

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING)** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 1 JUNE 2010 at 7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 6th April and 19th May 2010.

**Miss H Ali
388006**

2 Minutes.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

2 Minutes.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN (Pages 9 - 12)

A copy of the current Forward Plan, which was published on 17th May 2010 is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**Mrs H Taylor
388008**

10 Minutes.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (Pages 13 - 20)

To consider a report by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships containing details of the Council's performance against its priority objectives.

**H Thackray
388035**

20 Minutes.

5. MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS (PLANNING OBLIGATIONS) (Pages 21 - 32)

To receive a report by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships, outlining the progress made to date in respect of the expenditure and receipt of money received from Section 106 Agreements.

**C Meadowcroft
388364**

20 Minutes.

6. PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Pages 33 - 34)

To be acquainted with the Cabinet's response in respect of the study into the provision of play facilities across the District and to consider the way forward.

**Mrs H Taylor
388008**

20 Minutes.

7. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Pages 35 - 50)

To receive an update from Councillor R J West on the outcome of recent meetings of the Cambridgeshire Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

5 Minutes.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 (Pages 51 - 68)

To consider and comment upon the draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2009/10.

**A Roberts
388015**

15 Minutes.

9. WORK PLAN STUDIES (Pages 69 - 72)

To consider, with the aid of a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services, the current programme of Overview and Scrutiny studies.

**Miss H Ali
388006**

15 Minutes.

10. REMIT AND WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 73 - 88)

To consider a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services on the Panel's remit and to consider the Panel's current programme of studies.

**A Roberts
388015**

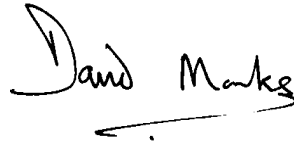
15 Minutes.

11. **SCRUTINY** (Pages 89 - 96)

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

5 Minutes.

Dated this 21 day of May 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chief Executive

Notes

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

Please contact Miss H Ali, Democratic Services Officer, Tel No: (01480) 388006 / email: Habbiba.Ali@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Panel.

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

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

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

Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) held in the Wren Room, Countryside Centre, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6DB on Tuesday, 6 April 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Criswell – Chairman.

Councillors Mrs K E Cooper, J E Garner, Mrs P A Jordan, P G Mitchell, J M Sadler and R J West.

R Coxhead and Mrs M Nicholas.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J W Davies and J J Dutton.

108. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 2nd March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors P G Mitchell and J M Sadler declared personal interests in Minute No.112 by virtue of their involvement with the Stilton Skate Park and Stukeley Meadows Skate Park respectively.

Councillor J M Sadler also declared a personal interest in Minutes No. 111 by virtue of being a member of the Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime Steering Group.

110. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered and noted the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council for the period 1st April to 31st July 2010. Members requested sight of the items entitled Home Improvement Agency Review – Future Delivery Model Consultation and Homelessness Strategy prior to their consideration by the Cabinet.

111. HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

(Councillor K J Churchill, Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health was in attendance for this item).

With the assistance of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2010-11 (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel were acquainted with the background to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership and the scope of its work. Members were reminded of the requirement created by the Police and Criminal

Justice Act 2006 that the Council should scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership. They were advised that the Partnership had been established in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the general aim of reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the District. The Partnership had established a number of strategic links, particularly with the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership (HSP), as well as with other District and County-wide groups. Members acknowledged the complexity of the way in which the Partnership was required to operate to meet the challenges faced by the District.

In reviewing the content of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2010-11, Members were advised that a Strategic Assessment was conducted each year to inform the priorities that were included within it. Members discussed a number of matters raised in the Plan. Positive trends in levels of criminal damage, theft from vehicles, theft of vehicles and anti-social behaviour had contributed to an overall decrease in total crime in 2009/10. There had, however, been an increase in shoplifting in St Neots. As a result this had been made a Police priority and an attempt would be made to establish the Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime initiative in St Neots.

