D859-475D-83FD-394531319A61/0/HunpopLA1008.xls>



Over 65 Population Projections by District - Cambridgeshire

Over 65 population by District and year						
Authority	2001	2007	2011	2016	2021	Increase 2001-2021
Cambridge City	14,400	13,700	15,100	17,600	20,100	5,800
East Cambs	11,500	13,000	14,600	17,500	19,700	7,900
Fenland	16,100	17,600	19,200	22,200	24,900	8,500
Huntingdonshire	20,300	23,200	27,200	32,800	36,900	16,200
South Cambs	19,200	22,100	26,700	34,400	40,500	20,900
Cambridgeshire	81,500	89,600	102,800	124,500	142,100	59,300

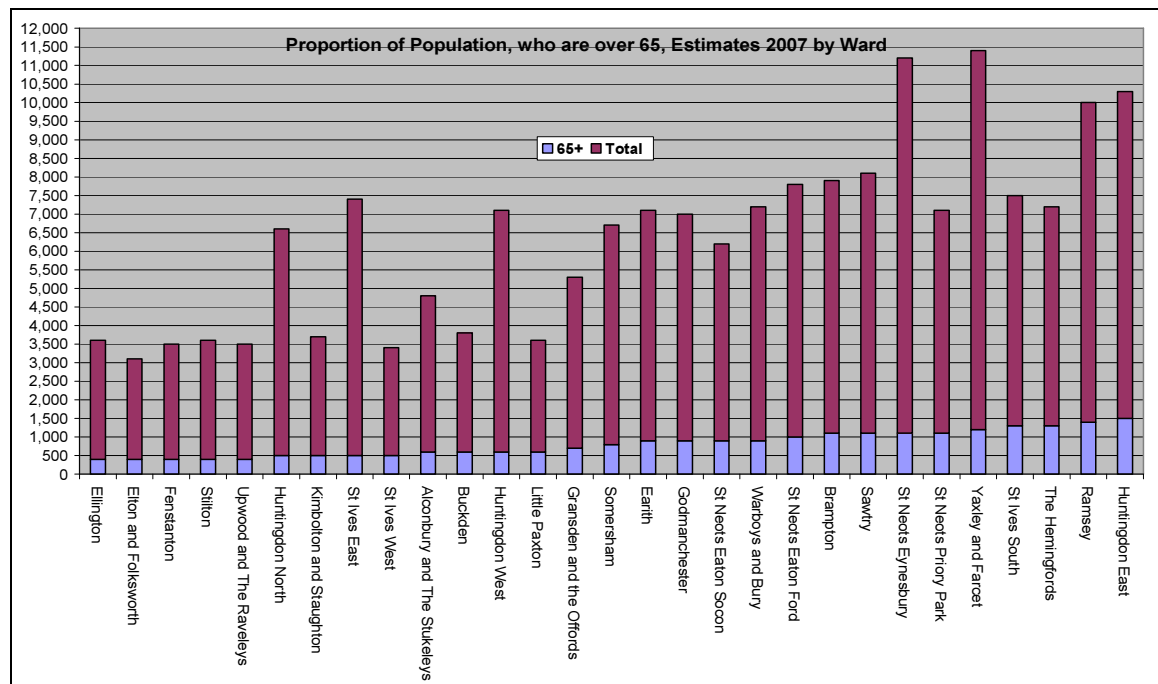
Source: Cambridge County Council Research Group Projections¹⁵

After South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire expects the largest increase in older people between 2001 and 2021.

According to the JSNA, 'between 2001 and 2007, the registered population of Cambridgeshire has grown by around 8,100 people aged over 65 (an increase of 9.9%). This represents 12% of the overall population growth in Cambridgeshire since 2001. For Huntingdonshire, this figure is an increase of 2,900 (an increase of 14.3%). Huntingdonshire is experiencing the highest growth in the older population – 60% of all the overall population growth from 2001-2007 was generated by people aged 65 and over.

¹⁵ <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/302EDC28-D859-475D-83FD-394531319A61/0/HunpopLA1008.xls>

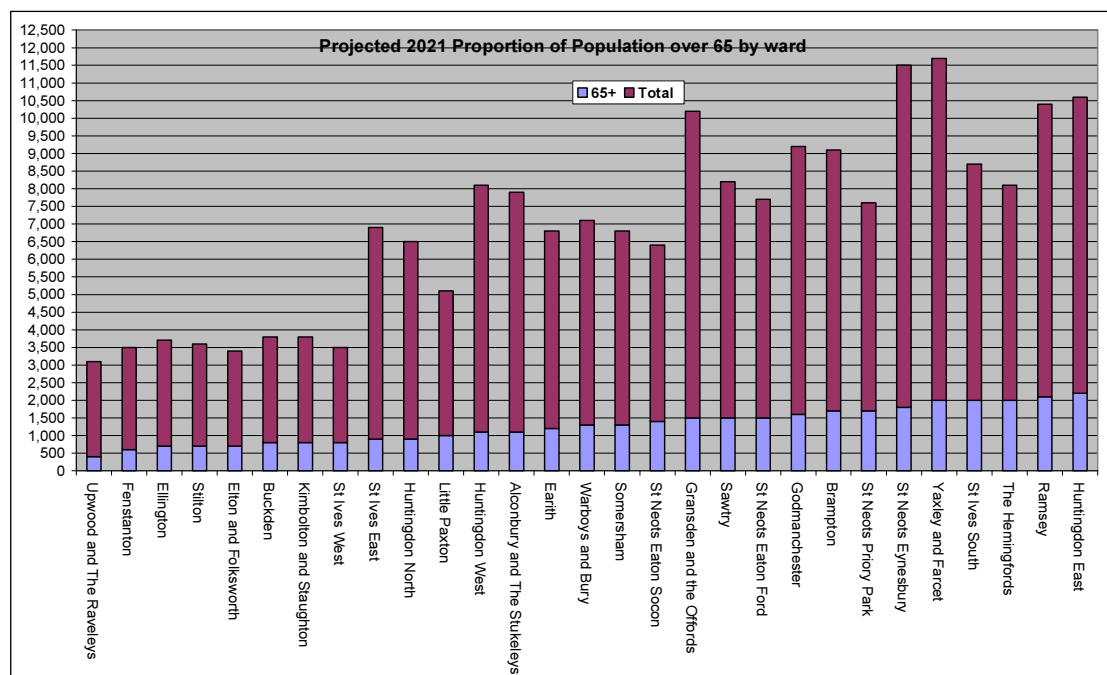
Population Estimates by Ward 2006



Source: Cambridge County Council Research Group Projections 2007

The wards with the highest 65+ population are Huntingdon East (1,500), Ramsey (1,400), The Hemingfords and St Ives South (both 1,300). As a proportion of population, the highest percentage of 65+ residents live in the Hemingfords (22% of the population are over 65), St Ives South (21%), and Little Paxton (20.0%)

Projecting forward to 2021, St Ives South, The Hemingfords, Yaxley & Farcet, Ramsey, and Huntingdon East will all have 65+ ward populations of over 2,000 residents. Proportionally, in 2021 St Neots Priory Park, St Ives West, St Ives South, and the Hemingfords wards will all have in excess of 29% of their population over 65 years of age, with the Hemingfords at 33%.



Source: Cambridge County Council Research Group Projections, 2007

Household composition

Figures for household composition have not been revised by County or the Office for National Statistics (ONS) since 2001.

Based on the 2001 figures, almost a fifth of all Huntingdonshire households are aged 65+¹⁶. About half of these households consist of over 65s living alone, which is significantly lower than the national average.

Ethnicity

ONS have now provided statistics for ethnicity by broad age groups at Census time. This shows that the 50+ population is considerably less diverse than that under 50¹⁷.

All Ages	Non- White UK	1.7%
Aged 50+		0.5%

Life Expectancy

Life Expectancy at Birth	Males	Females
Huntingdonshire	79.3	82.6
Cambridge City	78.7	82.6
East Cambridgeshire	80.8	84.0
South Cambridgeshire	80.9	84.4
Fenland	78.1	80.9
Cambridgeshire	79.0	83.0
East of England	78.3	82.6
United Kingdom	77.2	81.5

Source: ONS Statistics website, November 2008¹⁸

Life expectancy in the District Council area is above the regional and national average for males, and around the same or slightly below or above for females.

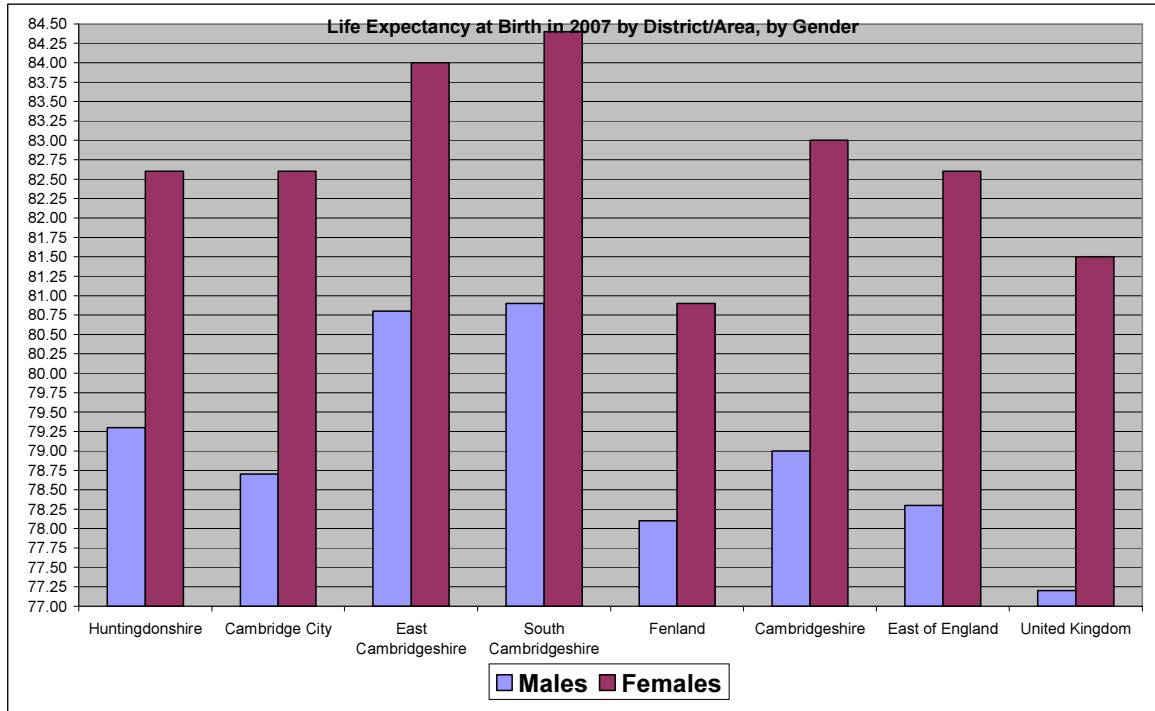
See overleaf for a graphical representation of the above

¹⁶ ONS Census, 2001

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ ONS Life Expectancy Tables

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/LE_EW_2008.xls



Source: ONS Statistics website, November 2008¹⁹

Frailty Estimates

Across Cambridgeshire, the number of physically frail older people is projected to rise by 53% by 2021. The number of cognitively impaired older people is projected to increase by 59% and the number of people who are both physically and cognitively frail is projected to increase by 54%.

Frailty is broken down into three elements: physical, cognitive and combined. The projected increases for Huntingdonshire are given below:

(d) Huntingdonshire

	Age	2006	2011	2016	2021	% change
Physical	65-74	550	700	850	860	56%
	75-84	870	960	1,170	1,440	66%
	85+	740	850	970	1,160	57%
	Total	2,170	2,510	3,000	3,460	59%
Cognitive	65-74	180	230	280	280	56%
	75-84	260	290	360	460	77%
	85+	230	260	300	360	57%
	Total	670	780	940	1,100	64%
Combined	65-74	80	100	120	120	50%
	75-84	210	240	290	360	71%
	85+	340	390	450	540	59%
	Total	630	730	860	1,030	63%
All disabled	Total	3,470	4,020	4,800	5,590	61%

¹⁹ ONS Life Expectancy Tables

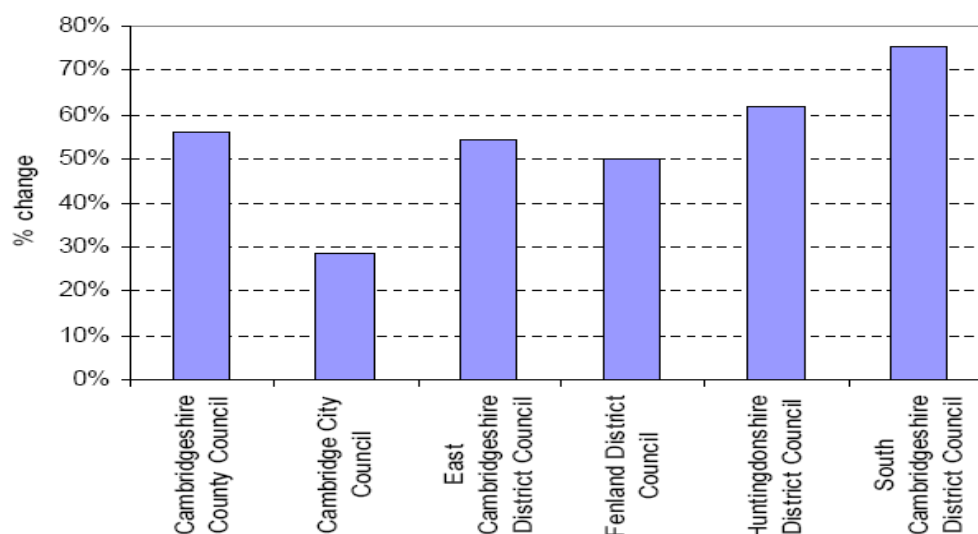
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/LE_EW_2008.xls

Source: Cambridgeshire Older Persons' Joint Strategic Needs Assessment²⁰

Dementia

Prevalence estimates suggest that, in 2006, there are around 6,600 older people with dementia in Cambridgeshire. By 2021 this is forecast to rise by 56% to 10,200. The figure below shows how the population with dementia is forecast to change by age between 2006 and 2021. This means that services need to be appropriately resourced to support people with dementia and needs to be considered in housing design and service configuration. (Source: JSNA)

Figure 18: Proportional change in new dementia cases, by PCT, 2003-2021



Aged Dependency Ratio

The ratio of people aged 65+ to those aged 0-64 is due to increase. This decreases the proportion of people likely to be economically active and available to care for and pay the taxes to support older people. The number of people aged 15 to 64 per person aged over 65 is forecast to drop by between 16% in Cambridge City to 41% in Huntingdonshire and in South Cambridgeshire²¹.

District	Ratio of working age population to those between 0-14 and over 65					2001-2021	2007-2021
	2001	2007	2011	2016	2021	Change	Change
Cambridge	2.73	2.91	2.91	2.69	2.34	14.3%	19.5%
East Cambridgeshire	1.84	1.85	1.79	1.58	1.47	20.1%	20.9%
Fenland	1.65	1.70	1.69	1.59	1.47	11.1%	13.8%
Huntingdonshire	2.01	2.05	1.98	1.78	1.66	17.4%	19.0%

²⁰ http://www.cambridgeshirepct.nhs.uk/documents/About%20Us/Public%20Health/Older_Peoples_JSNA_-_January_2008.pdf?preventCache=20%2F06%2F2008+09%3A49

²¹ Cambridgeshire County Council Research Group Estimates for 2007, November 2008

South Cambridgeshire	1.97	1.93	1.75	1.53	1.44	26.7%	25.1%
Cambridgeshire	2.03	1.76	2.00	1.83	1.69	16.8%	4.0%

Ratio of people aged 15-64 to those aged 65 or over						2001- 2021	2007- 2021
District	2001	2007	2011	2016	2021	Change	Change
Cambridge	5.59	6.26	6.48	6.12	5.27	5.8%	15.8%
East Cambridgeshire	3.99	3.89	3.53	2.85	2.41	39.6%	38.1%
Fenland	3.24	3.27	3.09	2.72	2.37	26.7%	27.4%
Huntingdonshire	5.17	4.69	4.11	3.20	2.78	46.2%	40.7%
South Cambridgeshire	4.51	4.19	3.49	2.76	2.48	45.1%	40.8%
Cambridgeshire	4.54	4.41	4.04	3.38	2.97	34.7%	32.8%

Fuel Poverty

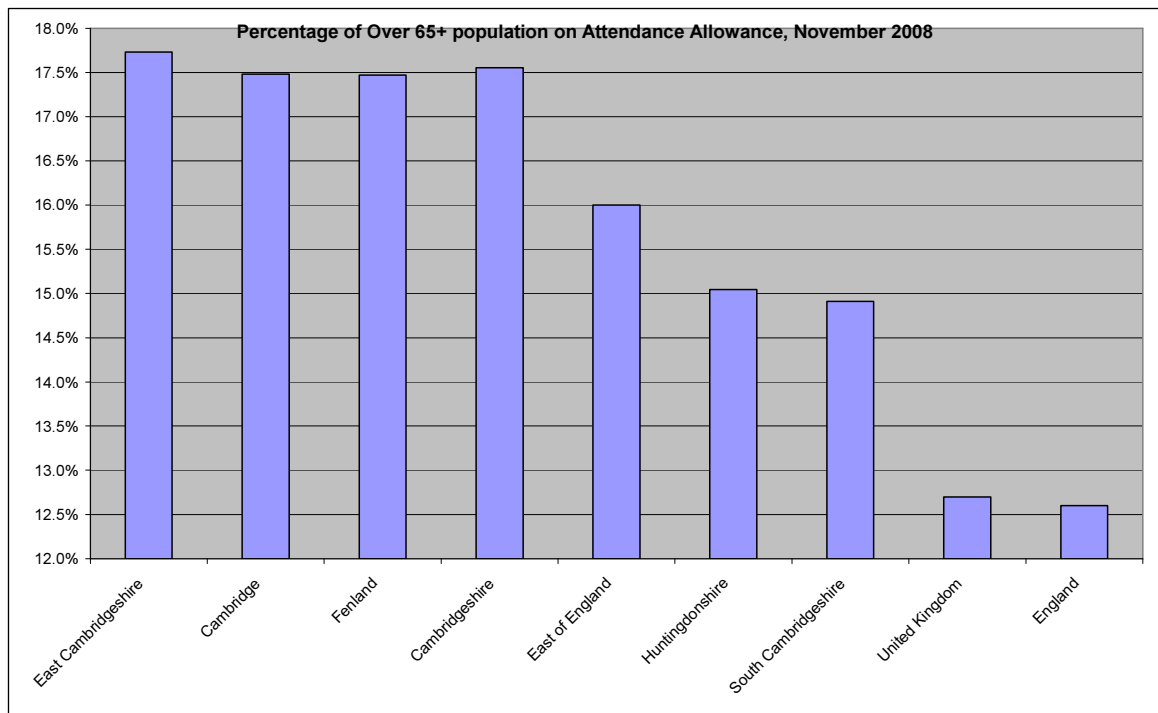
There are over 13,000 households in Cambridgeshire in fuel poverty. Five areas in Cambridge City, two in Huntingdonshire and one in Fenland are in the worst 10% in England. Older people are more likely to be in fuel poverty as they are on lower incomes.

Attendance Allowance

Attendance allowance is a payment made in the UK to people who are over 65 who have long term health problems, mental or physical, that present a care or supervisory need. It is not means tested and therefore is an indicator of the health and well being of the over 65 population.

District	65+ Population	AA Claimants	% over 65 on AA
Cambridge	13,700	2,395	17.5%
East Cambridgeshire	13,000	2,305	17.7%
Fenland	17,600	3,075	17.5%
Huntingdonshire	23,200	3,490	15.0%
South Cambridgeshire	22,100	3,295	14.9%
Cambridgeshire	89,600	14,560	16.3%
United Kingdom			12.7%
England			12.6%
East of England			16.0%

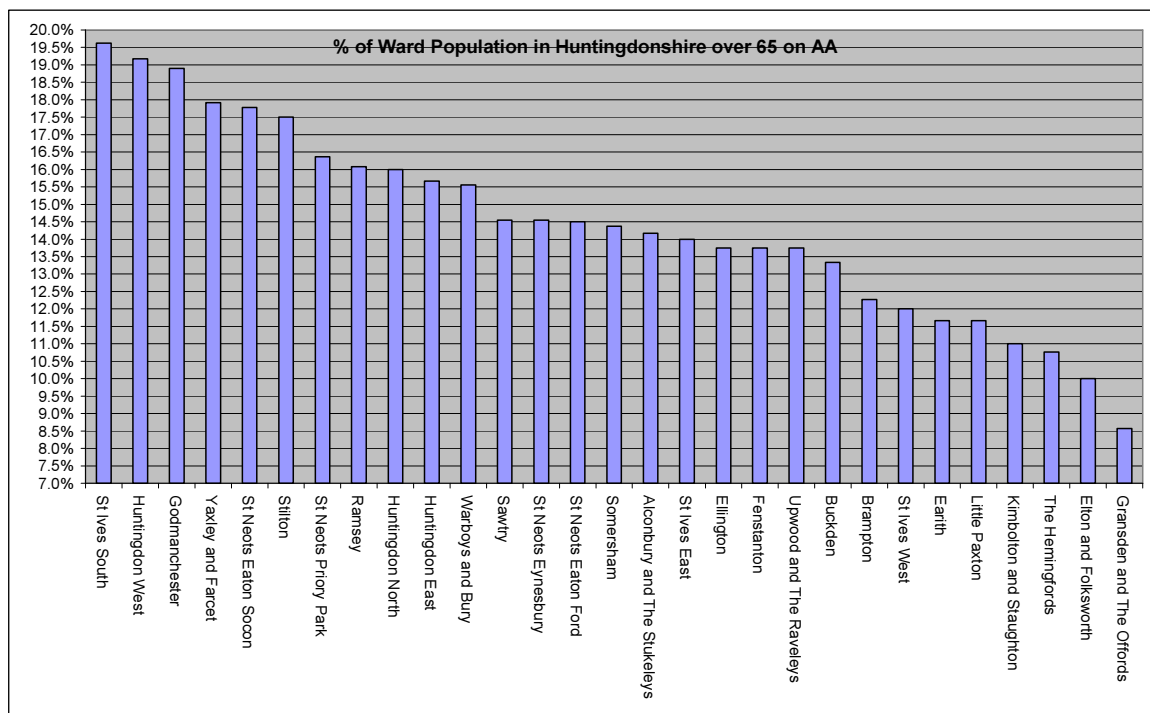
DWP & GAD Data, November 2008



Source: DWP Website, November 2008

In Huntingdonshire 15% of older people claim Attendance Allowance. This is 1.3% less than the Cambridgeshire average but a third more than the UK average (12.7%).

This does mask some considerable variations within the district:



Source: DWP Website, November 2008

For instance, St Ives South has 19.6% of the over 65 population claiming Attendance Allowance, Huntingdon West (19.2%), Godmanchester (18.9%), Yaxley & Farcet (17.9%), and St Neots Eaton Socon (17.8%) are all above the national, regional, county and district averages.

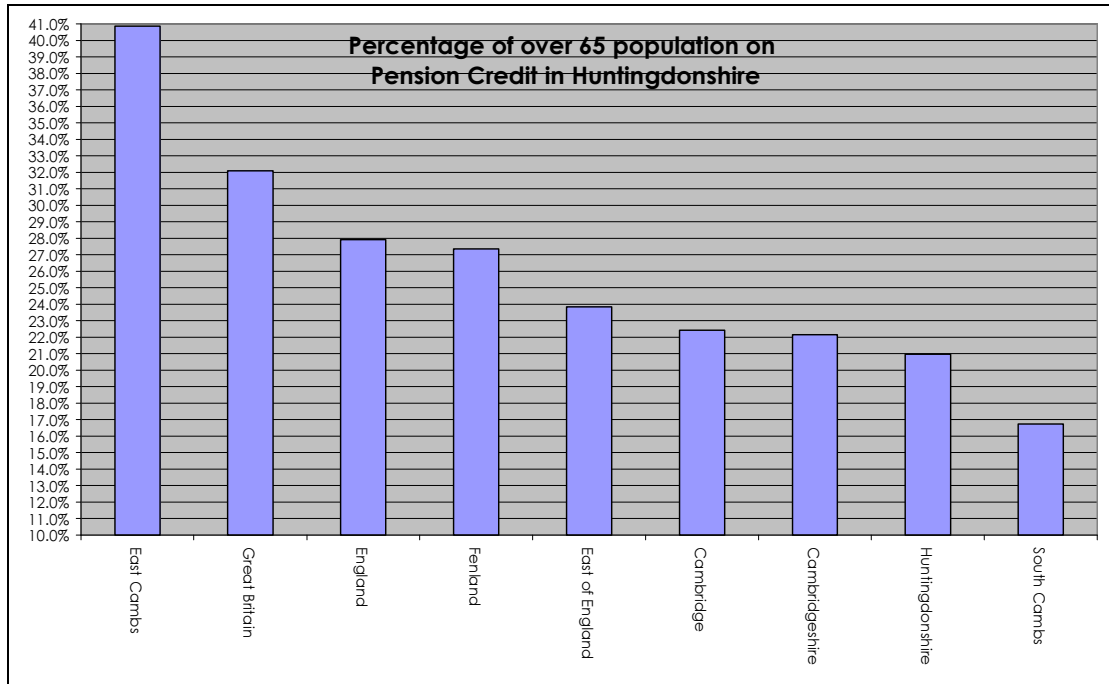
At the other end of the spectrum, Gransden & the Offords (8.6%), and Elton & Folksworth (10.0%) wards have between half and a third less than the average district percentage of Attendance Allowance claimants aged over 65.

Of course people in some areas will enjoy better health than others but benefit take up and awareness raising remains an issue for this Council.

Pension Credit

Reforms were introduced in 2003 to lift a large number of the poorest retired people out of poverty - the 'Pension Credit'. Pension Credit has two elements: 'Guarantee Credit' is a "means tested" benefit which is paid if the income of the claimant and partner is below a certain level (£124.05 for a single person in 2008/9). It is payable from age 60. In effect, this is Income Support for the over 60's.

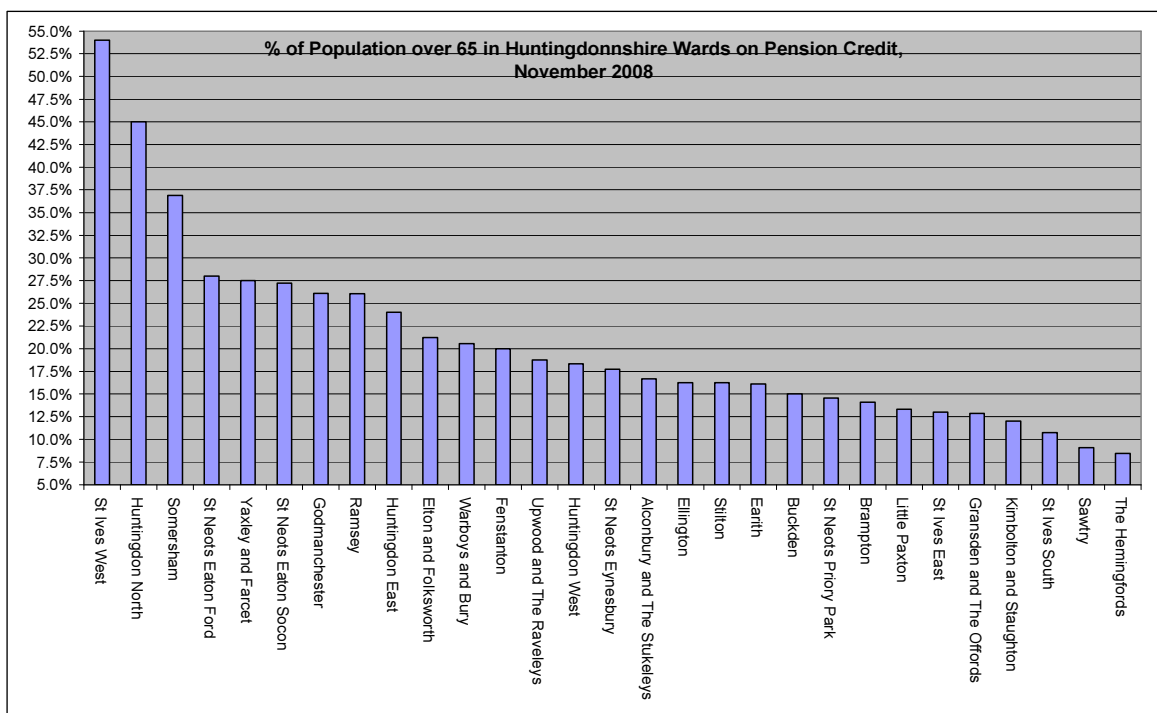
When the claimant or partner reaches 65 then the second element, Savings Credit, is also payable. Savings Credit is designed to "reward" people who saved for their pension during their working life. It therefore provides additional benefit to retired people who are not well off, but do have savings or a personal pension.



Source: DWP Website, November 2008

The District Council area has a relatively low number (4,760) and percentage of over 65s on Pension Credit compared to other districts in Cambridgeshire, and regional/national averages – the district figure is 20.8% of the over 65 population, around 5% less than the County average, and around 8% less than the national average.

As with Attendance Allowance, this masks a *considerable* variation within the district at ward level



Source: DWP Website, November 2008

As can be seen, 54% of the residents of St Ives West ward over 65 claim Pension Credit, around double the national average, and nearly two and a half times the district council and county average. Huntingdon North has a similarly high percentage (45.0%) of over 65s on Pension Credit. At the other end of the scale, in the Hemingfords ward, only 8.5% of over 65s claim Pension Credit.

As this is a means tested benefit, it could indicate ineligibility because people have higher incomes than the Pension Credit threshold. Alternatively there could be issues with a lack of take up.

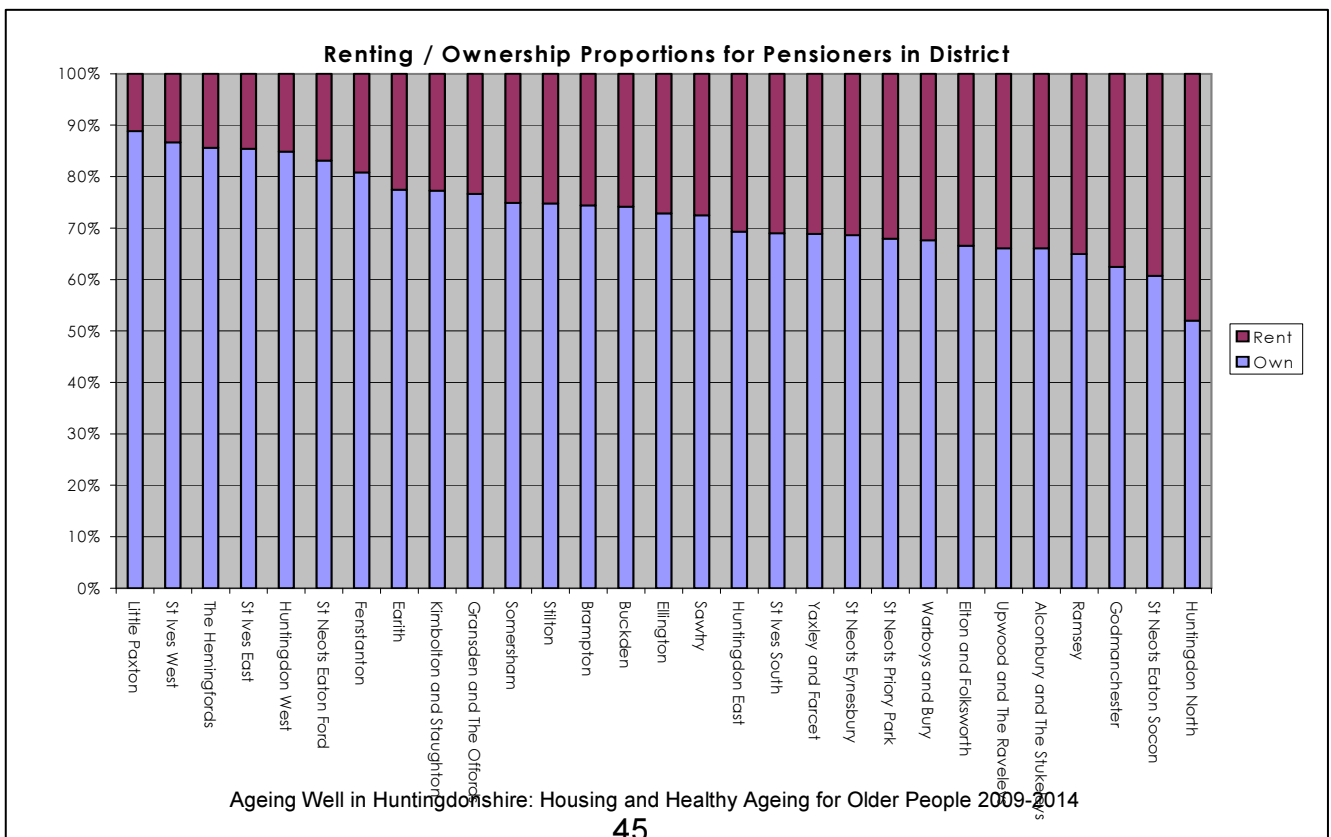
Housing Tenure

These figures have not been extensively revised since 2001. Overall figures for tenure (regardless of age) were produced in 2006, and showed the percentage of RSL rented properties had decreased from Census time (13.0%) to 2006 (12.4%). It is however not possible to comment or impute figures for the over 65s.

Based on the 2001 figures, slightly less older people than the district average are owner-occupiers at 72.9% whilst 28.1% of older people rent their homes. Of those renting (4,096 households), a very high proportion – over 90% - receive an amount of Housing Benefit.

There are, however, great variations within these figures; 48.0% of over 65s in Huntingdon North rent, compared to 11.1% of over 65s in Little Paxton.

See below for a ward-by-ward analysis of the tenures of the residents of the wards in Huntingdonshire.



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Action Plan
Older People Strategy 2009-14

LAA Indicators

Key National Indicators	How this Strategy supports the NI
154 Net additional homes provided	Development of housing for older people will contribute to overall growth in housing numbers.
155 Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	Development of housing specifically for older people will add to the number of affordable homes
141 Percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living	Provision of housing related services (community alarms, DFG, support, sheltered housing, extra care) can all add to the infrastructure that supports older people to live independently
136 People supported to live independently through social services (all adults)	
131 Delayed transfers of care	Where intermediate care is provided in a housing setting this can prevent emergency admissions or enable speedy hospital discharge.
186 Per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in LA area	CERT, Warmer Homes for Life, Warm Front schemes to help older people to improve the thermal efficiency and running costs of their homes, helping to prevent winter deaths, all contribute towards this NI.

Non-Key National Indicators	
142 Percentage of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	Provision of housing related services (community alarms, DFG, support, sheltered housing, extra care, Decent Homes standard) can all add to the infrastructure that supports older people to live independently
139 The extent to which older people receive the support they need to live independently at home	
137 Healthy living at age 65	
187 Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating	CERT, Warmer Homes for Life, Warm Front schemes to help older people to improve the thermal efficiency and running costs of their homes all contribute towards this NI.

Where fields are shaded this means that the action is an ambition that could be implemented subject to resources being available

Outcome	Action	Target	Resources	Link to NI	Notes
1. Meet the needs of people in their own home	Improve housing to the Decent Homes standard for vulnerable people living in the private sector	30 homes improved through Repairs Assistance per year	HDC Repairs Assistance Budget £200k pa	141 136 142 239 137	Interventions will contribute towards meeting the Decent Homes standard for vulnerable people.
		150 homes improved through Warm front per year	Warm Front Government funded scheme		
		100 homes improved through warmer homes for life scheme per year	Warmer Homes for Life Budget		
		250 homes receiving insulation measures funded by PHIS scheme	PHIS £100k one-off regional grant Enforcement action following Housing Health and Safety Rating Scheme assessment		
	Raise awareness of affordable warmth grant opportunities to reduce fuel poverty, reduce running costs of the home, and reduce winter deaths.	Ongoing	Internal Government warm front budget Warmer homes for life / PHIS scheme	141 136 142 239 137	
	Following the successful bid for funds to start a Handyperson scheme, establish the project with	2009/10 scheme operational	CLG kick-start funding	141 136 142	On going revenue to support the

Outcome	Action	Target	Resources	Link to NI	Notes
	partners		Luminus Age Concern	239 137	scheme yet to be identified
	Enable, where appropriate, the development of a range of housing provision including forms of home ownership which offers choice and independence	On going	S106 HCA HDC enabling budget RSL resources	154 155	Given the tenure balance in the district it is appropriate to enable forms of home ownership as well as social rented housing. Economic conditions will impact upon this target
	Implement the recommendations in the Government's paper 'Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods' including the target to achieve Lifetime Home standard in all new affordable housing from 2011 and in all housing from 2013	2011 - affordable homes 2013 - private sector homes	RSLs Private builders Planning department	141 136 142 239 137 154 155	
	Increase the services available to help people remain in their own home e.g. community alarms; floating support; income maximisation; disabled adaptations	200 DFGs per year	CLG grant towards DFG Council DFG budget	141 136 142 139	As funding opportunities arise

Outcome	Action	Target	Resources	Link to NI	Notes
	Encourage the development of new neighbourhoods which are appropriate for people as they age e.g. including safe walking routes to shops etc	ongoing	Planning department	137	As appropriate
	Work with providers to remodel existing (where needed and possible). Investigate other solutions where remodelling is not possible / viable	Action plan by 2010	RSLs Supporting People	155 154	Although we can influence this work programme, outcomes are dependent on effective partnership working.
	Encourage providers to develop the use of sheltered housing as a community hub from which a range of flexible services can be provided	On going	RSL NHS Cambs	137	Although we can influence this work programme outcomes are dependent on effective partnership working.
2. Make better use of sheltered housing and rationalise provision and enable a Strategic shift from	Plan for an increase in extra care, supporting Luminus to develop a scheme in Huntingdon	370 new units by 2016 Huntingdon – 30 units to open in 2011	Capital: RSL HCA Revenue: NHS Cambridgeshire	155 154 131 141 136 142 139	Other development opportunities will be appraised as they come forward.

Outcome	Action	Target	Resources	Link to NI	Notes
residential to extra care			Supporting People		
	Engage the private sector in the issues by raising the profile of the needs data and the strategic shift away from residential care and towards extra care housing, as set out in this document	2009/10 – document to be sent to private sector providers	HDC – existing resources	154 141 136 142 139	Extra care commissioning group to consider role of private sector at countywide level in implementing extra care strategy
3. Work in Partnership and Involve Users	Implement the Supporting People strategy for Cambridgeshire including commissioning floating support, implementing the BVR sheltered and commissioning extra care	ongoing	Supporting People partners	155 141 136 142 139 137	Although we can influence this work programme we are not solely responsible for driving it forward
4. Empowerment Information Assessment and Choice	Support the development of self directed support as it may impact on housing and related services in the future (increasing choice and control)	Contribute as appropriate in timescale set by County Council	Self directed support budget	141 136 142 139	Some housing related services will at some stage in the future be impacted by self directed support. These could include DFG and possibly,

Outcome	Action	Target	Resources	Link to NI	Notes
					Supporting People.
	Ensure older and vulnerable people get assistance with bidding for housing in the Choice Based Lettings programme where appropriate	ongoing	HDC Housing Services – existing resources	141 136 142 139	As appropriate
5. Promote healthy ageing	Support the introduction of a countywide reablement service as it relates to housing (e.g. adaptations, support, intermediate care)			131	All aspects of this plan impact on healthy ageing
6. Effective Resourcing and Commissioning	Implement the findings of the Home Improvement Agency Review	2009-11	Supporting People	141 136 131 142 139 137	Supporting People are leading on a retendering process for HIAs in Cambs

**AGEING WELL IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE – OLDER PEOPLES’ HOUSING
STRATEGY
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 1st December 2009, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) considered a report by the Head of Housing Services on the draft Older Peoples’ Housing Strategy entitled “Ageing Well in Huntingdonshire: Housing and Healthy Ageing for Older People 2009 - 2014”. This report contains a summary of the Panel’s discussions.

2. COMMENTS

- 2.1 The Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health has informed the Panel of the background to the Strategy a previous version of which was adopted by the Council in 2005. The Panel has acknowledged that Huntingdonshire will experience dramatic changes in its residents’ age profile with a considerable increase in the number of people aged 65 years in the coming years. Older people will also become a significantly greater proportion of the local population. The Strategy has been produced in partnership with NHS Cambridgeshire and it aims to promote healthy ageing and to improve the quality of life for older people in Huntingdonshire.
- 2.2 The Strategy contains reference to measures, which can be introduced within individual homes, to enable people to remain in their homes. Members have been advised that 72% of those aged 65+ within the District own their own homes and that wherever possible, older people are encouraged to live independently. The objectives of the Strategy focus on four key areas; namely providing support to older people, undertaking home adaptations; employing more energy efficient measures within homes and providing “extra care” services to the elderly.
- 2.3 With regard to extra care, clarification has been received that these services include sheltered housing and a “Handypersons” scheme. The housing schemes include a range of communal facilities and 24 hour nursing care provided by the Primary Care Trust. Whilst this requires a significant amount of resources, the Panel has recognised that this option is more affordable to the older generation when compared to residential care. At the same time it promotes older people’s independence. The Panel has discussed whether extra care facilities might be provided in smaller settlements to enable people to continue to live locally. As they might qualify as “exceptions” this could have the added benefit of making land acquisition cheaper. It has, however, been reported that these facilities need to be of sufficient size to justify the cost of on-site carers. Ideally, they would need to accommodate 40 residents to be viable, though a new facility being constructed in Huntingdon will cater for slightly fewer individuals. Members have supported the adoption of a flexible approach towards the type of tenure residents will be able to take.

- 2.4 In acknowledging that Occupational Therapist assessments are a necessary part of the process for home adaptations, Members of the Panel have questioned the time it currently takes for assessments to be completed. They have been advised that the Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health is currently pursuing this matter directly with the Primary Care Trust and Community Care Services and it has been agreed that the Notes of meetings, together with the Terms of Reference for a Working Group, which has been established to consider the matter, will be made available to Members of the Panel for information. It has been reported that some progress has been made as a result of this intervention.
- 2.5 The Panel has questioned the figures presented within the report and made comments in relation to the affordability of home adaptations. Other matters that have been discussed include the locality of the sheltered "extra care" services and whether the age of those to whom the Strategy applies should be raised from 65+ years to 75+ years. Finally, comments have been made on the need for more care accommodation to be provided for elderly couples.
- 2.6 Having received assurances that the Action Plan appended to the Strategy can be met through existing resources, the Panel has stressed that care in the home should not automatically be seen as the solution to all situations with a choice between options being made available whenever possible.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) as part of its deliberations on the report by the Head of Housing Services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) on 1st December 2009.

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

COMT
CABINET
COUNCIL

8th December 2009
17th December 2009
22nd December 2009

THE A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (Report by Head of Planning Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider and agree its formal response to the draft Side Road Orders for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement Scheme.
- 1.2 Further to this consultation process, it is likely that, based on the nature and number of the potential objections, that a Public Inquiry will need to be held during the second half of 2010. Following that inquiry the Secretary of State will need to consider whether to proceed with the Scheme.
- 1.3 There is yet no official implementation programme but if it is supported by the Government it is likely that the scheme would commence during 2011 and be complete during the second half of 2015. The potential related associated works within Huntingdon would be unlikely to be completed before the end of 2016.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council was originally formally consulted regarding the future of the A14 during the latter part of 2000 when it considered the issues emerging from the Cambridge to Huntingdon Multi-Modal Study (CHUMMS). In August 2001, the then Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions published their final report on CHUMMS. This was considered by Council on 26th September 2001 when the resolution stated 'that action should be taken as a matter of urgency to address the problems of the A14 and implement solutions'.
- 2.2 In February 2005, a statement was made to Council regarding an 'alternative option' which was being considered by the Highways Agency (HA) which did not form part of the CHUMMS strategy. This involved the provision of a new A14 2-lane dual carriageway and the retention of the existing A14 and viaduct through Huntingdon. The Council formally considered this option in June 2005. In its response, the Council resolved that any choice of route would have profound and significant effects on the town of Huntingdon and the surrounding area and any decision should not just be based on highway network

or environmental effects but should also include economic impact. The resolution also included the need to provide for appropriate noise and visual intrusion mitigation measures, to address issues with the alignment of the A1 west of Brampton, to consider the junction between the new A14 and A1198 and to minimise the impact of any viaduct crossing of the River Great Ouse north of the Offords. Members also supported the removal of the A14 viaduct within Huntingdon in line with the original CHUMMS Study and the resultant reorganisation of local traffic movements through and around Huntingdon. They also noted that the CHUMMS recommendations were more aligned to meeting local Air Quality issues rather than the alternative option now proposed.