In response to a question on the effect on crime of the Stukeley Meadows Skate Park, it was reported that the aim of the Skate Park was to provide young people with an alternative place to the town centre in which to skate and, in this respect, it had been successful, though a resulting reduction in crime could not be demonstrated.

Members discussed the structure of the Partnership. Having noted that an extensive number of agencies were involved in both the Partnership and the Inclusive, Safe and Cohesive Communities Thematic Group of the HSP, a question was raised whether the structure was unwieldy and resulted in duplication of work. Furthermore, a Member questioned why the Partnership was necessary when the Police had a statutory duty to tackle crime and disorder. In response, the Panel was informed that there was a legal requirement to have a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and that the Partnership focussed on matters that fell beyond the scope of the Police and other responsible agencies. Following a further question on how the Partnership publicised the effectiveness of its work, it was reported that regular use was made of the Council's website, District Wide and press releases for this purpose.

With regard to rural crime, the Panel was informed that the Police were responsible for this area of work. Comment was made that while a number of other agencies also were involved, they were not always effective in deterring persistent criminals operating in rural areas. Although it was acknowledged that this was sometimes the case, combined efforts were having a positive effect on the overall levels of rural crime and that, therefore, this work should continue.

Following a comment by a Member on the effectiveness of the traffic light scheme which was currently being used by the Police to promote good management of public houses in St Neots, the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services undertook to discuss with the Partnership whether the scheme should be rolled out to other areas of the District.

In concluding their discussions, the Panel expressed satisfaction with the performance achieved by the Partnership and the view that appropriate monitoring and accountability mechanisms were in place. Additionally, the Panel were reminded of the programme of events devised to assist Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels in complying with their duty to scrutinise the HSP. It was decided that the Panel should review how it scrutinises the Partnership and the Thematic Groups after these events had been held.

RESOLVED

that the content of the report be noted.

112. PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

The Panel considered the final report of the Provision of Play Facilities Working Group (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). Members were reminded that the Working Group had been tasked with examining the availability of play facilities across the District and the ongoing revenue costs associated with such facilities. As the 2008 Place Survey had identified the provision of activities for teenagers as the highest priority area in need of improvement in Huntingdonshire, the Working Group had decided to focus primarily on play facilities for teenagers.

The Panel was informed of the Working Group's activities and noted that investigations had been undertaken into a number of areas associated with operating play facilities, including the maintenance and insurance of facilities, the inspection of facilities for maintenance purposes, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents inspections and the costs associated with these activities. A number of recommendations had been made by the Working Group, which were intended to improve the level of provision for teenagers in Huntingdonshire. Whilst the Panel was supportive of the Working Group's aims, Members decided that owing to the current financial pressures on the Council, the feasibility should first be investigated of introducing a maintenance agreement in which responsibility for meeting Town facilities' revenue costs is divided between the District Council, Town Councils and users with any savings being redeployed in Parishes before consideration is given to extending the Council's own commitments in this respect.

Having noted that the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services had been involved in the Working Group's deliberations from the outset and that Councillors P G Mitchell and R J West would present the report to the Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd April 2010, it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to the recommendations being amended to include reference to investigations being undertaken into the feasibility of introducing a maintenance agreement in which responsibility for meeting Town facilities' revenue costs are divided between the District Council, Town Councils and users of facilities with any savings being redeployed in Parishes

before consideration is given to extending the Council's own commitments, the report of the Provision of Play Facilities Working Group be approved for consideration by the Cabinet.

113. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor R J West reported that the next meeting of the Cambridgeshire Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee would be held on 22nd April 2010 and that he and Councillor J J Dutton had been appointed onto a Working Group to investigate dementia services.

114. WORK PLAN STUDIES

The Panel considered and noted a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) reviewing their programme of studies and informing Members of the studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

115. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions. The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Stakeholder Panel Sub-Group would be held on 13th April 2010 to meet with the three remaining bidders for the Hospital's management contract.