- 2.3 During December 2006 and March 2007, the Highways Agency undertook further public consultation seeking views on the 'route' that the new road should take between Ellington and Fen Drayton. At their meeting on 21st February 2007, Council resolved to support the 'Orange' route, subject to the Agency giving consideration of the best alignment and environmental solution for Brampton west of the A1.
- 2.4 In October 2007, the Highways Agency made their 'Preferred Route Announcement' and announced the Secretary of State's decision to confirm that improvements to the A14 should follow the 'Orange' route and to include the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct. A variation to the previous consultation was also announced with the inclusion of a limited access junction between the new A14 and A1198 with the provision of west-facing slip roads.
- 2.5 Since that time, the Highways Agency, and their appointed Consultants, have been working on the details of the preferred scheme which culminated in the publication of these 'Draft Side Road Orders' on 30th September 2009. It is this legal process that allows communities to comment on the current proposals, to put forward alternatives, or to object to the scheme by the 6th January 2010 deadline for responses.
- 2.6 Members will be aware that Council most recently debated the latest proposals for the A14 at the meeting on 28th October 2009.

3. THE CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The scheme as now proposed in essence takes forward the details emerging from the Preferred Route Announcement (the Orange Route) in October 2007. Based on the feedback in relation to that announcement a number of changes and improved features have now also been included. These include enhanced noise mitigation measures, improved non-motorised user (NMU) facilities, appropriate design changes to the crossing of the River Great Ouse and the East Coast Main Line (ECML) and revised junction arrangements between

the new A14 and the A1198. Details of these are addressed elsewhere in this report.

3.2 The key elements of the scheme (within Huntingdonshire) are;

- The provision of a new two-lane dual carriageway between Ellington and Brampton (A1), then a three-lane dual carriageway between Brampton (A1) and Fen Drayton.
- The widening of the A1 to the west of Brampton from two-lane to three-lane dual carriageway.
- The incorporation of major free flow interchanges including at the A1 at Brampton and with the existing A14 at Fen Drayton.
- The down grading of the existing A14 between Brampton Hut in the west and Alconbury in the north-west to Huntingdon to Fen Drayton in the east. This will include the proposed removal of Huntingdon Viaduct and the creation of new links between the old A14 and the town centre.

3.3 Other elements of the scheme as a whole (outside Huntingdonshire) include:

- The widening of the existing A14 to three-lane dual carriageway between Fen Drayton and Fen Ditton.
- The construction of local access roads between Fen Drayton and Girton alongside the A14 to separate local and strategic traffic.
- The incorporation of a new major interchange between M11/A14/A428 at Girton.

3.4 The detailed design now being considered has been undertaken by the HA's appointed 'Joint Venture Consortium' (JVC), which is made up of Costain, Skanska and WSA Atkins who, as well as undertaking the design, will also construct the scheme. It should also be pointed out that as part of this engagement process, there have also been formal liaison meetings with officers of the HA as well as the County and District Council's prior to the formal publication of the draft Side Road Order process.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT & SIDE ROAD ORDER PROCESS

4.1 As part of the draft Side Road Order process an Environmental Statement, which considers the potential impacts of the scheme, has to be published in accordance with official guidance from the Department for Transport, the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and as supplemented by HA Interim Advice Notes (IAN's).

- 4.2 The Secretary of State has published draft Orders for the scheme under the terms of the Highways Act 1980 which, if confirmed, would give the legal authority to build the scheme. These Orders include those for the new mainline A14, Side Road Orders for altering and extending existing side roads as local access roads and new roads such as those within Huntingdon. They also include the de-trunking Orders for what will be 'old A14' to become the responsibility of the County Council as well as any Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) required for the above.
- 4.3 The Environmental Statement is a complex and detailed document covering 20 individual Chapters and an overview of its content is included as Annex A to this report. This also contains a dialogue regarding the pertinent points and the applicable conclusions for Huntingdonshire and these will form the basis of further discussions with the JVC.
- 4.4 Some specific details of the points raised will need to be further clarified and officers have entered into a continuing dialogue with the JVC in order to consider and address them with a view to reaching an agreed position on as many as possible prior to any formal Public Inquiry.

5. ECONOMIC/SOCIAL BENEFIT

- 5.1 The Council's strategic planning policies, as set out in the recently adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, all support and are predicated upon the continued sustainable growth and regeneration of Huntingdon. The delivery of an improved A14, and the related enhancements to the local road network, are considered to be vital elements in respect of the delivery of the Council's committed strategies. Therefore it is considered that the Council will be submitting specific evidence regarding these issues to any Public Inquiry.

6. MEMBER DEBATE

- 6.1 Members will recall that the debate at the October Council meeting gave them an opportunity to listen to pertinent representations from some of our Town and Parish Council's, to discuss the draft Side Road Orders process and to ask questions on which they required further clarification.
- 6.2 Some of these will have been answered within the body of this report but for completeness, Annex B lists all the questions asked and provides appropriate answers including specific information provided by the JVC wherever possible. As the same questions, or questions with a similar theme, were asked by different Members, these have been collated into a generic set of questions not attributed to any particular Member.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The primary purpose of this report is to enable a formal response to be submitted to the Highways Agency with regard to the draft Orders for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement Scheme.
- 7.2 As Members will recall, since the first formal Council debate on these proposals back in December 2000 and as part of the subsequent stages of debate as the scheme has progressed to the current day, this Council has always strongly supported the overall principles associated with the proposed enhancement of the A14. However, such support has always been given with a number of strong caveats under the banner of securing the best solution for Huntingdonshire, including such matters as mitigating the effects of the scheme as far as possible, including in visual, noise and air quality terms.
- 7.3 The draft Orders and Environmental Statement now published and being debated are a further important step in the progress of the scheme. The published details include all the elements required to progress the scheme to its next stages with the Environmental Statement being an important tool in terms of setting-out the effects of the scheme across a number of detailed areas.
- 7.4 Arising from the analysis of the Environmental Statement and the Member debate there are a number of issues that remain to be addressed through further studies and discussions with the JVC. These specifically include: the impact of 'rat running' through villages south of the A14 with the inclusion of western slips on the A1198; the adequacy of the design of the junction of Hinchingbrooke Park Road with Brampton Road, and; local mitigation issues around the effects of non motorised users, landscape, drainage, ecology, nature conservation and cultural heritage .
- 7.5 In supporting the scheme as now proposed, it remains a key objective to secure the best possible outcome for Huntingdonshire and while it is accepted that with what is now published there will be local impacts, there is considerable weight in favour of the scheme as the majority of the communities which are adversely affected by the existing A14 will benefit from the scheme.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that Council agree to the following representations being made to the Highways Agency in respect of its formal response under the draft Orders for the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement Scheme, namely;
- That the Council positively supports the A14 improvement scheme, as submitted, and states that it wants to see the delivery of the scheme as soon as practically possible. The delivery of the

proposed improvements are necessary to support the Council's strategic planning and economic development strategies; to improve journey times; and to enhance road safety for the travelling public.

- That the Council specifically supports the associated and related proposed improvements to the local road network in and around Huntingdon.
- That the Council continues to work with the JVC in order to appropriately address specifically identified outstanding issues and local mitigation measures.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement Scheme – Draft Side Orders and Environmental Statement

Contact Officer: **Stuart Bell**
Transportation Team Leader
 **01480 388387**

Chapter 1 - Introduction

i) This Chapter covers the overall objectives of the Scheme and the need for the route to perform its strategic national function as well as that as a designated Trans-European route and to provide improved network capacity to support the economic/housing growth in Cambridgeshire and the wider London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough Growth Area including the new town of Northstowe.

ii) It is reported that all necessary applications have been made covering TRO's, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and tree works to those protected have been submitted. The publishing of draft Orders under the Land Drainage Act 1981 relating to HDC Award drains and new, improved or stopped-up drainage for a new A14 is also covered. Finally, the chapter also covers the interrelationship between topics and areas of strong relationship i.e. Nature and Ecology Conservation and air quality, noise and water habitat. Landscape assessment and linkage to townscape and visual assessment, historic and cultural heritage. Drainage and Water Environment and Geology and Land Contamination as well as Land Use in terms of Urban and Rural issues and agricultural land quality.

Conclusion – This Chapter is relatively straightforward and sets the Scheme Overview in place

Chapter 2 – The Need for the Scheme

i) This Chapter contains an overview of existing conditions, the multi-purpose nature of the route and the particular deficiencies of the network, including delay, quantity and speed of traffic and high % of HCV's. Reference is made to the perception that accident levels are significant but acknowledges that actual numbers are not significantly different to similar 'A' roads although the effects of accidents can be significant in terms of resulting congestion and lack of diversion routes. It does note that accident rates are higher than the national average for the existing A14 between Spittals and Brampton Hut, likely due to at-grade roundabouts at each end.

ii) Outlines how the route influences the local economy and is the only high-quality route between Alconbury and Cambridge and the settlements in-between. The chapter includes dialogue on the structural condition of the Viaduct within Huntingdon and also covers the unsuitability of the current A14 to meet NMU needs.

iii) An overview of the original CHUMMS recommendations is included together with the recommendation that the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway is also taken forward and that the old A14 should include use as a public transport corridor and improved access to Huntingdon rail station and town centre.

Conclusion – A factual chapter outlining the evidence gathering that has been undertaken in developing the need for the scheme.

Chapter 3 – Scheme Description

i) This Chapter describes the Scheme in detail across four Sections. Section 1 covers Ellington to Fen Drayton, Section 2 Fen Drayton to Girton and Histon with Section 3 covering Histon to Fen Ditton. The fourth section is titled 'Huntingdon' and describes the scheme to remove the existing A14 viaduct. For the purposes of this Council's response, we have considered Section's 1 & 4 only.

ii) In terms of the detail covered, the geometry objectives are explained that the overall design seeks to minimise the effect on landscape, avoiding property, landscape pattern, curves and cutting objectives, minimising watercourse diversion and clearances of the River Great Ouse and ECML.

Conclusion – There are a number of important design issues covered by this chapter on which the Council needs to provide direct feedback as part of its formal response. These are outlined as follows;

a) The Scheme now proposed includes the provision of a partial junction between the new A14 and the A1198. In terms of the detail now included, access between both routes is restricted to west-facing slip roads to allow traffic travelling westbound to access the new A14 from the A1198 and traffic approaching from the west to exit the new A14 onto the A1198. On the east side of the junction, emergency vehicle access only is proposed. This arrangement would primarily benefit longer distance traffic.

The JVC is providing a Technical Note to outline the need for this arrangement which relates to providing adequate accessibility for traffic, particularly HCV's, to the south side of Godmanchester thereby relieving traffic from the middle of Huntingdon following any removal of the existing viaduct.

Concern has been expressed regarding potential rat-running through villages to the south of the current A14 as a result of the proposed partial junction on the A1198. The JVC have been requested to investigate this matter and provide greater justification.

In design terms, Chapter 5 outlines that the route at this point has been lowered by 3m into deeper cutting and that the general alignment has been designed to minimise 'cut & fill'. The alignment has moved marginally to in order to preserve a mature tree line north of the new A14.

There is clear evidence provided relating to the benefits in overall traffic terms of the provision of a partial junction on the A1198 and it is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that this Council specifically **SUPPORTS** the provision of this junction.

b) There has been local representation to provide a direct NMU route between Brampton village and Brampton Wood crossing an upgraded A1 and new A14. This is not proposed as part of the current proposals and the HA propose to maintain the existing route that has been in place since previous A1 realignment works were undertaken. While the call for a more direct route is understandable, it is considered that the current route in terms of distance is no worse than exists at present and is beyond that which is necessary as part of the current scheme.

c) The published Scheme confirms that any crossing of the new route would be provided by a road bridge in each case, rather than 'at-grade'. It is recommended that this should be **SUPPORTED**.

d) Gantries and Signage are an important recognition within the proposal to integrate the proposed scheme with the separate project underway at present to provide a driver information network between the M1 and Felixstowe. This should be **SUPPORTED** on the basis of overall journey improvement and driver information provision.

e) The report covers Earthworks Design outlining that cuttings in Section 1 (Ellington to Fen Drayton) would provide much of the embankment fill required within the section east of the railway (i.e. little net import/export of material) and at (b) that existing allocations within the Cambs Minerals Plan for extraction in land to either side of the A1 to the SW of Brampton and a proposed borrow pit near River Great Ouse would, subject to consent, supply the rest of the fill and bulk aggregates for Section 1. It is confirmed that fill within Huntingdon would be generated from the existing trunk road embankments. The overall net import/export of material associated with this operation should be SUPPORTED.

f) Drainage design is also included and recognition that existing systems have insufficient pollution control, lack of storage capacity and lack of flow in existing watercourses. General intentions of proposed highway drainage are covered and confirm that existing systems together with new requirements would meet current design standards. This should be SUPPORTED.

g) Lighting design is included with the aim to minimise light pollution with specific reference to work within Huntingdon as part of the Viaduct removal and new road network and the aesthetics of the daytime appearance. It is confirmed that the whole route will not be lit but includes lighting at Ellington/Brampton Hut junction, A14/A1 Brampton Interchange and local road lighting at Brampton Road and on the A1198 Ermine Street junction above the new A14. This should be SUPPORTED.

h) Environmental Design (ED) is an important area to which appropriate weight must be attributed. The ES recognises the adverse influence on the local environment of the existing A14 corridor, both natural and human, with reference to the existing effects within Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The general intentions of ED are outlined together with noise mitigation design, inc. the use of quieter road surfaces, earth mounds, planting and acoustic fencing and the aim to reduce noise levels as much as practicably possible in the areas most adversely affected. This is a specific issue arising from previous Council consideration of A14 matters and recognition that these matters are to be dealt with should be specifically SUPPORTED. An outline is provided to indicate that for the nearest and most exposed properties mitigation would be provided where possible to ensure that levels would be no greater than they would have been without the scheme. It does acknowledge that mitigation is only possible where effective measures can be introduced and that beyond typically 200 to 300m, some properties may have a small increase in noise levels. This is covered in greater detail in Chapter 9 below.

i) Details are provided for proposed mitigation measures for the part of the route of the A14 and A1 running alongside each other at Brampton West End with a proposed planted screen mound between the routes to assist route separation. The proposed noise and visual screen between the A1 and Brampton is proposed to be 7m in height (5m mound plus 2m noise fence) and provided from an early stage of construction with planting added during the first available winter as part of the overall proposal for a 40m deep woodland belt. This is a specific issue arising from previous Council consideration of A14 matters and recognition that this specific design detail has been addressed should be specifically SUPPORTED.

j) As in (i) above, the Council has previously recommended appropriate mitigation measures elsewhere within the proposed scheme as necessary. The ES covers the design proposals for the Brampton Interchange between the A1 and the new A14 and outlines that the scheme is mainly on embankment with the new A14 up to 12m above existing levels and to include lighting. This could create considerable visual intrusion into the landscape so the aim is to create substantial wooded areas in field

corners (included in the CPO draft) and at the foot of large embankments thereby enclosing this major change to the local landscape as far as practicably possible. This should be SUPPORTED.

k) A specific concern of the Council as part of previous consideration of A14 proposals has been the impact of the proposed route of the new A14 on the River Great Ouse and ECML crossing. As part of previous recommendations, the Council request that this was minimised in terms of visual intrusion as far as practically possible.

Within the design now proposed, the elongated viaduct in excess of 1km, has been reduced to two separate structures and reduced to the absolute minimum design height standard for the crossing of the river and the ECML. The impact has been further reduced by the provision of densely planted embankment slopes either side of the 460m long viaduct, together with the provision of balancing ponds and water bodies, thereby creating a pattern of tree-fringed lakes and meadows. These changes specifically address an area of this Council's previous concerns and should be SUPPORTED.

In terms of the proposed structures, the colour details for metal girders, piers and parapet barriers all have the potential for visual impact and as part of on-going dialogue and discussion with the JVC, officers continue to discuss this as a specific design detail.

l) In terms of the Council's overall requirement as part of previous consideration of the need to mitigate the impact of the route as far as practically possible, the ES includes for measures past Hilton, Fenstanton and Connington, to provide 2m or higher screening mounds with planting 20m or more deep along the route where it sits on shallow embankment. These changes specifically address an area of this Council's previous concerns and should be SUPPORTED.

Chapter 4 – Construction of the Scheme

i) This Chapter covers the Construction Strategy that has been developed and the 'buildability' of the proposals with particular relevance to the more complex junctions and interchanges and reference to the need maintain adequate traffic flow throughout the construction period.

ii) Works would commence with Section 2 (outside Hunts) first, being the most complex section with changes at Girton Interchange determining the length of the overall programme. Section 1 would follow as this can commence without substantive effect to the existing A14. After Section 3 is complete it is the intention to undertake the works within Huntingdon once the new A14 is fully open, although as much preparatory work would be undertaken in advance as possible.

iii) Extensive detail is included on the importation of fill required to construct the scheme, access needs in order to construct the crossings of the River Great Ouse and the ECML as well as construction works within Huntingdon including those for the new road network, the proposed demolition of the Viaduct and the removal of redundant embankments, including that at Views Common.

iv) It is planned that the whole A14 route should be available for opening at around the same time towards the end of 2015 with the element within Huntingdon following towards the end of 2016.

Chapter 5 – Alternatives and Consultations

i) This Chapter is simply an overview of the options that have been considered during the selection of and development of the now published scheme.

It outlines the reasons behind the choice of route option (Orange) following the 2007 public consultation. Following the 2006 consultation, the District Council and a number of other consultees raised the question of the best alignment of the route to the west of the A1. The Council recommended that this be investigated by the HA and that the best overall solution in the interests of Brampton and Buckden should be sought.

ii) Further study work was undertaken in late 2006 and is also outlined. This showed that effects on west Brampton would primarily arise from changes in traffic flows on the A1, with little difference in the effects of A14 traffic. It was concluded that the most western (brown) route would have some adverse effect on rural properties and on landscape generally, therefore the option of retaining the road in one corridor (closer to Brampton) was preferred. Cost comparison undertaken in early 2007 showed that the western route would have lower construction costs but that this would have been offset by the associated costs relating to the relocation of Huntingdon Recycling and work required to electricity transmission line pylons.

Previous recommendations from this Council asked that the HA undertake further work to select the best route for the alignment of the new A14 west of the A1 between the Orange and Brown routes in environmental terms and to mitigate the effects on, and provide the best solution for, Brampton. Information contained in the Chapter and elsewhere within the ES points to the best solution as now proposed, namely that the A1 and new A14 alignment generally share the same corridor. The reasoning behind this is that mitigation can be provided by the provision of a bund and noise barrier to the east (Brampton) side of the A1 and that this will help mitigate the effects of both routes. By providing the A14 on a more westerly alignment towards Brampton Wood, it is indicated that the same level of mitigation could not be provided to address the current and future effects of the A1.

iii) Within the immediate locale, similar mitigation is also proposed for properties on Buckden Road where the new A14 crosses. Noise barriers are proposed although it should be noted that these properties will experience an increase in recorded noise levels. Full details of this are covered in Chapter 9 and Annex F.

iv) The Chapter outlines the work associated with the 'Huntingdon Study 2006' relating to the work that a range of partners undertook to examine options around the potential removal of Huntingdon Viaduct, traffic modelling associated with the options tested as well as any benefits to Huntingdon arising from its removal. The results of that work are now included within the scheme as now proposed.

v) At the District boundary with South Cambridgeshire, amendments to the junction arrangement between the old A14 and the new route are explained. At the time of the last consultation this junction was planned to operate with that proposed at Cambridge Services (Swavesey). Following this consultation, the junction has been revised to facilitate to/from Cambridge and also results in a reduced environmental impact and cost saving due to a loss of required embankments and lesser structures. As this has no direct disbenefit to Huntingdonshire, this revision could be SUPPORTED although it should be noted that it will allow strategic traffic to mix with local traffic to/from Cambridge and the District boundary.

Huntingdon Specifics

i) The proposals for Huntingdon and the planned viaduct are covered in detail. This includes a report on why certain options have been rejected, primarily due to additional land take, loss of TPO trees and lack of suitable facilities for pedestrians and cyclists as well as overall costs. The selected option addresses these issues as far as practically possible, subject to the loss of some TPO trees and should be SUPPORTED.

ii) At Views Common, a total of 8 options have been considered based on mitigating the impact on the open aspect of Views Common and the area of 'ridge and furrow'. In choosing the option now published, this has minimised the extent of new road construction, allowed the existing pedestrian routes to remain and also facilitates the removal of redundant embankment and reinstatement of Views Common at its south-east end. This element should be SUPPORTED.

iii) The junction arrangements at Brampton Road adjacent to the railway station are described. The report outlines that a roundabout was rejected at this location due to land constraints and that a number of layouts were investigated in order to achieve a scheme that achieves the best optimum balance between traffic capacity and the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. It is reported that the capacity of this section of route is constrained by the junctions at Hinchingsbrooke Park Road as well as the ring-road but that the junction design is intended to integrate with the proposed West of Town Centre Link Road planned by HDC/CCC.

iv) Access to the Rail Station is described with the selected Option meeting construction works needs as well as being able to spread the demand on the access points and the local road network thereby allowing traffic to flow more freely.

v) Five scenarios were considered for the arrangements at Mill Common, including that selected. The published scheme has been chosen to provide a safe change in driving environment between a dual carriageway and the new local road network but also providing less disruption during construction and providing separate access to properties at Mill Common and Castle Hill. It is noted that the drawback of this version compared to that included in the 2006 Huntingdon Study, is that there is a significant loss of open space from Mill Common.

vi) Traffic flows are an important element of the changes within planned Huntingdon and any decision taken relating to the Viaduct removal. From the traffic modelling undertaken, the planned changes indicate an overall drop in levels across the highway network and these are indicated in Annex C and associated plans. The only exception to this is at Brampton Road between Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and east of the railway where traffic levels are predicted to rise by 10%. The overall design of the network and particularly the traffic signal arrangements adopted will seek to properly manage this increase.

vii) The only other area to consider in terms of the overall design, are the proposals for the Hinchingsbrooke Park Road junction with Brampton Road. At the time of writing, it is unclear if the junction arrangements are adequate to cater for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists, particularly due to the proximity of Hinchingsbrooke School and the possibly relocated Regional College. The JVC are currently investigating this option in further detail. Subject to the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures including enhanced junction arrangements at Hinchingsbrooke Park Road with Brampton Road the proposed options can be SUPPORTED.