The Scrutiny and Review Manager also provided an update on the study into car parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The Hospital's Senior Executive Group had decided to reduce the minimum length of stay to 2 hours for which a charge of £2 would be made. The Panel was informed that further reducing the minimum length of stay would have significant financial implications for the Hospital. It was further reported that additional visitor spaces for stays of up to 30 minutes for which there would be no charge would also be introduced and that the Panel's other recommendations would be subject to consideration by the Executive Group in the future. The Hospital's Business Facilities Manager would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Panel to report on progress.

116. SCRUTINY

The 103rd Edition of the Digest of Decisions was received and noted.

117. COUNCILLORS J E GARNER AND J M SADLER

In thanking Members for their work on behalf of the Panel during the year, the Chairman drew particular attention to the contributions made by Councillors J E Garner and J M Sadler who would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming election.

Chairman

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 19 May 2010.

PRESENT: Councillors P L E Bucknell, S Cawley,
B S Chapman, Mrs K E Cooper, S J Criswell,
J J Dutton, Mrs P A Jordan, P G Mitchell,
A Monk and R J West.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor S J Criswell be elected Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor S J Criswell in the Chair.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

that Councillor R J West be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

4. CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

that Councillors S J Criswell and R J West be appointed to serve on the Corporate Plan Working Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

5. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that Councillor R J West be appointed to the Cambridgeshire Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor B S Chapman appointed as the substitute Member.

Chairman

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Prepared by
Date of Publication:
For Period:

Councillor I C Bates
17 May 2010
1st June to 30 September 2010

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor I C Bates	- Leader of the Council	4 Church End Hilton Huntingdon PE28 9NJ Tel: 01480 830250 E-mail: Ian.Bates@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor L M Simpson	- Deputy Leader of the Council with Special Responsibility for HQ/Accommodation	45 Devoke Close Stukeley Meadows Huntingdon Cambs PE29 6XE Tel: 01480 388946 E-mail: Mike.Simpson@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor K J Churchill	- Executive Councillor for Housing and Public Health	51 Gordon Road Little Paxton St Neots PE19 6NJ Tel: 01480 352040 E-mail: Ken.Churchill@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor D B Dew	- Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport	4 Weir Road Hemingford Grey Huntingdon PE28 9EH Tel: 01480 469814 E-mail: Douglas.Dew@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor J A Gray	- Executive Councillor for Environment and Information Technology	Shufflewick Cottage Station Row Tilbrook PE28 OJY Tel: 01480 861941 E-mail: JG@novae.com

Councillor C R Hyams	- Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services	22 Bluegate Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambs PE29 2EZ Tel: 01480 388968 E-mail: Colin.Hyams@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor A Hansard	- Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy	78 Potton Road Eynesbury St Neots PE19 2NN Tel: 01480 388942 E-mail: Andrew.Hansard@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor Mrs D C Reynolds	- Executive Councillor for Leisure	17 Virginia Way St Ives PE27 6SQ Tel: 01480 388935 E-mail: Deborah.Reynolds@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor T V Rogers	- Executive Councillor for Finance	Honeysuckle Cottage 34 Meadow Lane Earith Huntingdon PE28 3QE Tel: 01487 840477 E-mail: Terence.Rogers@huntsdc.gov.uk