Chapter 6 - Approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment

- i) This Chapter includes a do-minimum scenario, basically a detailed assessment of what would have occurred in the same timescale had the scheme not gone ahead covering the years 2015 and 2031.
- ii) At the time of writing, officers are currently in discussion with the JVC regarding the baseline list of schemes in place within the assessment, namely the WOTC link road and the planned A428 Black Cat (A1) to Caxton Common.

Chapter 7 – Policies and Plans

- i) The 'current policy position' as set out in the ES can obviously only always be a 'snapshot' at that point in time e.g. HDC's policy position has now firmed up via the adoption of our Core Strategy (September 2009) and the on-going submission of the Huntingdon West AAP (to be approved by Council in December 2009) – similar issues probably relate to other documents. These changes will supersede some of the quoted historic local policies.
- ii) In terms of Regional Policy, the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Review is now underway with the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) consulting on 'growth options/scenarios'. This Council and all of the other Cambridgeshire Districts, plus the County Council have responded to that process.

Chapter 8 – Traffic & Transportation

- i) This Chapter outlines that a scheme of this magnitude is developed via a computer based transport model based on current and future traffic forecasts to support the design and both the environmental and economic assessment of the scheme. The origins of the model are based in the original CHUMMS work and the A14 Huntingdon Viaduct study model, which has led to the development of the specific model for the Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme involving 3 evolving versions, together with the Cambridgeshire Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) Model as well as the use of the East of England Regional Model in order to assess the strategic impact of the A14 scheme across the region.
- ii) The base transport model for the whole route is based on the period for October 2006 covering morning peak hour, a typical inter-peak and evening peak hour. Traffic forecasts have been produced for the opening year of 2015 and the forecast year of 2031. Forecasts are produced for a Do Minimum and Do Something case. The Do Minimum covers the transport effects in 2015 and 2031 without the Published Scheme with Do Something is based on the delivery of the Published Scheme covering the same years. It is noted that the level of traffic in the Do Minimum and the Do Something models does differ due to the Published Scheme altering travel behaviour. The level of traffic growth applied is based on a range of considerations including national economic conditions, changes in travel behaviour over time and local patterns of future development.
- iii) The Guided Bus project will not open until late 2009 so therefore the effects of this are not included in the 2006 Base Model but is included in the Do Minimum and Do Something Models for 2015 and 2031.
- iv) The Chapter outlines details of Observed Traffic Flows i.e. current conditions in three broad areas namely, the Motorway and Trunk Road network, Cambridge and finally Huntingdon. The motorway and trunk road information lists are well-known

including rehearsed current flows and traffic patterns. There is nothing included of great surprise or likely dispute. The sections for Cambridge and Huntingdon outline how traffic flows are currently monitored and gives the total flows in Huntingdon for traffic entering the town. Again, these are all well documented figures based within the existing CCC monitoring system.

v) It goes on to explain in some detail the recognised issues of low traffic speeds and the effects on traffic queues and congestion. There is nothing seemingly within this section with which to raise question as we are satisfied that all reported data is factual, recorded evidence at various points on the overall route.

vi) Accidents are recorded as a significant issue on the A14 both in terms of the accident itself and the resulting impact of delay, disruption and diversion of traffic from the network. Details of personal injury figures are included. Again these are a matter of record and are not in dispute. This reporting also breaks the information into accident rates per section (of the network) with Brampton Hut to Spittals showing as being at twice the national average. The figure between Spittals and Bar Hill (South Cambs) is slightly below the national average. Incidents according to type are also included.

vii) This Chapter also details the Forecast Effects of the Scheme including the impact of local traffic in the Huntingdon area. This is also covered in Chapter 5 and reference to Annex C and the associated plans attached indicates various traffic flows at key points in the network both with and without the scheme. This section usefully explains the effects of reduced traffic levels as a result of the scheme, reflecting the role of a de-trunked A14.

viii) Other related impacts of the scheme are covered, including an explanation that all at-grade accesses would be removed from the new scheme, this being a particular issue with the current route. It also explains that traffic conditions on the A14 corridor are projected to improve and would encourage local road use without the presence of, or the effects of, A14 traffic. Improved access to Huntingdon Rail Station and improved, secondary, access to Hinchbrooke is also covered.

ix) Importantly the ES confirms that a de-trunked A14 would not act as a formal diversion route but does acknowledge that any closure of the planned route between Brampton and Fen Drayton could result in a deterioration of local traffic conditions. This is of course a condition experienced now when current incidents occur on the existing A14 and as described elsewhere within the ES, the design of the new off-line route in accordance with current DMRB guidance will reduce the likelihood of closure to the minimum.

x) Public transport is covered within this Chapter and includes the effects of Guided Bus and on-street measures to Huntingdon and are included as a baseline condition and reference is also made to better accessibility within Huntingdon following the Viaduct removal. However, unlike Guided Bus recommendations of the original CHUMMS, any services that could emerge on what will become the old A14 corridor are not covered by these proposals and these would be likely to emerge as a result of local market conditions.

This Chapter concludes that traffic on a de-trunked (old) A14 between Alconbury and Fen Drayton would (obviously) be lower with the new A14 in place. It does note that traffic on the A1 between Alconbury and the new Brampton interchange would increase. On the non-trunk road network, the greatest impact is noted as being within Huntingdon with an increase in traffic on Brampton Road between

Hinchingbrooke and the Rail Station but elsewhere across the town, traffic levels will be significantly lower when compared to the Scheme not being built. Traffic reductions on the ring-road and through Godmanchester are particularly noted and again, Annex C and the associated plans outlines these figures.

Chapter 9 – Noise & Vibration

This Chapter provides a comprehensive explanation of how noise and vibration has been assessed in accordance with recognised standards. Variations from standard methodologies are explained and have been approved by the Highways Agency, notably the use of a default height of 4m above ground level instead of 1.5m for noise calculations in recognition that the majority of the housing in the detailed study area is of two storey construction. This variation will result in higher noise levels in most circumstances.

Calculated traffic noise impacts from the proposed scheme are compared to predicted traffic noise impacts from the existing roadway based on the anticipated date of opening in 2015 and for future year 2031. Local areas that will be adversely affected by the proposed scheme and areas that are expected to benefit from noise reductions are identified.

The noise assessment takes consideration of the effects of the proposed new section of road between Ellington and Fenstanton having regard to the noise mitigation measures proposed as part of the scheme. The assessment identifies that traffic flows and therefore associated noise levels fluctuate in intensity hourly, daily and seasonally and therefore traffic noise is assessed using a time-averaged metric, the $L_{A10, 18h}$. Calculated changes in noise and vibration are compared with accepted subjective responses to changes in noise levels.

Potential noise and vibration impacts are identified from changes in:

- a. Road alignment (vertical and horizontal);
- b. Sound generation (traffic flow, speed, gradient and road surface type);
- c. Sound propagation (ground absorption, screening, reflection and scattering).

The assessment also considers the temporary effect of construction and associated processes and the mitigation that will be required to control noise and vibration during this extensive phase of work.

Noise & Human Hearing

The assessment explains how the human ear responds to a wide range of sound pressures from zero, at the threshold of hearing up to 130 decibels (dB), commonly described as the threshold of pain. It lists typical noise levels associated with common noise sources.

The response of the human ear is logarithmic rather than linear in behaviour and able to detect a noise level difference of about 1 dB (A) between 2 steady sound sources when presented in rapid succession in laboratory tests under controlled conditions. However, the smallest change in environmental noise that is generally noticeable is about 3 dB (A) and a 10 dB (A) change approximates to a subjective doubling or halving of loudness. The human ear is also less sensitive to low and high frequencies than to mid range frequencies and for this reason noises that affect humans are usually expressed in dB (A) units in recognition of this frequency response. Similarly, the resultant noise level at locations affected by two or more

noise sources has to be calculated using logarithmic rather than simple arithmetic addition.

In the United Kingdom, traffic noise is normally expressed using the $L_{A10, 18h}$ metric which is the arithmetic average of the noise level exceeded for 10% of each hour of the 18-hour period from 0600 to 2400 on an average weekday. The assessment follows this convention. Construction noise on the other hand fluctuates with time due to the varying nature of the activities taking place and is best described using the L_{Aeq} metric which is used to describe such activities.

Methodology

The assessment shows calculated noise levels to the nearest 0.1 dB, taking account of proposed noise mitigation and includes a qualitative assessment of properties outside the immediate area of the scheme. Affected properties have been classified according to the ambient façade noise level, comparing “Do Minimum” and the scheme implementation noise levels in the opening year (2015) and for a future year (2031). Vibration and night-time noise impacts from the scheme are assessed along with the effects of temporary noise and vibration impacts from construction activity.

The detailed study area close to the road extends out as far as 600m from the centreline of the road. The qualitative assessment extends from 600m from the centreline out to a maximum of 2 km from the project boundary and this is described as the “wider area”.

The report acknowledges that noise levels calculated at the façade of buildings in the assessment take account of a + 2.5 dB “façade correction” whereas the noise levels shown on noise contour maps are predicted for free-field conditions at 4m height. Consequently, noise levels at upper storey property facades are 2.5 dB higher than the corresponding level shown on the noise contour maps.

All dwellings within the detailed study area that will be affected by changes of 1 dB or more have been listed in Appendix D5 to the ES. Where affected roads beyond the detailed study area show changes in noise levels of 1 dB or more due to changes in traffic conditions resulting from the scheme a separate count of the number of properties within 50m of the affected road has also been made.

A computerised noise model, NoiseMap Server Edition has been employed to calculate noise levels from the new road having regard to noise data collected from previous studies in 2006, 2008 and 2009 which were used to verify the model predictions. Other inputs to the model involve traffic flows, vehicle mix and noise mitigation proposals like barriers, bunds, road surfacing materials and vertical and horizontal alignments.

The following descriptions of the magnitude of impacts from changes in noise levels are reproduced from recognised standards to help understand the impact of changing levels of traffic noise:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a. | 0dB change | no impact |
| b. | 0.1 to 0.9dB change | negligible impact |
| c. | 1 to 2.9dB change | minor impact |
| d. | 3 to 4.9dB change | moderate impact |
| e. | 5dB or greater change | major impact |

Noise Mitigation Strategy

Noise mitigation is proposed for several areas of the scheme in the form of noise barriers, earth bunds, false cuttings, vegetation and reduced noise road surfacing (see plan in annex D). The latter measure is normal for all new trunk roads. Barriers can provide reductions of 10 dB or more for well screened receptors close to the road but beyond 200 to 300 metres the effects are often negligible and ground attenuation becomes the most significant factor. In the south of Huntingdonshire there are several rural properties where it is not technically feasible to protect them with noise barriers.

Provision for residential noise insulation against road traffic noise from new or altered roads is made in the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975 (as amended) in prescribed circumstances. Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 sets out provision for compensation for loss of value in various circumstances, including noise from new highways.

Main Findings

Although, many properties in Alconbury will experience increased traffic noise due to the detrunking of the A14 spur and subsequent increase in volume on the A1, the village has existing 2m noise barriers and the increase is generally in the range of 1 to 2.9 dB which represents a “minor impact”.

The west of Brampton is the most vulnerable settlement but will be protected by a significant earth bund and noise barrier of 7m in height, resulting in a 1 to 3 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ reduction. The north of Brampton will benefit from the detrunking of the existing A14 and will also experience a 1 to 3 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ reduction; whereas properties on the southern fringes of Brampton will see a 1 to 2 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ increase. Properties at the perimeter of RAF Brampton will experience a 1 - 5 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ increase.

Buckden has little protection from A1 noise and, as a consequence increases in noise are not expected in most parts of the village. Some dwellings well away from the A1 may experience a small increase in noise but this will only be noticeable in certain wind conditions. However, a 3 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ increase will be experienced by all dwellings within 50 to 100m from Brampton Road, Buckden. Although this road will be diverted under the new A14 as a result of the scheme the isolated dwellings to the immediate south east of the scheme and Station Farm to the north will experience increases of 5 to 10 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$ and Lodge Farm will experience an increase of 10 to 15 dB $L_{A\ 10,18hr}$. 2m noise barriers are proposed at this location to protect a group of houses to the west of the scheme including Orchard View and Lodge Farm.

The main noise impact on Offord Cluny is presently from traffic in the High Street and the proposed A14 will produce a noticeable increase in background noise in parts of the village away from the High Street. Noise from the High Street will limit noise impacts in Offord Hill to a 1 to 3 dB increase.

East of the East Coast Railway and to the north of the scheme, Offord Hill Farm, Wilburton Farm, Westward Farm and Lower Debden Farm will experience increases of 5 to 10 dB. Depden Farm will experience an increase of up to 15 dB. Further east, there will be 3 to 5 dB increases at Beaconsfield Equestrian Centre and Debden Farm. To the south of the new route, Debden Top Farm, Debden House and The Cottages will experience increases of up to 15 dB from present levels of less than 50 dB. Depden Lodge Farm is presently affected by noise from the A1198 and will be affected by increases of 5 to 10 dB.

East of the A1198, Wood Green Animal Shelter will be affected by increases of 5 dB or more at the south east of the site. The western side will have little impact as a result of noise from the A1198. Moving further east, Buckland's Bush Farm and Littlebury Farm, Top Farm, Topfield Farm and Lattenbury Farm will experience a 5 to 10 dB increase in noise.

Hilton village lies to the south of the new route and outside the detailed study area. However, houses away from the B1040 will be affected by some increases where local traffic noise is insignificant. Properties facing Potton Road and the High Street will not experience significant changes due to the effect of local traffic.

Fenstanton will experience an overall reduction in noise levels as a result of the proposed scheme but it will continue to be affected by the existing A14 and there will be increases at Peartree Close of 1 to 5 dB. Old Clayfields in Hilton Road will experience an 8 dB increase. A 2m earth bund is proposed to protect houses at Mount Farm, Model Farm and Peartree Close.

In respect of ground-borne vibration the ES notes that no noise sensitive property is situated within 5m of the existing or proposed route and therefore no permanent traffic-induced vibration is expected to create an impact on residential dwellings.

In considering airborne traffic induced vibrations from Heavy Goods Vehicles the ES explains that low frequency exhaust notes from such vehicles can coincide with the resonant frequency of an element of a dwelling within 40m of a carriageway but there is never enough energy in the sound wave to cause building damage. In general, those properties that will experience an increase in noise level as a result of the scheme will be prone to increased airborne vibration but for any given level of noise exposure, the percentage of people bothered by nuisance from vibration is accepted to be 10% lower than the corresponding figure for noise nuisance.

The ES provides a qualitative assessment of scheme impacts on night-time noise by comparing the differences between daytime and night-time noise and concludes that there is generally a reduction of 6 to 10 dB when comparing noise levels from 0600 hours – 2400 hours against the night-time levels from 2400 – 0600 hours.

The ES recognises the importance of planning during the construction phase to mitigate noise and vibration effects and follows the guidance set out in BS 5228 in setting out control strategies. Most noisy construction activity will be planned for normal daytime hours but it is recognised that more detailed negotiations will be required with the relevant local authorities to ensure that noise from all construction/demolition activities is satisfactorily managed.

Conclusion

The noise and vibration information supplied in the ES has been compiled in accordance with recognised standards and represents a robust "detailed assessment" of noise and vibration including noise calculations within a defined area close to the road.

The conclusions are well researched, based on the planned route, the expected traffic flow, traffic mix and planned noise mitigation. Overall, it provides a good assessment of noise and vibration from the proposed scheme and addresses the issues required by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3, Part 7 – Noise and Vibration.

Many more Huntingdonshire properties will experience an improved noise climate with the scheme in place than will experience higher noise levels. Nevertheless, a limited number of properties will experience major noise impacts. A plan at Annex E indicates areas across the area of planned changes where a significant number of properties benefit from noise reductions, together with those where an increase in noise is predicted. These properties that experience noise increases are specifically identified at Annex F.

Chapter 10 – Air Quality & Emissions

Chapter 10 covers predicted emissions from both the construction phase of the project and from road traffic predicted to use the new A14 when commissioned.

The report outlines the basis for the chosen assessment methodologies, introduces relevant national and local policies and guidelines, focusing on the National Air Quality Strategy Objectives, and the implications of the scheme on those objectives.

There is a study of existing constraints which looks at Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and ecologically designated sites. The six AQMAs present in the study area are summarised. Four of the AQMAs are within the Huntingdonshire area and three of those within the study area.

The report outlines the relevant pollutant objectives contained within the National Air Quality Strategy.

Pollutants of concern

It is stated that the report concentrates on three specific pollutants.

- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is a local air quality pollutant with known health affects. NO₂ concentrations have previously been identified as an issue in Huntingdonshire and there are four existing AQMAs in the district which have been declared due to this pollutant. Road traffic emissions of NO₂ result from the oxidation of atmospheric nitrogen in vehicle engines and oxides of nitrogen are then emitted in exhaust fumes.
- Fine Particles (PM₁₀) is also a local air quality pollutant with known health affects. Concentrations of PM₁₀ in Huntingdonshire have not been found to exceed objectives and there are, therefore, no AQMAs for this pollutant in the district. However, there is an AQMA for PM₁₀ in areas around the existing A14 in South Cambridgeshire, and there is no explicit level where concentrations are found to have no negative health affects. Road traffic emissions of PM₁₀ result from incomplete combustion of fuel, particularly in diesel engine vehicles and also from brake and tyre wear and re-suspension from the road surface.
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is not a local air quality pollutant. This pollutant is of concern due to its contribution to global warming. CO₂ generation is an inevitable consequence of fossil fuel combustion and is emitted in exhaust fumes.

Generation and dispersion of NO₂ and PM₁₀ have been covered quite thoroughly within the report. As local CO₂ concentrations are not relevant this pollutant has been treated differently and only its mass emissions have been calculated.

A large amount of historical NO₂ and PM₁₀ monitoring data is reported largely sourced from the district councils' data with some additional data gathered by the Highways Agency's consultants.

Assessment Methodology

The methodology and the approach to the assessment are provided in detail.

Liaison meetings took place between the district air quality officers from the affected areas (CCC, HDC and SCDC) and the Highways Agency's air quality consultants (Atkins) on the principles of the air quality assessment and a number of technical details were agreed prior to the modelling exercise starting.

It was agreed that the generation and dispersion of NO₂ and PM₁₀ from the scheme would be modelled using Advanced Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS) Roads version 2.3.1. ADMS is produced by Cambridge Environmental Research Consultants (CERC) and is well validated, fit for use and more advanced than most alternative dispersion models.

The processes of assessing the air quality impacts from the scheme are described in detail.

For dispersion modelling purposes the scheme was broken into four discrete areas.

Area 1 - Cambridge Northern Bypass;
Area 2 - Online A14 from Cambridge Northern Bypass to Godmanchester;
Area 3 - Existing A14 through Huntingdon from Godmanchester to A141;
Area 4 - Offline A14 from Fen Drayton to A1, A1 between Buckden and Alconbury, and A14 between Ellington and Huntingdon.

The dispersion model was built using the following information.

- Geographical information sourced from Ordnance Survey Mastermap
- Background pollutant concentrations sourced from the National Air Quality Information Archive
- Meteorological data sourced from RAF Mildenhall and Wattisham
- Traffic flow data for model verification sourced from the Highways Agency and Cambridgeshire County Council counts
- Traffic flow data for modelling of future years sourced from the traffic model outlined in Chapter 8 of the report
- Verification data sourced from the district councils and the Highways Agency's additional monitoring programme

Due to the large amount of variables and corresponding high potential for error in dispersion modelling it is important to verify a model against existing monitoring data i.e. known concentrations at given locations.

The model was verified for the base year 2007 in accordance with Defra's Technical Guidance LAQM TG(09) in an identical process to that utilised by the district councils in their Air Quality Review and Assessment work. The verification details are provided in Appendix E2.

In addition to the verification study, a sensitivity study was also conducted for Areas 1 and 2. This sensitivity study was requested by the district councils at the liaison

stage. The verification study involved running the verified base model using meteorological data sourced from a different site (Wattisham 2007) and using meteorological data from a different year (Mildenhall 2003). 2003 was chosen as an alternative year due to the particularly poor dispersion characteristics evidenced in that year.

Areas 3 and 4 were not subjected to a sensitivity study and no reasons for their exclusion from this process are provided in the report. Atkins has subsequently indicated that these areas were excluded due to time constraints and because there were no real-time monitoring data available for roadside locations in these areas.

The verified model was then run to provide a forecast of pollutant concentrations at relevant receptors in 2015 for both the do minimum scenario (no new A14) and the do something scenario (with the new A14).

Critique of the Assessment

It would have been preferable if the Huntingdonshire areas of the dispersion modelling exercise were not subjected to the sensitivity study as in South Cambridgeshire. This is unfortunate but we recognise that the modelling exercise appears to be thorough and robust and the local verification studies demonstrated a very good agreement of the base year with existing monitoring data.

Some of the most important inputs to the dispersion model were the predicted traffic flows, fleet composition and vehicle speeds which were sourced from the traffic assessment. If any significant doubts are raised as to the validity of the traffic assessment those doubts will also apply by proxy to the dispersion modelling results.

It is recognised that traffic predictions for future years have the potential to be inaccurate and therefore there is significant uncertainty about the actual pollutant concentrations that will result from the scheme. This is not a criticism of the report but a general statement of fact.

Identification and Assessment of Likely Effects

The temporary impacts during the construction phase are considered. The potentially most significant of these effects is predicted to be dust from construction vehicles, plant and practices. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is proposed which will identify a suite of appropriate dust mitigation measures. More detail on controls at the construction phase is given in Chapter 4.

The long term impacts from the completed scheme are considered and these impacts are largely informed by the modelling process.

Dispersion modelling of NO₂ and PM₁₀ has produced predicted concentrations of the pollutants for 2015 for sensitive locations with and without the scheme in place. By comparing these values it is possible to derive the air quality impacts of the scheme.

In terms of predicted pollutant concentration increases and decreases at relevant receptors there is a far greater number of decreases than increases and this is due to the alignment of the offline section being considerably further away from settlements than the existing A14.

There are some notable increases predicted; at Alconbury due to the predicted increase in flows on the A1 and at a number of relatively isolated dwellings close to

the offline section. The increases and decreases at a number of sample locations are tabulated in the report and are further summarised in the table below. It should be noted that in no instance is it predicted that there will be an exceedance of national objectives arising from the scheme.