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

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

Roy Reeves
Head of Administration

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

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

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Ramsey Market Town Transport Strategy	Cabinet	17 Jun 2010	Draft Strategy	Steve Ingram, Head of Planning Services Tel No. 01480 388400 or e-mail Steve.Ingram@huntsdc.gov.uk		D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Transfer of S106 Asset (Community Building & Land) at Loves Farm	Cabinet	17 Jun 2010	None.	Dan Smith, Community Initiatives Manager Tel No. 01480 388377 or e-mail Dan.Smith@huntsdc.gov.uk		K J Churchill	Social Well-Being
St. Ivo Leisure Centre - Proposal for Development	Cabinet	17 Jun 2010	None	Simon Bell, General Manager, Leisure Centres Tel No. 01480 388049 or e-mail Simon.Bell@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Social Well-Being
Car Parking Orders	Cabinet	17 Jun 2010	Car Parking Order and Order No. 2	Anthony Roberts, Scrutiny and Review Manager Tel No. 01480 388015 or e-mail Anthony.Roberts@huntsdc.gov.uk	Statutory public consultation.	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Public Conveniences***	Cabinet	22 Jul 2010	None.	Malcolm Sharp, Director of Environmental and Community Services Tel No. 01480 388301 or e-mail Malcolm.Sharp@huntsdc.gov.uk		J A Gray C Hyams	Environmental Well-Being
Former Fire Station and Waste Recycling Site, Huntingdon Street, St. Neots	Cabinet	22 Jul 2010	Development Brief and Marketing Information (in preparation)	Keith Phillips, Estates and Property Manager Tel No. 01480 388260 or e-mail Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk	Ward Councillors.	A Hansard	Economic Well-Being
Homelessness Strategy	Cabinet	22 Jul 2010	None.	Jon Collen, Housing Needs and Resources Manager Tel No. 01480 388220 or e-mail Jon.Collen@huntsdc.gov.uk	Consultation process in preparation.	K J Churchill	Social Well-Being

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Consultation	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Home Improvement Agency Review - Future Delivery Model Consultation***	Cabinet	16 Sep 2010	None	Steve Plant, Head of Housing Services Tel No. 01480 388240 or e-mail Steve.Plant@huntsdc.gov.uk		K J Churchill	Social Well-Being
Site Options Gypsy & Travellers Development Plan Document***	Cabinet	16 Sep 2010	Issues & Options Paper	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 or e-mail Paul.Bland@huntsdc.gov.uk	Approve for public consultation.	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
SOCIAL WELL-BEING
ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

1st June 2010
8th June 2010
10th June 2010

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
(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 The Council’s Corporate Plan includes 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 as priorities for the immediate future.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Progress against all the 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.
- 3.2 In addition, a working group appointed by the Overview & Scrutiny Panels continues to meet quarterly to monitor progress in the achievement of the Plan and to consider development issues.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Members of the Panels will also find broader performance information of help to them in undertaking their review and scrutiny functions. This information can be provided on a regular or ad-hoc basis.
- 3.5 The priority objectives have been allocated between Panels as follows:

SOCIAL WELL-BEING	ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING	ECONOMIC WELL-BEING
To enable the provision of affordable housing	To help mitigate and adapt to climate change	Effective Partnership
To achieve a low level of homelessness	To promote development opportunities in and around the market towns	To be an employer people want to work for
To promote active lifestyles		Maximise business and income opportunities including external funding and grants

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 or above target;
- 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.

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. Acknowledging the importance of performance management data, a system of spot checks has been introduced to give further assurance on its accuracy.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members are recommended to;

Consider the results of performance for priority objectives and to comment to Cabinet as appropriate.

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

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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:
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)	1.75m	1.67m (R)		↓	Closure of two pools in summer, adjustment to calculation factor at Burgess Hall, severe winter
Promotion and marketing of available activities	Number of active card holders	20,250	26,559 (G)		↑	Data capture campaign Jan-Mar 2009
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)	4,000	4,932 (G)		↓	Annual target exceeded by 23%
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)	8,500	19,345 (G)		↔	annual target exceeded by 128%
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)	11,300	21,373 (G)		↔	Annual target exceeded by 89%
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)	1,000	2,198 (G)		↔	Annual target exceeded by 120%
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)	7,560	10,020 (G)		↓	Annual target exceeded by 33%
Community/Council Aim: Housing that meets individuals needs						
Objective: To achieve a low level of homelessness						
Division: Housing						

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

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	91 (R)	↓ Significant increase - 14% - on presentations since last quarter (75 this quarter). Year end completion figure is currently being data quality checked	QRT
	The number of households prevented from becoming homeless in the year (cumulative quarterly measure)	260	357 (G)	↔ Figures are estimated and need to be confirmed as we are still checking the final number of preventions at the year end but will be no more than ±10 from this figure.	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)	307	316 (G)	↓ 307 Target exceeded.	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) % of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in market towns and key settlements % of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in smaller settlements	35 40 29	51 (G) 49.80 (G) 65 (G)	↔ ↔ ↔ As at year end March 2009. As at year end March 2009.	QRT QRT QRT