Receptor	Change in NO ₂ concentration µg/m ³	Change in PM ₁₀ concentration µg/m ³
School Lane, Alconbury	+5.0	+2.0
Wood View, Brampton	-3.6	-0.9
Woodhatch Farm, Thrapston Road, Ellington	+1.2	+0.5
Rectory Farm, Great North Road, Brampton	+5.2	+1.7
Grafham Road Cottages, Grafham Road	+7.7	+2.6
Greendale, Huntingdon	-15.1	-4.8
Burrows Drive, Huntingdon	-3.3	-0.6
Cambridge Road, Godmanchester	-10.2	-2.6
Rectory Farm, Cambridge Road, Hemingford Abbots	-11.7	-5.1
Depden Farm, London Road, Godmanchester	+8.8	+2.8

A range of maps showing all the model receptors and pollutant increases and decreases are provided in the Chapter 10 Figures. In summary these have the following implications:

Alconbury. Parts of the village close to the A1 will experience increases in NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations due to predicted increased traffic flows on this section of road. The majority of the village is to the west of the A1 and is therefore upwind. The Lordsway Park Homes estate, to the east of the A1, is predicted to experience some of the highest increases. NO₂ increases of between 2 and 6µg/m³ and PM₁₀ increases between 1 and 2 µg/m³ are predicted. No exceedances of national objectives are predicted.

Brampton Hut. Three isolated dwellings, including Rectory Farm, west of Brampton Hut are predicted to experience increases in NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations due to the offline section of the proposed road bringing traffic flows closer to these properties. NO₂ increases of between 2 and 5µg/m³ and PM₁₀ increases between 1 and 2 µg/m³ are predicted. No exceedances of the national objectives are predicted.

Brampton. Receptors in the north west of the village close to the Brampton Hut Spittals Link are included in the modelling. Predicted decreases in flows of this section of the road result in predicted decreases in concentrations at these properties. Decreases in excess of 5µg/m³ of NO₂ are predicted at some properties. Decreases of between 1 and 2µg/m³ of PM₁₀ are predicted.

Fenstanton. Significant decreases in pollutant concentrations are predicted at properties in Fenstanton due to the considerable reduction in flows on the A14 predicted. Reductions in concentrations of NO₂ of between 1 and over 5µg/m³ of NO₂ and 1 and over 5µg/m³ of PM₁₀ are predicted.

Godmanchester. Receptors in the north of Godmanchester, close to the existing A14, are predicted to experience decreases in NO₂ of between 2µg/m³ and greater

that $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and decreases in PM_{10} concentrations of between $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and greater than $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Hinchingbrooke. Receptors in the west of Hinchingbrooke, close to Spittals Link are predicted to experience decreases of NO_2 of between $3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and in excess of $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Decreases of between 1 and $3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of PM_{10} are predicted.

Huntingdon. A large number of receptors were modelled in Huntingdon with particularly high coverage in south and west of the town. A large number of receptors are predicted to experience significant decreases in concentrations of NO_2 and PM_{10} . There is a relatively small area on Stukeley Road close to the railway bridge where there are predicted increases for both NO_2 and PM_{10} of 1 to $2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. It is thought that these localised increases will result from traffic flow changes in connection with the WOTC link road. No exceedences of the national objectives are predicted.

Isolated properties close to the proposed offline A14. There are twelve relatively isolated properties which are close to the proposed alignment of the offline section of the proposed road. These properties are predicted to experience increases in concentrations of pollutants of between 1 and over $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of NO_2 and 1 and $4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of PM_{10} . No exceedences of the national objectives are predicted.

Isolated properties close to the existing A14 between Godmanchester and Fenstanton. There are fifteen relatively isolated properties that have been modelled and decreases in concentrations of between 2 and over $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of NO_2 and 1 and over $5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of PM_{10} are predicted.

Implications for the Huntingdonshire Air Quality Management Areas

There are currently four AQMAs in Huntingdonshire and three of these will experience significant improvements in air quality as a result of the scheme.

Air Quality Management Area No.1 Huntingdon. This area covers much of the south and west of the town, including much of the inner ring road area. Based on the modelling predictions it will be possible to amend this AQMA following completion of the A14 upgrade so that it covers a much smaller area.

Air Quality Management Area No.3 Brampton. This area covers north west parts of Brampton and Hinchingbrooke close to the Spittals Link. It is thought that it will be possible to revoke this AQMA following completion of the scheme.

Air Quality Management Area No.4 A14 Hemingford to Fenstanton. This area covers a number of isolated dwellings close to the A14 between Godmanchester and Fenstanton. It is thought that it will be possible to revoke this AQMA following completion of the scheme.

Conclusion

The air quality assessment reported in Chapter 10 of the Environmental Statement appears to be thorough and robust.

Predictions are that increases in concentrations of NO_2 and PM_{10} , at relevant receptors resulting from the scheme, will not result any exceedences of national air quality objectives and will not, therefore, result in the declaration of any new AQMAs.

Predictions are that decreases in concentrations of NO₂ and PM₁₀, at relevant receptors, resulting from the scheme will result in the eventual revocation of two existing AQMAs which currently result from road traffic emissions from the existing A14. It is thought that a third AQMA, at Huntingdon, will eventually be amended to a much smaller area as a result of the scheme.

Chapter 11 – Geology / Land Contamination

The ES dated October 2009 presented a summary of geo-environmental ground investigations but the detailed investigations were not included within the ES. The comments only relate to Section 1 of the proposed road (Ellington to Fen Drayton) which is within Huntingdonshire.

Summary Table of Contaminants above the Site Specific Assessment Criteria

Trial hole number	Contaminant	Location
SOIL LEACHATE		
TP3018	Toluene, Benzene	Rectory Farm, Brampton Hut
WS3079 & WS3077	Lead & Mercury	Goff Petroleum (GW & HH)
TP3035	Mercury	No source
TP3133	Mercury	Nr row of trees to w of track towards south of Silver Street Bridge, Debden Top Fm
TP3217	Mercury	Conington Rd (a field)
TP3179	Zinc (+ Sulphate in WS3178)	Lintons Fm s of HemGrey + Topfield Fm
GROUNDWATER		
BH3039	Ammonical nitrogen	Just past small bridge w of Brampton
WS3093	Ammonical nitrogen	Buckden South
BH3096	Ammonical nitrogen + As	Buckden South

HH = Human health, GW = Groundwater

Human health:

Despite the above findings, the report concludes that there will be no significant pollutant linkage to human health (providing the recommendations contained within the report are adhered to).

Lead and mercury was found at Goff Petroleum which has the potential to affect human health and pollute the groundwater, however, there is currently no significant pollutant linkage and the proposed development will not change this.

Elevated mercury levels were found in some trial pits in undeveloped areas which are assumed to be natural concentration levels for this area.

The ES mentions asbestos but it is also worth considering that many farm tracks in Cambridgeshire are constructed of asbestos rubble. If farm tracks are to be disturbed by the proposed development, it would be appropriate to first investigate the track for asbestos and if found to be present, the services of an appropriately qualified contractor should be commissioned to either safely remove or safely contain the asbestos to prevent the fibres from escaping into the atmosphere.

Water Pollution:

The soil leachate results from TP3018 suggest that there may have been a petrol leak in the past (Brampton Hut service station is close by). While there is currently no significant pollutant linkage as a result of this contaminant, the exposure of this soil to construction workers may complete a pollutant linkage and therefore it is agreed that construction workers should be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment as stated in the ES.

The ES explains that the groundwater surrounding the proposed development will be monitored before, during and after the construction works to assess whether or not the development has an impact on existing groundwater quality.

Chapter 12 – Land Use

Provides a commentary upon existing land uses and how the HA would propose to provide for appropriate mitigations as part of their proposals.

Chapter 13 – not used

Chapter 14 – Pedestrian, Cyclists & Equestrians

The purpose of this Chapter is to report on the predicted effects of non-motorised users (NMU) of the scheme and includes an assessment of where the Published Scheme would introduce community severance or provide relief from existing effects which is noted as mainly improving conditions along the line of the old A14.

There are a number of errors in description of elements contained in this Chapter. While these are highlighted, it should be noted that these have been reported to the JVC.

There are numerous references in this Chapter to the presence of a Secondary School within Godmanchester. This is factually incorrect. Both such facilities are located within Huntingdon but it is agreed that this is an error without material significance.

There is a error in the scheme description for the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway. The route does not largely follow the former rail route between Huntingdon and Cambridge, it is only as far as St. Ives. On-street between St. Ives and Huntingdon follows an entirely different route.

It is confirmed that User Surveys have been carried out on various NMU routes in the vicinity of the scheme in order to assess overall usage as well as within Huntingdon Town Centre. Key findings are included and outline the high usage of the Ouse Valley Way at Buckden Marina with Equestrian usage noted north of and at Brampton Lodge, Grafham Road and Silver Street.

The situation for NMU at Brampton is outlined and notes that Brampton Wood, west of the A1, is viewed by residents as a leisure destination for recreation and that local residents consider that there is existing severance to Brampton Road due to the existing A1 and length of existing diversion. There is also reference to Brampton residents who need to travel to Brampton Hut for work and the existing route at the Brampton Hut junction being dangerous for pedestrians. The suggested response of the Council is outlined in Chapter 2 (ii) (b).

Other NMU issues are reported at Buckden, Huntingdon/Hinchingbrooke, The Offords, Godmanchester, Hilton, The Hemingfords and Fenstanton.

It is confirmed that during construction the amenity of existing NMU routes would be protected as far as possible.

The Chapter covers the effects of the new Scheme in some detail and the pertinent elements are as follows;

Brampton FP 15 – The report notes the minor stopping-up of the western part of this route where it adjoins the existing A1. This is due to the earth mound and noise protection barrier proposed to the east side of the A1. The report notes that FP 15 will now join a new Bridleway running north to Brampton Hut. While it is noted that a) the existing route of FP 15 currently terminates at the A1 with no direct connection to Brampton Hut and that b) traffic flows at Brampton Hut will reduce as part of the proposed scheme, there appears to be no continuous connection to Brampton Hut although pedestrian control facilities appear to be proposed at the existing signals. The Council needs to raise that as part of the overall scheme, a physical connection i.e. footpath/cycletrack should be sought to Brampton Hut in the interests of user safety as this appears to be the main point of destination for users of this route. In terms of safe accessibility, if the JVC cannot secure a full scheme thereby creating access, then no formal crossing or linkage to Brampton Hut should be included. A 'halfway-house' position should not be viewed as acceptable.

BW 19 to Brampton Wood and Park Road/Grafham Road - While it is understood that Brampton Parish Council is seeking to secure a more direct route between Brampton village and Brampton Wood and reinstate a ROW that was lost as part of previous works to the A1, the effects of this scheme in terms of the changes to the existing route are minimal.

Silver Street (plus connection to BW 1) - Although not a bridleway, the southern end of Silver Street does connect with Bridleway No. 1 Godmanchester (and the wider bridleway network) and the bridge would be used by riders and horses. Bridge parapets should therefore be to bridleway standard and this is confirmed elsewhere within the ES.

A1198 Ermine Street BW 7, BW 2, BW 10 – This should appear to read that a new bridge on the A1198 will be provided crossing the new A14 alignment. It is stated that the bridge would accommodate a 4m shared bridleway along the east side of the carriageway and that the bridge would accommodate equestrian provision with 1.8m parapets.

A new bridleway between Beaconsfield Equine Centre to BW 10 and the wider bridleway network is planned to the east side to tie into the bridge design.

The report also states that the links to BW 2 and BW 10 to the south would be unaffected by the Scheme. Both the written description and the plans provided are extremely unclear in that the proposed bridleway south of the new A14 appears to stop short of BW 10 and BW 2 with access to both being provided by the A1198 highway verge. It is suggested that the JVC are asked to make a 'complete' connection to BW 10 and BW 2 and that this would be both a sensible and desirable option.

Mere Way - This bridge will link BW10 Hemingford Abbots & BW 13 Hemingford Grey with BW 16 Hemingford Abbots via Mere Way. The overbridge will almost

certainly be used by riders and so the bridge parapets should be to bridleway standard. It is noted elsewhere within the ES that 1.8m equestrian parapets will be provided.

Descriptive Tables are usefully provided within the report. At Table 14.18, the first line of this table is described as 'Bridge over A14, Huntingdon'. It is not clear where this is or why it is shown in the Table as a permissive path when it appears to be public highway at Brampton Road crossing the railway. Clarification is being sought from the JVC.

Further clarification is also being sought as to the location of a stated informal use footpath between Hinchingsbrooke School and the Rail Station referred to as the current link is part of the current highway network.

Additionally in Table 14.18, a permissive path from Hinchingsbrooke Park Road to the proposed Huntingdon Regional College is described but it is unclear as to what this covers and clarification is being sought. Furthermore, based on the proposed new road arrangements at Mill Common, there are no details of how the link to the ring road is created?

Finally in Table 14.18 relating to FP 10, it would appear that the section of the footpath under the existing A14 viaduct/embankment was stopped up by the Huntingdon Bypass Side Roads Order 1971. This would need to be re-instated when viaduct/embankment removed but is not shown on Side Roads Order and the views of the JVC are being sought.

The new road arrangements at Mill Common and the existing permissive path appear to be in conflict as the permissive route is still shown crossing the new road infrastructure despite the description stating that 50m would be stopped up. The description describes an existing signalised crossing at the ring-road and Mill Common. This is INCORRECT as no crossing exists and again, this has been referred to the JVC.

Chapter 15 – Landscape

This is a detailed Chapter covering both landscape and tree protection issues. Officers have highlighted a number of issues that need to be addressed relating to overall landscape design and tree protection measures and discussions are taking place with the JVC to address these.

While it is not anticipated that these issues are of a size or scale to warrant a formal objection to the proposals, the Council needs to register its concern mainly relating to the detail provided in respect of highway earthworks and mitigation measures affecting two areas.

In paragraph 3.5.6 it states that the design of the embankments allows for side slopes of 1 in 3 /3.5 at this stage. It is a generally recognised principle and one that is often noted in the Highways Agency "Design Manual for Roads and Bridges" (see amongst many instances vol. 10, section 1, part 1, chapter 2, though they take 1:2 as their worst case) that slopes of this degree can be an issue when attempting to integrate a new road into a surrounding lowland landscape. Such slopes can also lead to maintenance issues and success in the take up of new planting.

The most important location where this would be an issue is the embankments adjacent to the proposed Gt Ouse viaduct, where shallower slopes would lead to

greater land take but nevertheless would result in a scheme that would be better integrated into the surrounding landscape.

In paragraph 3.9.19 it states that the environmental mitigation reflects the guidance of DMRB vol 11 (Environmental Assessment) that talks mainly of “environmental impacts” in a rather general way paying little regard to what/who are the receptors of these impacts (described in 15.2). The other main guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment – “The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment” (GLVIA published by Spon for the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) – tackles impact assessment more specifically as it relates to a base line landscape character and visual assessment – where the receptors are the landscape itself **and** the people who populate and use that landscape. That the ES gives much less attention, detail and weight to impacts on users (mainly recreational) of the landscape(s) surrounding the scheme only serves to underestimate the impact of the scheme, and hence to underestimate the need for adequate mitigation.

The main concern (15.5.24-27) is to mitigate the general impact (changes in land cover, light, noise, pollution) that the scheme would have on the SSSI and its surroundings at Brampton Wood. The designated landscape character areas 2 and 3 are contiguous and that impacts on one would also be experienced in the other. It is not accepted that an impact of “No change” on the “Brampton Wood to Buckden” character area (2) can be juxtaposed with an impact of “major adverse” on the “Brampton Farmland” character area (3).

Chapter 16 – Drainage and Water Environment

Land Drainage is covered in several of the sections of the Environmental Statement and outlines the principles on which the drainage has been considered for the scheme and the drainage and water environment effects from the new road and its construction.

The design has considered the ground conditions, existing drainage and aquifers. It assesses the risks to all the watercourses and ground conditions and these are shown to be either low risk or to improve the situation.

All significant watercourses have been modelled to assess flows and future needs as well as assessing the requirements to reduce all risks during construction, including pollution.

The report lists all the extra flood compensation storage that will be provided as a result of the scheme.

The work undertaken also includes a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). This was submitted to the Council prior to the issuing of the main Environmental Statement and this Council along with the other councils affected commented on this and approved it in principle. The Environment Agency signed this off in July 2009. The FRA looks at standards to which the new works shall be designed to, and these are considered to be acceptable.

Conclusion - All watercourses affected by the scheme have been identified along with the present drainage arrangements. All the proposals improve on the present arrangements.

The design standards used for the watercourses and drainage allow for the 1:100 year storm plus climate change allowance. This is an approved standard to be working to.

All new culverts will be at least a similar size to the existing ones where they are being extended, or designed to take the flows for new ones.

Discussions are taking place with the JVC relating to the interface issues between diverted minor rural roads and existing drainage systems and it is RECOMMENDED that the Council also take the opportunity to remind the JVC of the due process that needs to be followed relating to award drainage.

The FRA for the scheme was approved by the council before the final statement was submitted but it is confirmed that, subject to the above points, it is still acceptable and it is considered that in overall terms, should improve drainage / water matters.

Chapter 17 – Ecology / Nature Conservation

1. Methodology used

The baseline data provided appears thorough and detailed with regard to existing habitats and species. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey Plan is provided together with comprehensive target notes about habitats and protected species. Appendix H also contains detailed surveys for protected species within the route. The document states that habitats have been assessed using methodology from the draft DMRB incorporating comment from the Institute of Ecology and Ecological Management. The methodology used is conventional for schemes of this type and has apparently been agreed with Natural England.

2. Impacts

Habitats

The text appears concerned with the impacts of the proposals on the Conservation Status of the habitats or species. This assessment has been made using a criterion which accepts a certain percentage loss. The impacts of the scheme have been detailed in a textual discursive manner within Chapter 17. The impacts have been partially tabulated to include :

- Table 17.5 Changes in areas of Habitat types details the total area of each habitat lost.
- Table 20.1 Cumulative Impacts goes some way towards providing the information but is insufficient.
- Table 17.8 Ecological Impact Summary Table for features on which there would be a residual moderate adverse significance of effect – only identifies two bird species, Golden Plover and Lapwing.
- Table 17.9 Ecological Impact Summary Table for features subject to moderate adverse significance of effect- only identifies two bird species Nightingale and Grasshopper Warbler.

The text states quite clearly in 17.5.56 that there will be a direct loss of habitats such as hedgerows, uncultivated field margins, and lengths of dry and wet ditch. Section

17.5.57 states that the severance of linear features cannot be fully mitigated. It would have been very helpful for all these impacts to be presented in a table form with losses identified at each location and mitigation or enhancement measures proposed for each loss identified alongside each item.

Species

Whilst dealing with death or disruption to existing populations of protected species an assessment appears to have been made based on an acceptable level of loss or effect if less than 10% of the population is affected. As the species are protected, the concept of acceptable loss or disruption appears contradictory.

The home range of each of the groups of protected species should have been mapped and therefore the direct impact on existing populations and the indirect impact on their feeding or breeding areas assessed. Has this been done?

Note – Protected species surveys should be carried out every 2 years. If the construction of the scheme is delayed these surveys should be redone

3. Questionable location of Biodiversity Mitigation Areas

It is unclear what planting is seen as 'landscape proposals' ref Figure 3.2.1 to 3.2.9 and what is classed as 'biodiversity mitigation areas' shown in pale green on figures 17.2.1 to 17.2.5 inclusive.

The areas in pale green on the latter plans overlap the areas shown for planting etc on the former. The plans 3.2.1 onwards do not have a symbol for biodiversity mitigation areas nor are they shown on the key. Table 17.5 infers that the biodiversity mitigation areas are additional to the creation of other habitat types such as hedgerow and wet grassland. No detail of the type of habitat is given. Environmental Masterplan 3.2.1 to 3.2.9 inclusive show different habitats such as hedges or grassland. These areas appear to be enhancement areas rather than mitigation. New areas of wet grassland or meadow adjacent to the new road may represent enhancement for invertebrate species or small mammals. However, they cannot be classed as mitigation areas for loss of foraging habitat for badgers.

Particular areas of concern and the mitigation proposed:

- Buckden Gravel Pits CWS- The loss of 29 ha of open water habitat. Reshaping of bank edges is referred to in the text but not detailed. Mitigation proposals should provide for the creation of a minimum of 29 ha of open water habitat elsewhere, configured in a manner which provides suitable habitat for over-wintering bird species. This site should be located away from the road and floodlighting.
- River Great Ouse CWS– The report concludes that little damage would occur to the river bed itself and the aquatic community. However, the River Great Ouse CWS is designated as such for the assemblage of habitats within it, including wet meadows/permanent grassland, ditches, hedges and the main river. It is unclear how the construction of piers within the CWS might affect the hydrological regime within the area. Also, how the presence of the bridge itself would affect the flight patterns of over-wintering birds. The ES acknowledges that the permanent effect of the scheme would be slightly adverse. The loss of the assemblage of habitats should be addressed and their mitigation on land adjacent to the existing CWS required.

- Hedgerow removal and fragmentation or physical obstruction and therefore fragmentation- Replacement planting should be located close to the area of loss to continue or gap up existing lengths of hedgerows in order to allow existing invertebrate, mammal and bird populations to migrate into the newly planted areas.
- Removal of existing West Brook watercourse and reinstatement on western side of B1040. The new course of the brook should be excavated and established before the existing brook is removed. Presence of existing water vole population?
- Direct physical danger to, or long term disruption of feeding, breeding and foraging areas to protected species – badger, otter, bats, water vole, great crested newts, bird species of conservation concern etc. Badgers in particular are affected by these proposals. These should fall under Natural England’s licensing requirements.
- Interruption and/or loss of bat flight paths, particularly the hedgerow along the eastern edge of B1040. This particular point is well addressed in the report.
- Removal of mature trees in the following locations:-
Crack Willow on western bank of Ouse – to be felled. Bat roost.
Belt of woodland north of Police Headquarters in Huntingdon. Occasional Pipistrelle roosts.
Mature Oak – Top Farm. Mature trees in hedgerow south of Topfield Farm
Mature Ash in hedgeline west of Hilton Road north of Oxholme Farm
Concerns for all above include: Loss of bat habitat, dead wood invertebrates, nesting for bird species such as Tawny Owl, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Tree Creeper etc. No mitigation is proposed for this loss.

Additional points:

- Apparently all the land within 2 km of the scheme was surveyed but not all sites of nature conservation importance within 2 km are shown. Only those judged as adjacent to, or likely to be affected by the proposals are shown. i.e. Milton Road hedgerow but not Marsh Lane Gravel pits. The methodology used to make this judgement is not clear.
- It would be helpful to be assured that the home range of protected species has been considered when designing mitigation measures.
- A recent planning application for a Borrow Pit south west of the A14 adjacent to Hilton Road raised the question of the wildlife value of lakes to the immediate south of A14, on the western side of the road and raises the question whether the CWS is up to date
- Identifies lack of ecological data at viaduct over the Great Ouse crossing location.
- A total of 32 sites of ecological importance have been identified. However, the section only discusses two CWS, the River Great Ouse and Buckden Gravel Pits. Target notes within the Appendix supplement this information.

4. Habitat Enhancement Features

a. Advance creation of habitats and features for mitigation and enhancement where possible

It is not clear at which point 'replacement' habitat will be provided and established. It would be preferable to provide before existing habitat is destroyed or disrupted to allow existing mobile populations to disperse to these areas before the original habitat is destroyed.

b. Choice of flora species for mitigation and enhancement

All planting of woody species should conform in location, habitat type and species to the guidance detailed in the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment for the landscape character area within which it occurs. The selection of species for the creation of grassland areas should be based on the common species found in similar conditions in the District detailed in the Flora of Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough Terry C Wells ISBN-0-9514427-2-4. All plant species should be grown from seed of local genetic provenance. Tree and shrub species should be grown from seed harvested in the Eastern and West Midland regions from semi natural ancient woodlands

c) Water bodies

Plans 3.2 onwards show water bodies, many of which are adjacent to the new road. The plan key states balancing pond whilst the annotation on the plan states ecology pond. This confusion requires clarification. The two functions may overlap in some situations but they are not synonymous. The pond adjacent to Byway 19 is clearly a triangular, engineered pit to hold water.

Water bodies of much greater wildlife benefit should be created, with variable gradients to the banks and variable depths to the ponds themselves. Natural colonisation should be managed to ensure maximum wildlife benefit. Clear management objectives should be identified for each water body. However, those located directly adjacent to the road, will have limited value to larger faunal species due to direct risk of injury or death. It would be wise to actively design out features which would attract Otters for example. A number of these ponds should be sited in more appropriate locations.

d) Replication of a mosaic of habitats

The total quantity or volume of habitats lost throughout the area has been calculated - ref Table 17.5. The location of new hedges, copses, tree belts and even grass areas appears to be based on the primary requirement to 'screen' the visual impact of the road. The location and configuration of the 'replacement' habitats appears to have been chosen to fulfil this function only.

5. Ecological Management-before, during and after development

Reference is made within the document to a Construction Ecological Management Programme. It is assumed that the detailed design of the landscape or habitat creation scheme will be informed by clear long term objectives identified at the detailed design stage of the project together with a comprehensive management plan to run for a considerable time after development.

Chapter 18 – Cultural Heritage

For the purposes of this report, comments are limited to the impact the proposals will have on Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. Scheduled ancient monuments and archaeology are the remit of the County Council. Un-registered historic buildings are also not covered as Huntingdonshire does not have a policy regarding their conservation and any designations are a historic legacy.

Generally there are limited comments to make on this Chapter. The proposals will result in a reduction in the impact of the road and the traffic on a significant number of Heritage assets. The justification of the scheme seems to place a great deal of weight on this factor and it is rated highly in the assessment of significance. The reduction in the level of the noise experienced will enhance the character of a number of conservation areas, however assessing the impact on listed buildings is harder to measure.

Listed buildings are protected because of their special architectural and historic interest and their setting is an important part of this character. The setting of many of these buildings has previously been compromised by the works associated with the current A14 arrangements. Therefore it is not considered that their setting will be improved by this proposal unless physical alterations can be undertaken to remove existing and intrusive highway works (signage, lining, junction improvements removal of traffic calming measures), otherwise the conservation areas may be left with an environment still scarred by redundant highway measures. An element of improvement works factored into this programme would be desirable.

LB3 - removal and reinstatement of Grade II milestone – Listed building consent is required and a scheme for reinstatement needs to be provided. Subject to this being undertaken, then in principle there is no objection.

CA15 – It is considered that the impact of the proposal on the historically important land to the rear of Offord Cluny Manor house be considered. This land forms an important part of this buildings setting.

Impact on setting of LB37 No. 208, High Street, LB 188 Porch House, High Street and Nos. 213/215 High Street, all Offord Cluny: This small cluster of listed buildings situated along the northern part of the High Street is unlikely to be unduly affected by the scheme, largely due to the shielding afforded by the rising topography. The main part of the new A14 will be located within a cutting and therefore not readily visible and would also be approximately 1km distant. The B1043 will be elevated on an embankment as it crosses the A14 but this will finish approximately 500m from the Listed Buildings and should blend into the background. None of the works will physically impact upon the Offord Cluny 'infield' system which was historically associated with the northern bounds of the settlement.

LB 296 Rectory Farm House Cambridge Road Offord Cluny. Clarification on where this is is needed – Only two options can be found:

- 1) Rectory Farm House, Cambridge Road, Godmanchester – Not Listed
- 2) Rectory Farm, High Street, Offord D'Arcy – Not Listed

CA16 Hilton Conservation Area – The effect on this conservation area is not agreed. It is considered that there could be a moderate adverse effect on the setting of the Conservation Area particularly in views of the village from higher ground. It is requested that a reassessment is undertaken.

(Note - LB235 recently de-listed).

Huntingdon Conservation Area.

It is acknowledged that the reduction in noise levels and traffic movements will be beneficial, however the statements on physical intrusion need to be separated out from this and assessed separately i.e. benefit of loss of the embankment and the viaduct vs the harm caused by the loss of parts of Views Common and Mill Common in accordance with HA methodology (18.6.25).

The detail of the second roundabout to the west of Mill Common serving the Pathfinder link needs to be appropriately enhanced. Within the wider ES, the need for this is understood but it will be intrusive on the Conservation area as it is elevated and illuminated. Appropriate mitigation should therefore be sought.

Chapter 19 – Vehicle Travellers

The purpose of this Chapter is to assess the effect of the scheme on vehicle travellers in accordance with the DMRB. This includes views from the road and driver stress and also includes assessment of length of journey, variability of journey times, mode of transport choice, existing quality and capacity, environmental quality experienced by the traveller and the visual amenity of the journey.

There is nothing significant within the Chapter of significant concern to the Council. However for information, it concludes that in terms of the new Trunk Road, the effect on views is adverse. The reason for this is primarily due to the fact that much of the off-line route between Ellington and Fen Drayton is across existing arable land and is unavoidable. With regard to the views from Local Roads, again the effect is recorded as adverse (and unavoidable) as the scheme places a new trunk road across open countryside.

In terms of driver stress, the report concludes that this would be reduced with the new scheme as a result of reduced congestion following the provision of a high quality, faster route and the reduction in the fear of accidents, which is noted as being beneficial.

Route uncertainty is reported as being beneficial as a result of the new scheme as the level of traveller information would be provided to a far greater level than existing and would be provided to an equivalent standard to the motorway network. Therefore, with improved signing and a reduction in route uncertainty, the new scheme would result in a beneficial effect.

Traveller Care in terms of access to roadside services is noted as being affected by the loss of direct access to the strategic road network. However the Chapter concludes that on the basis that safer access would exist overall and that, together with traveller information signing, that there would be beneficial effects overall.

Chapter 20 – Cumulative Impacts

The purpose of this Chapter is to assess the potential cumulative impacts that could arise from the interaction between the various elements of the scheme as well as from other developments within the area. This is done in accordance with the requirements of the DRMB.

The Chapter confirms that all current transportation schemes listed in the East of England Regional Model are included in the traffic model for this scheme.

Likewise, all major potential land developments are also included within the modelling undertaken and these include;

- a) Northstowe
- b) Cambridge North (NIAB)
- c) Orchard Park (Arbury Camp)
- d) Cambridge North-West (not yet committed)
- e) Draft Huntingdon West (not yet committed)
- f) Wastewater Treatment Works, East Chesterton
- g) Land between Huntingdon Road, Histon Road and A14

The Chapter also lists a summary of the Cumulative Temporary Impacts associated with the construction of the scheme and its effects on local communities and receptors and also those where those impacts are permanent. These are not listed here and have been identified as part of specific work covering previous Chapters above,

QUESTIONS –

- 1) Q. A direct NMU crossing is required between Brampton and Brampton Wood.

A. Covered in Report. It is not considered that this can be justified to rectify previous works associated with the A1. An existing less direct route exists and will be no worse as a result of the current proposals.

- 2) Q. Concern over the levels of air pollution over Brampton.

A. Covered in Report. As a result of mitigation measures proposed as part of the scheme, the situation will be no worse than at present.

- 3) Q. Concerns over the planned removal of Huntingdon Viaduct and associated traffic increases on Brampton Road and across Huntingdon.

A. Covered in Report. Brampton Road (between the west of town centre link road and Hinchingsbrooke Park Road) indicates an increase in traffic levels of approximately 10% between Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and the rail station. Elsewhere on the local highway network (west of Hinchingsbrooke on the Brampton Road and George Street), traffic levels are predicted to decrease.

- 4) Q. The junction arrangement between the A1 and the new A14 is too tight.

A. The scheme is being promoted in accordance with national design standards, the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)

- 5) Q. Concern over the effects on Hilton in that there are no effective noise barriers and likely flooding issues.

A. Covered in Report. The Environmental Statement and scheme design includes the provision of noise barriers for Hilton and that drainage design, including the prevention of flooding, is in accordance with DMRB.

- 6) Q. A1198 junction will result in rat-running through villages south of existing A14.

A. The response from the JVC is that the traffic model shows that, in general, traffic through villages south of the A14 reduces as a result of the scheme compared to the situation without it. The reason for this is that current 'rat-running' decreases when a more reliable and less congested route becomes available on the 'old A14'.

- 7) Q. Construction-related activities will place an intolerable burden on Hilton.

A. Construction-related activities will be controlled by appropriate routing and timing restrictions.

- 8) Q. Concern over traffic levels through Kimbolton.

A. This is outside the scope and remit of the current proposals

- 9) Q. Maintaining 2-lanes of traffic flow (each direction) must be supported.
- A. Confirmed within published proposals
- 10) Q. Visual and Noise intrusion at Offord Cluny and Offord Darcy.
- A. Covered in Report. Visual intrusion is mitigated as far as practically possible by screening and landscaping measures. Noise prevention measures are included as part of scheme and individual properties directly affected are listed in chapter 9 appendix D of the Environmental Statement.
- 11) Q. General concern that no flooding on any part of the route is made worse as a result of the scheme.
- A. Covered in Report. The Environmental Statement confirms that all drainage issues are designed in accordance with the DMRB and that there will be no detrimental effects to flooding.
- 12) Q. Signing is required as part of overall scheme to ensure that strategic traffic avoid the local road network.
- A. The Environmental Statement confirms that all parts of the network will be supported by appropriate signing in accordance with the DMRB
- 13) Q. If Huntingdon Viaduct were to be reinstated, repaired or replaced, what would be the extra cost, level of disruption and length of time involved?
- A. The response from the JVC is that the scheme being taken forward, in accordance with CHUMMS recommendations, includes the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct. Because it is recognised that the matter will be put forward as an alternative at a possible PI, a full option report on the possible retention of the viaduct is being prepared and a reassessment of costs will be undertaken. The current broad brush estimates for the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct are as follows. Complete removal and replacement is £60 million. A partial removal and replacement of three central spans, retaining the columns is £30 million. The time taken to demolish and rebuild the structure would require closure of the A14 for a period that is estimated to be in excess of 18 months. The period is conditional on suitable possessions over road and rail. If the viaduct were to be replaced the benefits of the local road connections would naturally be lost.
- 14) Q. What are the projected traffic flow figures on the local road network following the viaduct removal?
- A. Covered in Report. Refer to section 8 of the Environmental Statement. Plans are shown in Volume 2 section 8.
- 15) Q. Why will the A1 between Alconbury and Brampton Hut not be widened before 2031 at the earliest?
- A. Covered in Report. Traffic modelling in accordance with DMRB indicates that this is not required. JVC responds that any request for a reassessment should be made to the Highways Agency.

- 16) Q. Pathfinder link (Mill Common) should include a dedicated bus access to facilitate fast/route service to Cambridge.
- A. Covered in Report. Road design will allow bus use but does not provide dedicated road space. Any future bus service will emerge from local market conditions, not scheme now proposed.
- 17) Q. Concern over design of both access points to Railway Station.
- A. Both access points are designed in accordance with DMRB and in accordance with modelled traffic predictions.
- 18) Q. A14 and junctions west of Brampton Hut should also be improved in accordance with a separate scheme previously promoted by the HA.
- A. This is outside the scope and remit of the current proposals
- 19) Q. The proposed scheme should be fully future-proofed, particularly at the A1.
- A. Scheme is designed in accordance with the DMRB. JVC responds that any request for a reassessment should be made to the Highways Agency.
- 20) Q. With the removal of Huntingdon Viaduct, the proposed road layout does not appear adequate?
- A. The layout is designed in accordance with DMRB and in accordance with modelled traffic predictions.
- 21) Q. Better access arrangements are needed for users of Hinchingsbrooke Park Road.
- A. The proposed scheme includes revised junction arrangements between Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and Brampton Road. The new road layout provides alternative and additional access options across the Police HQ land to an old A14 and Spittals. Further access opportunities will be explored as part of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, outside the scope of this scheme.
- 22) Q. HCV impact on A1123 related to construction activities and materials.
- A. Construction-related activities will be controlled by appropriate routing and timing restrictions.
- 23) Q. Junction of Brampton Road/WOTC link road/Mill Common should be a roundabout.
- A. A roundabout is not required as part of overall design in accordance with DMRB and in accordance with modelled traffic predictions. A roundabout would also take additional land beyond that now required and would be detrimental to NMU such as pedestrian and cyclists.

- 24) Q. Highways Agency appears to be ignoring WOTC link road proposals.
- A. The design of road proposals and modelled traffic predictions takes full account of WOTC link road proposals as part of Huntingdon traffic model.
- 25) Q. There needs to be a viable alternative to the removal of the viaduct.
- A. The proposals for the new A14 and the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct have been part of extensive consultation and a range of options resulting in the Preferred Route Announcement in October 2007. An alternative option is outside the scope of the draft Side Road Order process.
- 26) Q. There will be an avalanche of lorries on Thrapston Road, Brampton so a lorry ban is needed and must be enforced.
- A. There is a current lorry ban on Huntingdon Road and Brampton Road between Brampton and Huntingdon. This will remain as part of the proposed scheme. Traffic modelling projects that there would be no reason for lorries to therefore use Thrapston Road and the statement is without foundation.
- 27) Q. Has footfall been included as part of the Hinchingsbrooke Park Road junction design?
- A. Footfall is included as part of the traffic modelling predictions. However a Technical Note has been requested to validate the apparent lack of pedestrian/cyclist capability within the overall proposal and the JVC confirm that they are in the process of producing a technical study and sufficient land is included within the draft Orders to ensure that a suitable scheme can be provided. They further respond by stating that existing facilities for NMU's along Brampton Road would be maintained to a good standard as part of the scheme. Facilities for NMU's to cross Brampton Road would be improved: the current signal-controlled crossing at the station access would be replaced with a new signal-controlled junction with refuge islands at all arms of the junction to aid safe crossing; and there would be a new signal-controlled crossing at the Brampton Road/ Hinchingsbrooke Park Road junction.

The new signal-controlled junction between Hinchingsbrooke Park Road and the new Views Common Link would provide another crossing route for NMU's, where a controlled crossing within the signals would be provided to cater for the heavy school-related movements in the mornings and afternoons. Refuge islands would be provided at this junction, although as described to you at the Draft Orders Exhibition, there will be some further design optimisation required during the detailed design phase to widen the central island at this junction to better cater for cyclists. This can be undertaken within the constraints of the land contained in the published draft Compulsory Purchase Order. The existing pelican crossing outside the school would remain as part of the scheme. The existing path between Brampton Road and the school, within the school's grounds, would be improved to cycleway width standards as part of the scheme. There would be no change to the existing route for NMU's who currently travel from the station along the south side of Brampton Road before crossing the existing uncontrolled pedestrian/cycle crossing near Scholars Avenue, which would remain as part of this scheme. A 3m wide shared use facility would be maintained in the northern verge of Brampton road across the existing bridge over the East

Coast Main Line to retain access to and from Huntingdon Town Centre along this route.

28) Q. Access to the west Rail Station car park needs to be improved.

A. Revised design of the access to this car park is included as part of the overall proposals.

29) Q. Environmental protection measures should be ring-fenced.

A. Covered in Report. Environmental protection measures are a requirement of this scheme in accordance with the DMRB. The Council continues to negotiate on the level and scale to be adopted.

ANNEX C

- Traffic levels are assessed on a Base Year of 2006 and an Opening Year of 2015 together with a Future Assessment Year of 2031. Examples of this in relation to the scheme are as follows;

Location	2006 Flow	2015 Flow	2031 Flow
A14 West of Brampton Hut	41,000	51,400	65,500
New A14 West of ECML/East of A1198	-	67,300	86,700
New A14 at Conington	-	59,700	75,400
Old A14 West of Hemingford Abbots	69,800	34,100	40,500
Old A14 West of Fenstanton	76,200	42,000	52,500
Brampton Road, Huntingdon	20,700	30,400 (would be 27,500 without scheme)	33,000 (would be 31,400 without scheme)
George Street, Huntingdon	21,900	9,000 (would be 20,400 without scheme)	9,700 (would be 22,700 without scheme)
Castle Moat Road (ring-road) adj. Pathfinder House	19,600	12,400 (would be 20,900 without scheme)	17,700 (would be 25,600 without scheme)
The Avenue, Godmanchester	18,100	9,200 (would be 22,400 without scheme)	13,200 (would be 28,400 without scheme)
Cambridge Road, Godmanchester	10,300	4,900 (would be 12,700 without scheme)	7,100 (would be 15,700 without scheme)
Thrapston Road, Brampton	7,100	3,300 (would be 6,700 without scheme)	3,600 (would be 9,100 without scheme)
B1514 west of Hinchingsbrooke School	16,500	14,700 (would be 18,900 without scheme)	16,200 (would be 22,700 without scheme)
A1 north of Buckden	43,900	54,300 (same with/without scheme)	64,700 (would be 64,000 without scheme)
A1198 (south of junction)	8,200	10,400 (would be 13,000 without scheme)	14,200 (would be 22,000 without scheme)
A1198 (north of junction)	8,200	6,600 (would be 13,000 without scheme)	9,100 (would be 22,000 without scheme)

ANNEX F

Summary of Noise Predictions			
Location	Do Minimum 2015	Scheme 2015	Comment
Alconbury Village Huntingdon Life Sciences	65 dB L _{A 10,18hr} or less. Noise levels are predicted to be approaching 60 dB L _{A 10,18hr} .	Increase of between 1 and 2.9 dB L _{A 10,18hr} . Minor Impact.	The A1 presently affects dwellings in Alconbury between the B1043 junction at Brooklands and School Lane. They are protected by existing 2m high noise barriers but will be impacted by the scheme due to increased traffic flows on the A1.
Home Farm, Alconbury Nook Farm, Little Stukely & neighbouring residential properties	Up to 70 dB L _{A 10,18hr}	1 to 3 dB L _{A 10,18hr} reduction	Benefit from the detrunking of the A14 spur from Alconbury to Spittals Interchange.
Little Meadow & Woodhatch Farm, Ellington.	70+ dB L _{A 10,18hr}	<1 dB L _{A 10,18hr} increase. Minor impact.	The existing A14 west of the A1 passes a few isolated dwellings. A 2m noise barrier is proposed at this location.
Rectory Farm, Brampton	Noise levels in the upper 50s	5 to 10 dB L _{A 10,18hr} increase. Major impact.	Around the Brampton Hut junction both the A14 and the A1 contribute to the noise climate. A 2m noise barrier is proposed at this location.
Brampton north (Crane Street)	65 dB L _{A 10,18hr} or higher	1 to 3 dB L _{A 10,18hr} reduction.	Properties in this area are protected by existing 2 m high noise barriers.
A14 between Racecourse and Spittals Interchange.	Isolated houses up to 60 dB L _{A 10,18hr} or more. Hinchingsbrooke Country Park 55 dB L _{A 10,18hr} or more up to 400m from A14.	1 to 3 dB L _{A 10,18hr} reduction.	