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

<p>Objective To promote active lifestyles</p>	<p>Achievements:</p>	<p>Comments from appropriate Head of Service Leisure Centres: Huntingdon increased visits by 50k, an increase of 14%, (including 12k Impressions, 11k Fun Zone and 5k Health and Spa facility). Impressions has continued to grow by 14k to 281k (5.1%) with growth at all sites (Huntingdon 17%). Following a recent card push over 26,000 customers now have an active leisure card out of a total card holder population of 85,012 (30%). 28,000 under 18's now hold a card with exactly a quarter aged 13-17. Environmental and Community Health Services: All targets related to the Growing Success objective 'to promote active lifestyles' were exceeded in 2009/10. The Sport and Active Leisure Team had an agreed level of service for 2009/10. The service has exceeded targets without requiring additional funding (38523 throughput, target 23860). Sport England Rural Themed Round funding secured for Delivering Activity and Sport in Huntingdonshire (DASH) project. £234k awarded over three years (to 31 March 2013) to provide sports in rural areas.</p>
<p>To achieve a low level of homelessness</p>	<p>Issues or actions for next quarter:</p> <p>Risks:</p> <p>Achievements:</p> <p>Issues or actions for next quarter:</p>	<p>Leisure Centres: Public admissions closed 4.4% below target and 3.8% below last years actual. Closure of two pools over summer (swimming 17k down) offer part of the explanation as does a particularly bad winter period which notably affected St Ivo Outdoor facilities for almost 10 weeks at its busiest time of year (20k admissions down), but there have been losses elsewhere with Burgess Hall admissions (now recorded more accurately) showing a 40k shortfall on previous year. Swimming closed 5% down (although over half of this will be as a result of the closures), with pool occupancy decreasing fractionally to 22.8 people/hour (from 23.1). 69% of all available courts were used (70% last year).</p> <p>Housing Services: 90 households were prevented from becoming homeless in Q4 of the year, compared to 87 in Q4 last year (a total of 357 for 2009/10 compared to 300 for the previous year). NB. Q4 figures are estimated and need to be confirmed as we are still checking the final number of preventions for the year end. There was an overall reduction for the whole year from 164 households accepted as homeless in 2008/09 to 137 in 2009/10.</p> <p>Housing Services: There was an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation, from 65 households at the start of the quarter to 78 at the end. We did not achieve the target of a maximum of 45 households by the end of March 2010. This was as a result in the number of new homelessness applications where we had a duty to provide emergency temporary accommodation in the final quarter and the lack of suitable vacancies at the same time to move people into permanent housing. This target was set prior to the recession.</p>

<p>Objective</p>	<p>Comments from appropriate Head of Service 41 households were accepted as homeless in the last quarter compared to 35 in the same period last year. The project to extend Kings Ripton Court to provide training facilities and four emergency crash beds will start on site. A consultation draft of the Homelessness Strategy, incorporating the findings of the homelessness JSNA, will be produced.</p> <p><u>Housing Services:</u> 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><u>Housing Services:</u> Completed 136 affordable homes bringing the cumulative total for the year to 316 (above target of 307). Secured £530k grant for housing. Bringing the cumulative total for the year to £21m.</p> <p>Issues or actions for next quarter:</p> <p><u>Housing Services:</u> Availability of Homes and Communities Agency funding via the bidding process.</p> <p><u>Planning Services:</u> As stated previously the most obvious current risk is the potential impacts of a longer than expected downturn in the housing/development market. To date Huntingdonshire has remained 'comparatively buoyant' but the potential impacts of any further reduction in development activity could be upon levels of planning fee income, housing delivery and the scale, content and the potential viability and delivery of S106 contributions.</p>
<p>Risks:</p>	<p><u>Housing Services:</u> 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>Achievements:</p>	<p><u>Housing Services:</u> Completed 136 affordable homes bringing the cumulative total for the year to 316 (above target of 307). Secured £530k grant for housing. Bringing the cumulative total for the year to £21m.</p>
<p>Issues or actions for next quarter:</p>	<p><u>Housing Services:</u> Availability of Homes and Communities Agency funding via the bidding process.</p>
<p>Risks:</p>	<p><u>Planning Services:</u> As stated previously the most obvious current risk is the potential impacts of a longer than expected downturn in the housing/development market. To date Huntingdonshire has remained 'comparatively buoyant' but the potential impacts of any further reduction in development activity could be upon levels of planning fee income, housing delivery and the scale, content and the potential viability and delivery of S106 contributions.</p>