Stukeley Meadows	Closest dwellings will experience noise levels in excess of 65 dB L _A 10,18hr. Noise levels of 60 dB + dB L _A 10,18hr will extend beyond 50 m from A14.	3 to 5 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction.	Protected by existing noise barriers and earth bunds.
Hinchingbrooke Hospital/Cromwell Park School	60 + dB L _A 10,18hr	3 to 5 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction.	No noise barrier protection
Central Huntingdon	55 to 65 dB L _A 10,18hr	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction in most areas of central Huntingdon near the detrunked altered A14. Some increases of 1 to <5 dB L _A 10,18hr in areas such as Lodge Close due to increased traffic on the B1514 Brampton Road. Dwellings close to the main roads B1514 and B1044. These include Brampton Road, Ermine Street, Ermine Court, Stukeley Road, Goodliffe Close and Scholars Avenue. Moderate Impact.	The Huntingdon Viaduct creates a noise shadow over nearby dwellings.
Godmanchester – Cambridge Road and area to south.	Up to 65 dB L _A 10,18hr	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction.	Clyde Farm, Offord Road and Bluegate on the outskirts of Godmanchester may experience a 1 to 2 dB L _A 10,18hr increase. Minor impact.
Godmanchester – Central areas near main roads	60 to 65 dB L _A 10,18hr	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction	
Godmanchester – Central areas away from main roads	50 to 55 dB L _A 10,18hr	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction	

A14 Godmanchester to Hemingford Abbots junction	65 to 70 dB L _A 10,18hr within 200m of A14.	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction	
A14 Hemingford Abbots junction to Galley Hill junction	65 to 70 dB L _A 10,18hr within 200m of A14	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction	
Galley Hill junction to Fenstanton	On the North side of A14, Fenstanton dwellings will experience 60 to 65 dB L _A 10,18hr at the nearest dwellings. On the South side of the A14 at Fenstanton noise levels will range from 60 to 70 dB L _A 10,18hr at the nearest dwellings.	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction	Existing 2m high noise barriers limit noise spread to some dwellings.
Brampton West	60dB dB L _A 10,18hr	1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr reduction.	A 5m earth bund topped with a 2m high noise barrier is proposed for the protection of housing to the west of Brampton. Grafham Road Cottages will experience a 1 to 3 dB L _A 10,18hr increase. Minor impact.
Brampton South	50 to 59 dB L _A 10,18hr	1- <5 dB L _A 10,18hr increase.	Dwellings on the perimeter of the RAF Base presently experience road noise from the A1 and local roads and will be exposed to further noise from the scheme. Moderate impact. Other areas on the southern fringe of Brampton such as Lenton Close, Layton Crescent and Hawkes End will experience a

			1 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase. Olivia Cottage and Kenmore in Park Road will experience a 2 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase. Minor impact.
Buckden	Significant numbers of dwellings will experience noise levels of 65 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ or more from A1 traffic	A 3 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase will be experienced by all dwellings within 50 to 100m from Brampton Road. Moderate impact. The two dwellings near to the south east of the scheme and Station Farm to the north will experience increases of 5 to 10 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ and Lodge Farm will experience an increase of 10 to 15 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Major impact.	Buckden has little protection from A1 noise. Some dwellings well away from the A1 may experience a small increase in noise but this will only be noticeable in certain wind conditions. 2m noise barriers are proposed at this location to protect a group of houses to the west of the scheme including Orchard View and Lodge Farm.
Brampton to Fenstanton	<50 to 60 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ or more.	There will be a 15 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase over a wide area 400m north and south of the new River Ouse viaduct. Offord Hill will experience a 1 to 3 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase. Moderate impact. Offord Hill Farm, Wyboston Farm, Westward Farm and Lower Debden Farm will experience increases of approximately 5	The line of the proposed route passes through open countryside where noise levels are likely to be under 50 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ except where the line is cut by Brampton Road, the B1043 Offord Road, the A1198 Ermine Street, the B1040 Potton Road and Hilton Road. Near these locations higher noise levels will be experienced. A 2m earth bund is proposed to protect Offord Hill Farm.

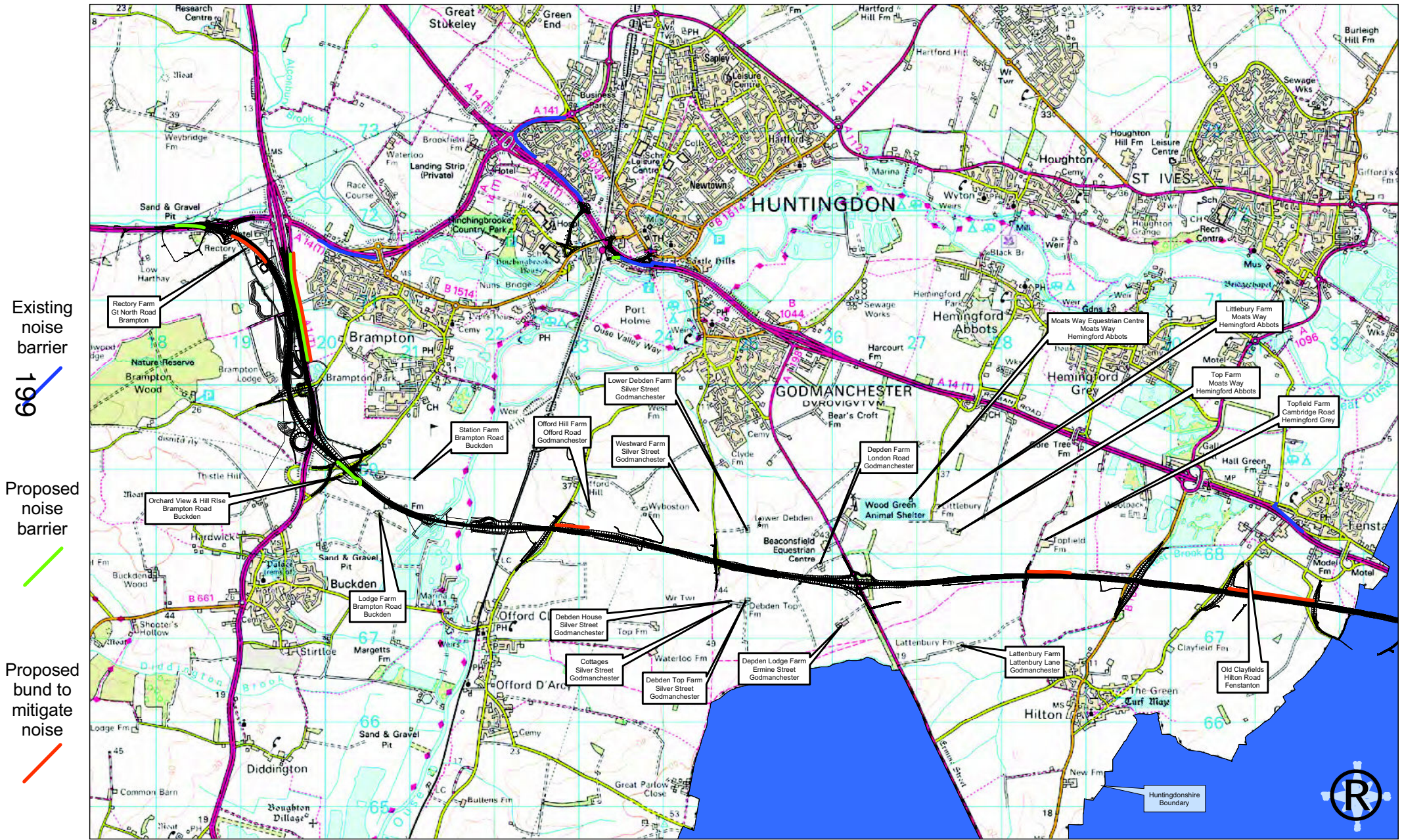
		<p>to 10 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Major impact.</p> <p>Depden Farm will experience a 15 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Major impact.</p> <p>Beaconsfield Equine Centre and Debden Farm will experience 3 to 5 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Moderate impact.</p> <p>Depden Lodge Farm will experience increases of approximately 5 to 10 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Major impact.</p> <p>Debden Top Farm, Debden House and the cottages will experience increases of up to 15 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$. Major impact.</p> <p>Bucklands Bush Farm, Littlebury Farm, Top Farm, Topfield Farm and Lattenbury Farm will all experience a 5 to 10 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase. Major impact.</p> <p>Some houses in Peartree Close, Fenstanton will experience 1 to 3 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$ increase. Moderate impact but one house is predicted to experience a 5 dB $L_{A 10,18hr}$</p>	<p>1.5 to 2m earth bund is proposed to protect Topfield Farm.</p> <p>A 2m earth bund is proposed to protect houses in Mount Farm, Model Farm and Peartree Close.</p>
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		increase. Further south, Old Clayfields will see an increase of 8 dB. Major impact.	
Hilton village			Hilton village is outside the detailed study area. Some houses away from the B1040 Potton Road will be affected by some increases, particularly on the northern side where local traffic noise is insignificant. Properties facing onto Potton Road and the High Street will not experience any notable change.

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A14 Realignment

Noise Bunds and Barriers - Proposed and Existing



Barriers and bunds
re-drawn by HDC
Nov 09

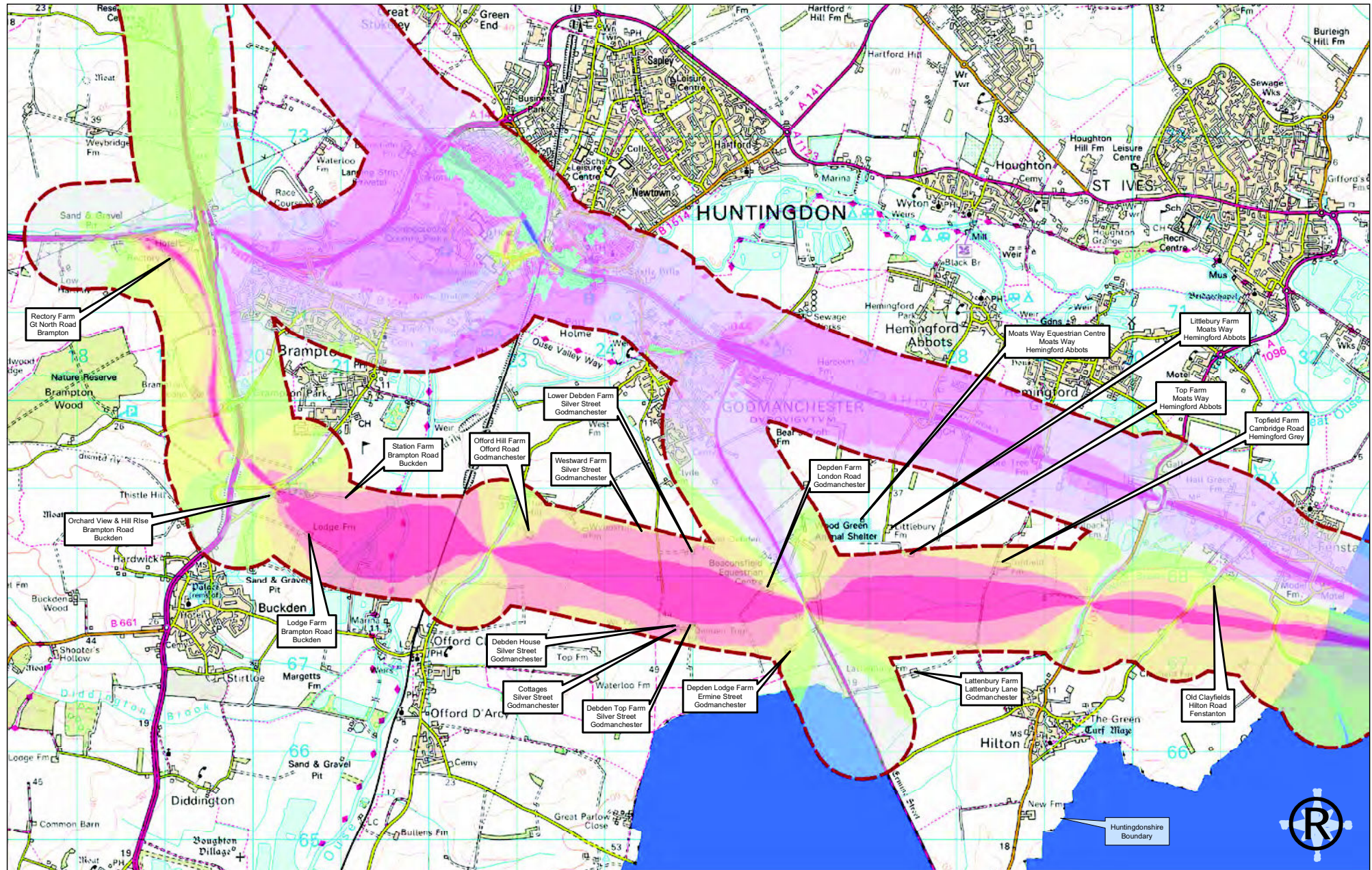
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A14 Realignment

Noise Differences in Detailed Study Area - Do Min v Published Scheme 2015

Noise differences
dB L_{A1018hr}
at 4m above
ground level



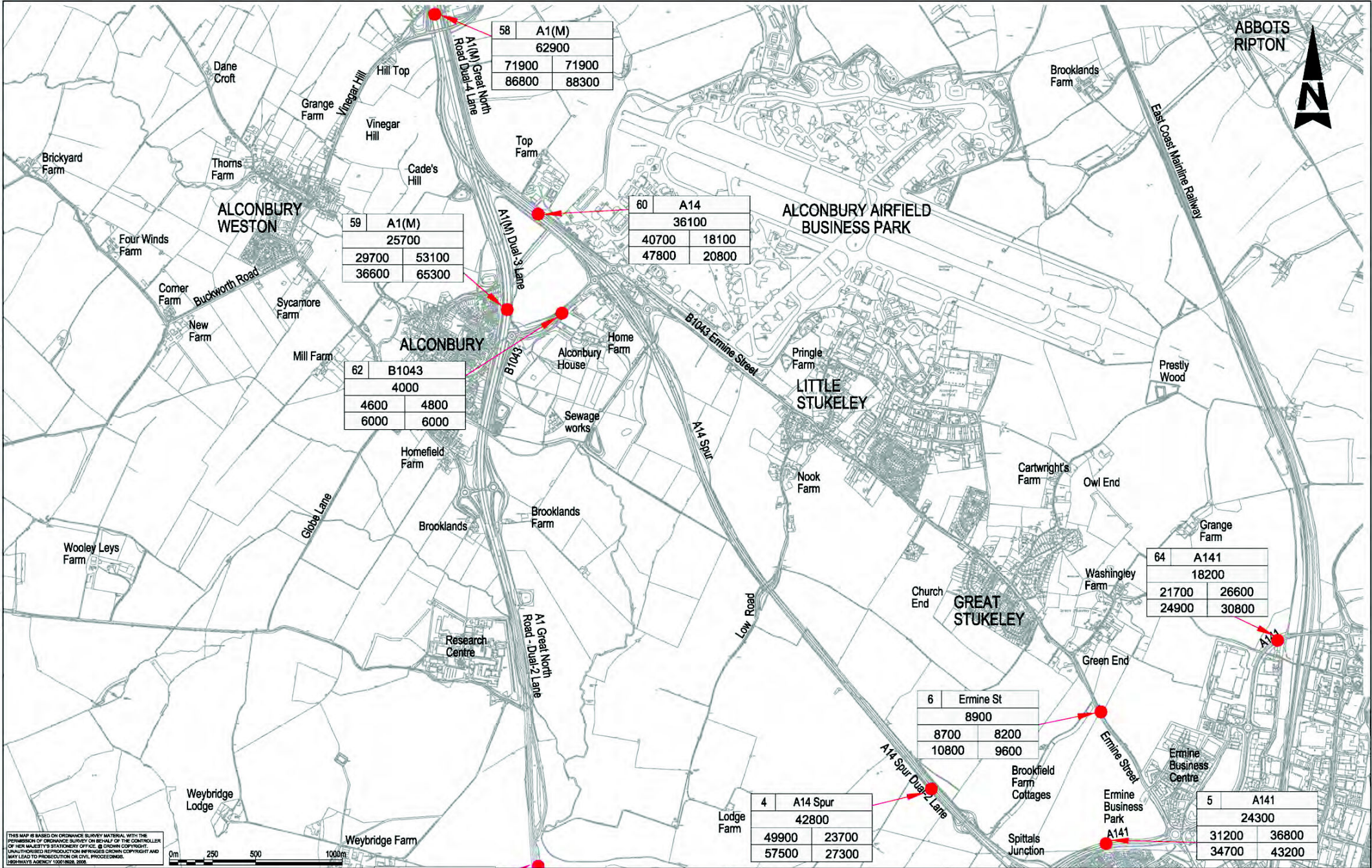
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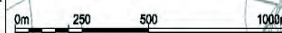
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LEGEND AND NOTES

LOCATION	DM = DO MINIMUM
2006 BASE	DS = DO SOMETHING
2015DM	2015DS
2031DM	2031DS

ALL FLOWS ARE TWO-WAY 24 HOUR
 AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.

Annex C1

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U	1	ISSUE FOR USE	22/06/09	HW					
U	0	ISSUE FOR USE	27/03/09	HW					
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Contractor

Designer

Client

Project
 A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON

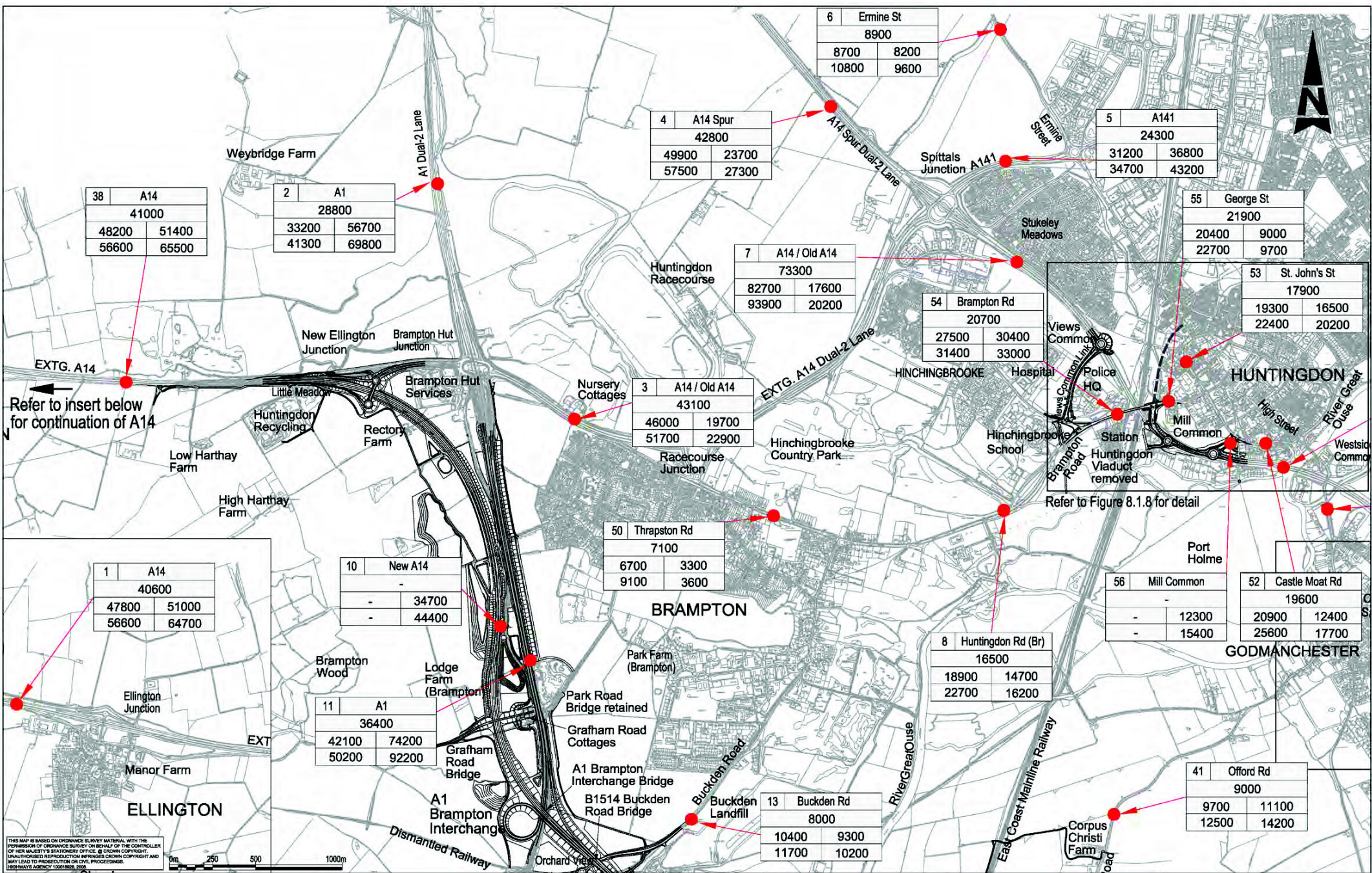
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 2008 - 2031
 Sheet 1 of 9

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FIGURE 8.1.1

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LEGEND AND NOTES

DM = DO MINIMUM
DS = DO SOMETHING
ALL FLOWS ARE TWO-WAY 24 HOUR
AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.

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2015DM	2015DS	2031DM	2031DS	

--- WEST OF TOWN CENTRE LINK (COUNCIL)

Annex C2

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A B	FINAL DRAFT ES	03/11/08	HW

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Contractor

SKANSKA

Designer

ATKINS

Client

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

Project

A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON

Title

Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual)
2008 - 2031
Sheet 2 of 9

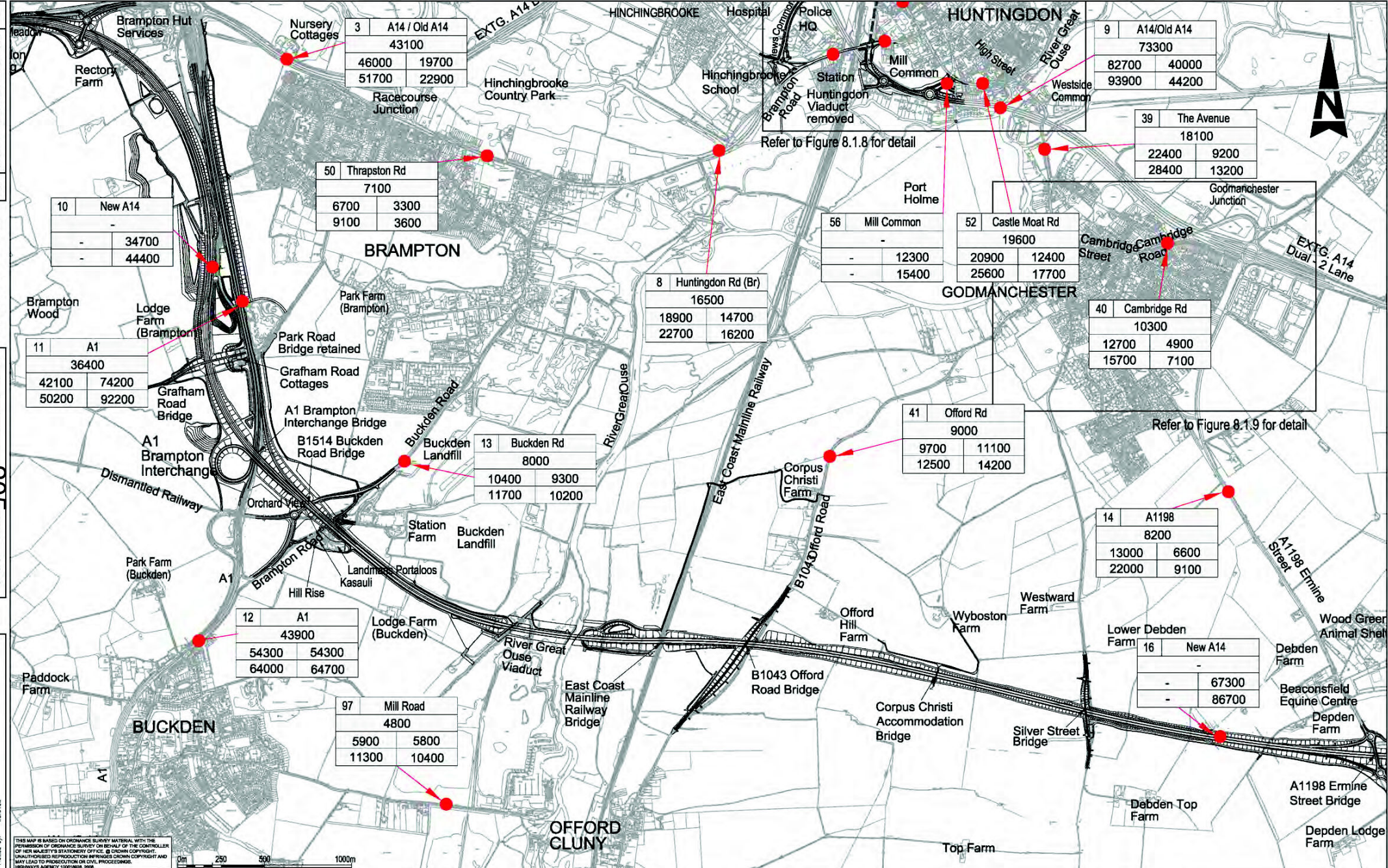
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FIGURE 8.1.2

Rev 2



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LEGEND AND NOTES

LOCATION	DM = DO MINIMUM
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2015DS	AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.
2031DM	
2031DS	

--- WEST OF TOWN CENTRE LINK (COUNCIL)

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Contractor: **SKANSKA**

Designer: **ATKINS**

Client: **HIGHWAYS AGENCY**

Project: **A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON**

Title: **Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual) 2008 - 2031 Sheet 3 of 9**

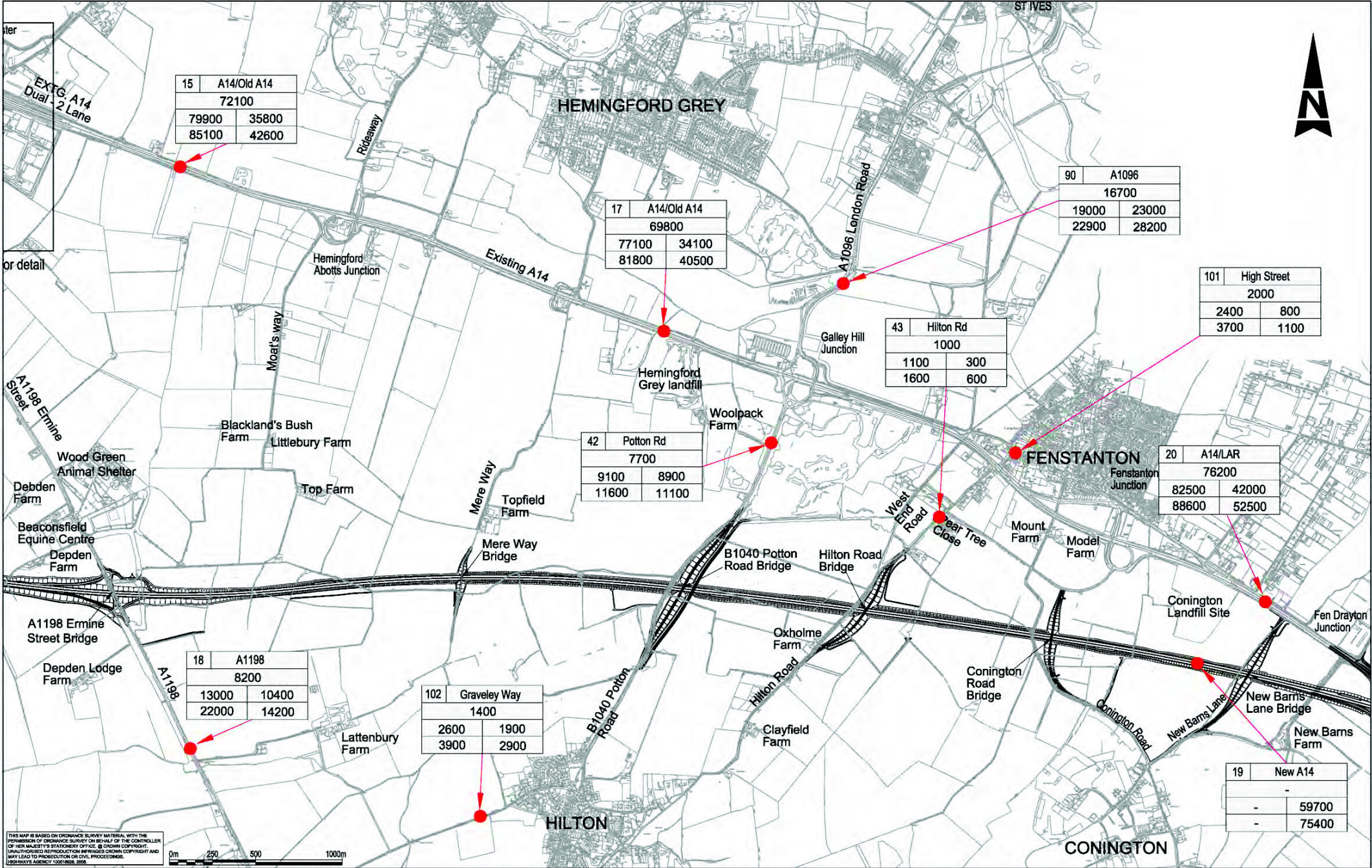
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FIGURE 8.1.3

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LEGEND AND NOTES

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2031DM	AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.
2031DS	

Annex C4

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Stel	Rev	Purpose of Issue	Date	Auth	Rev	Description	By	Date	Ch'g	Auth

Contractor

Designer

Client

Project
 A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON

Title
 Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual)
 2008 - 2031
 Sheet 4 of 9

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Figure
 FIGURE 8.1.4

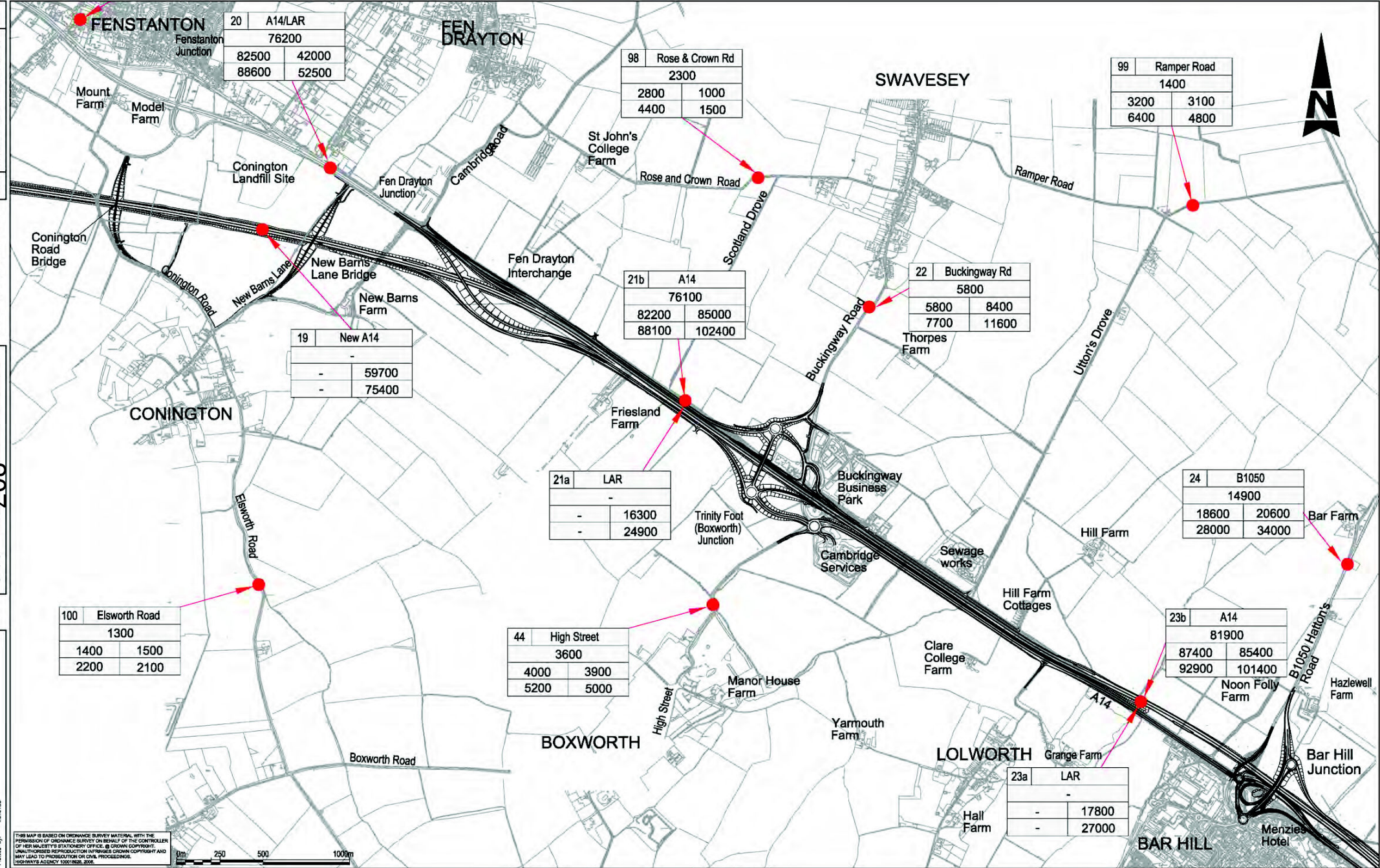
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LEGEND AND NOTES

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 ALL FLOWS ARE TWO-WAY 24 HOUR
 AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.

LOCATION	2006 BASE	2015DM	2015DS	2031DM	2031DS

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Contractor: **COSTAIN SKANSKA**

Designer: **ATKINS**

Client: **HIGHWAYS AGENCY**

Project: **A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON**

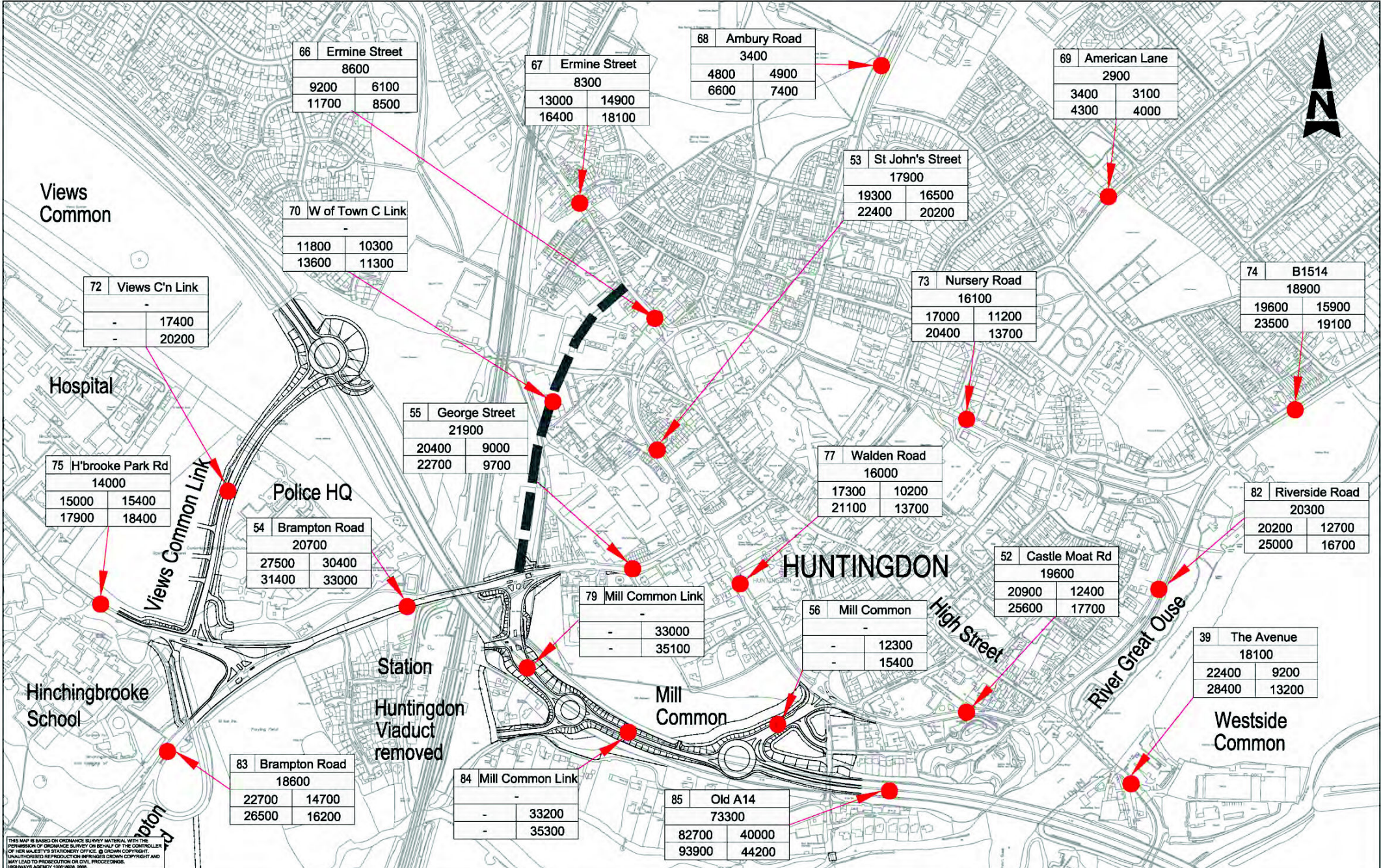
Title: **Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual) 2006 - 2031 Sheet 5 of 9**

Sheet Size: **A1**
 Origin: 1:10000@A1
 Scale: 1:20000@A3
 Date: 14/08/08
 Date: 14/08/08

Status: **U**

FIGURE 8.1.5

Annex C5



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Annex C6

LEGEND AND NOTES	
LOCATION	DM = DO MINIMUM
2006 BASE	DS = DO SOMETHING
2015DM	2015DS
2031DM	2031DS
ALL FLOWS ARE TWO-WAY 24 HOUR	
AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.	
WEST OF TOWN CENTRE LINK (HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL)	

U	2	ISSUE FOR USE	14/08/09	HW						
U	1	ISSUE FOR USE	22/06/09	HW						
Stel	Rev	Purpose of Issue	Date	Auth	Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth

Contractor

COSTAIN SKANSKA

Designer

ATKINS

Client

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

Project

A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON

Title		Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual) 2008 - 2031 Sheet 8 of 9			
Sheet Size	Original Scale	Design/Drawn	Checked	Authorised	
A1	Not to scale	CJH	RF	HW	
Status	Drawing Number	Date	Date	Date	
U	5062774-TE-DR-ETT-GEN-010	29/06/09	29/06/09	29/06/09	
FIGURE 8.1.8					2

DO NOT SCALE

A1
 0 10 100
 600

94	Causeway
6300	
8300	6300
11600	8000

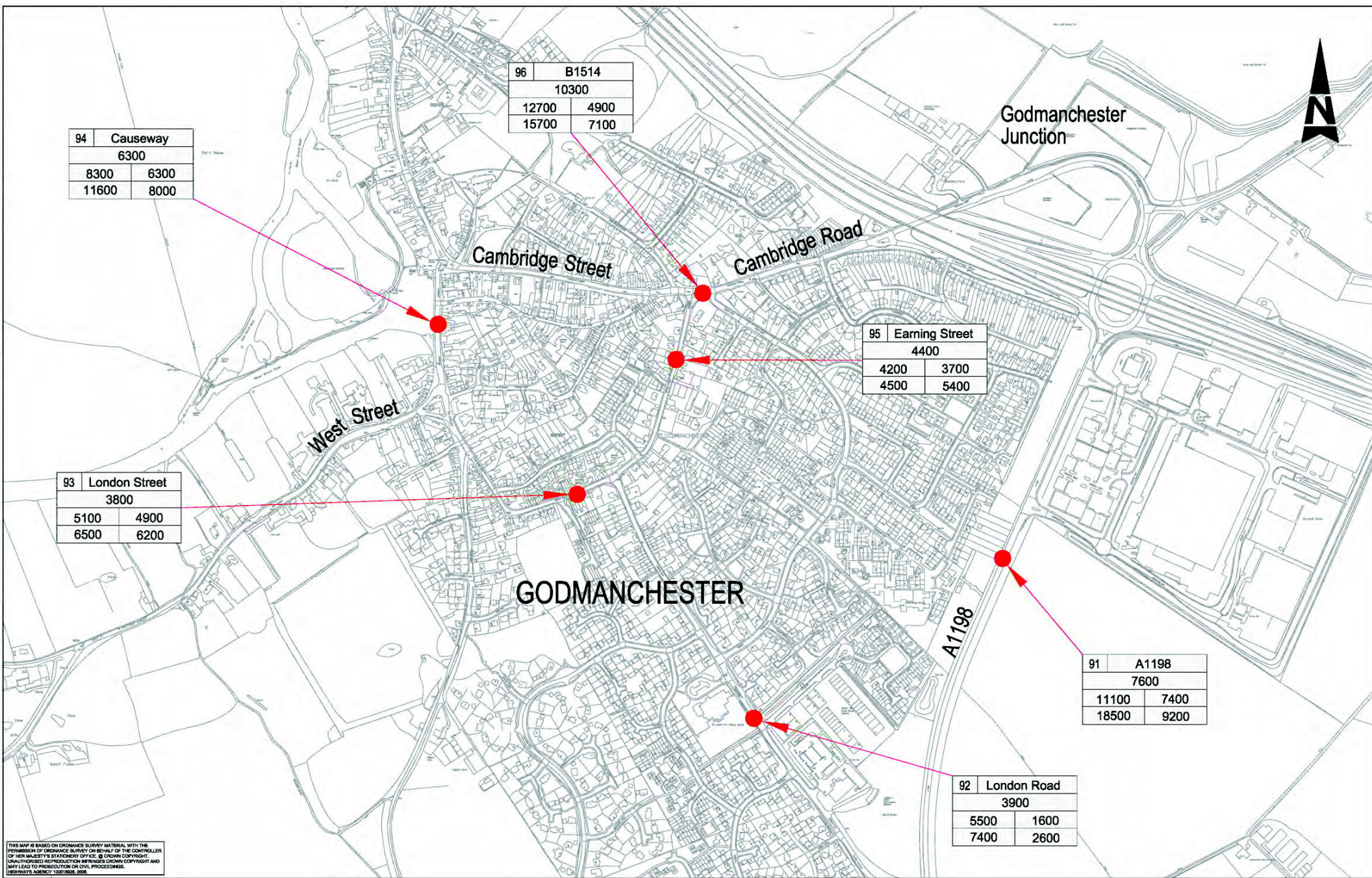
96	B1514
10300	
12700	4900
15700	7100

95	Earning Street
4400	
4200	3700
4500	5400

93	London Street
3800	
5100	4900
6500	6200

91	A1198
7600	
11100	7400
18500	9200

92	London Road
3900	
5500	1600
7400	2600



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LEGEND AND NOTES	
LOCATION	DM = DO MINIMUM
2006 BASE	DS = DO SOMETHING
2015DM	2015DS
2031DM	2031DS
ALL FLOWS ARE TWO-WAY 24 HOUR	
AADT ACTUAL FLOW IN VEHICLES.	

Stk	Rev	Purpose of Issue	Date	Auth	Rev	Description	By	Date	Chk'd	Auth
U	2	ISSUE FOR USE	14/08/09	HW						
U	1	ISSUE FOR USE	22/06/09	HW						

Contractor

Designer

Client

Project

A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON

Title

Traffic Flows & Transport (Actual)
 2008 - 2031
 Sheet 9 of 9

Sheet Size	Original Scale	Design/Drawn	Checked	Author's
A1	Not to scale	CH	RF	HW
Issue	Drawing Number	Date	Date	Date
U	5062774-TE-DR-ETT-GEN-011	20/07/09	20/07/09	20/07/09

FIGURE 8.1.9

Annex C7

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COMT

1ST DECEMBER 2009

CABINET

21ST JANUARY 2010

PAXTON PITS NATURE RESERVE EDUCATION CENTRE (Report by the Head of Operations)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The reserve currently hosts approximately 100 school and education groups a year. These are managed by staff from Huntingdonshire District Council and the Wildlife Trust and supported by volunteers from the 'Friends Group'.
- 1.2 There are currently no specific facilities available to education groups at the reserve. They use the visitor centre for storage of coats, lunch boxes etc, whilst they are out on-site. The visitor centre is also used for providing teas and a visitor welcome to the general public. This is whilst the education groups are present. In bad weather we have to cancel education groups as we cannot accommodate them.
- 1.3 A small area of the reserve, approximately 1 acre, has been set aside for education groups. This has been fenced and a hedge planted. The various habitats found on the reserve will be constructed so that young people can work in an enclosed area free from dogs.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Wildlife Trust applied to the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) for funding for a classroom, office and education staff. They received confirmation of this funding for £280,000 in October 2009. Countryside Services has received match funding of £70,000 from the Housing Growth Fund whilst the Friends of Paxton Pits have supplied £4,000 in money and a substantial amount of match funding in terms of labour.
- 2.2 Planning permission has already been granted along with Environment Agency approval.
- 2.3 The terms of the grant mean that £150,000 has to be spent by 19th March 2010 with the remainder spent in the next financial year. It is expected to start the building programme in February 2010 and finish in May 2010. The building will be owned by Huntingdonshire District Council once it has been constructed.

- 2.4 The Wildlife Trust will lease the education area at a peppercorn rent for 30 years. In return for the use of the building they will provide educational services including Watch / Wex groups and adult training courses.
- 2.5 The education centre will be built by the same firm that has built the visitor centre at Little Paxton. The maintenance costs for the original centre, built over 20 years ago, have been minimal as the only refurbishment needed has been the application of timber preservative. This is undertaken by volunteers. The main running costs of the building, including supplies, services and NNDR etc., will be met by the tenants as part of the lease agreement.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The education centre will enhance the asset at no cost to it.
- 3.2 The reserve is becoming ever more popular to residents and visitors alike. The addition of the education area will allow us to provide a much greater service to all users of the reserve at no extra cost in staff time.
- 3.3 The partnership working of this project can act as a model for partnerships in the future where all parties will benefit.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended;
- that Cabinet notes this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Contact Officers: **Pat Knight**
 Countryside Services Manager
 ☎ 01480 388648