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
(SOCIAL WELL-BEING)
1ST JUNE 2010

MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS
(PLANNING OBLIGATIONS)
(Report by Head of People, Performance and Partnerships)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with information on the receipt and expenditure of S106 monies. The report also provides an overview of future benefits from developments that have commenced but where trigger points for collection of the monies have yet to be reached, and future potential benefits from developments which have not yet commenced. The latter two sections allow for forward planning and the integration of potential benefits with other service plans.
- 1.2 As requested by the Advisory Group, a copy of this report has been made available to all Members of the Council.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The report has three appendices: Appendix A: Section 106 Account (covering the period 4 December 2009 to 3 March 2010), Appendix B: Future benefits by location (development commenced, but not yet sufficiently advanced to trigger payments) and Appendix C: Future potential benefits by location (development not commenced).

2.2 Appendix A comprises 5 tables:

- **Table 1. Allocated schemes**

These are developments where monies have been received and there is a specific scheme identified.

- **Table 2. Maintenance**

These are developments where monies have been received and are ring-fenced for future maintenance of play equipment and open space. Monies will be spent in accordance with approved maintenance schedules.

- **Table 3. Pending allocation**

These are developments where monies have been received for a general purpose but where a specific scheme has yet to be identified.

- **Table 4. Money spent in the last quarter**

This table shows the actual spend or transfer of monies in the last quarter.

- **Table 5. Non-monetary benefits received**

This details non-cash benefits recorded in the last quarter.

3. DEFERRAL OF PAYMENTS

The following action has been taken on applications for deferrals (the Council's preferred option in the current economic climate) reported on 11 January 2010.

3.1. ID244 London Road, Godmanchester: transportation and education contributions to be paid to County by 31 May 2011 and 31 October 2011 respectively (at latest). No deferrals sought from HDC.

3.2. ID242: St Ives Golf Course, Houghton Road, St Ives. Education contribution to be paid to County in instalments (estimated Feb 2011 and May 2012).

Transport contribution to be paid to County in instalments (estimated July 2010, Feb 2011 and July 2012).

3.3. ID256: The Elms, Thicket Road, Houghton. Awaiting proposal from developers.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1. The Panel is invited to review and comment on the contents of the monitoring report.

Note: Members of the Panel are invited to submit any detailed requests for further information on schemes prior to the meeting, so that a response can be prepared.

Contact Officer: Chris Meadowcroft, Policy and Economic Development Officer
☎ (01480) 388364
Chris.Meadowcroft@huntsdc.gov.uk

Appendix A - Section 106 Account

This schedule details S106/Grampian Condition monies that are held in the S106 account until they are needed for maintenance, or transferred to relevant service budgets (or to Town and Parish Councils) when schemes are ready to proceed. Where appropriate, the schedule also includes an expiry date by which time the money must be spent. It divides the account into five sections:

Table 1. Allocated schemes: for which money has been received and is destined to be spent on a specific scheme.

Table 2. Maintenance: money received for future maintenance, usually relating to play equipment or open space. The money will be held in this account until it is drawn down to pay for the maintenance (proportionally over 15 years).

Table 3. Pending allocation: money received for a purpose, but where a specific scheme has yet to be identified.

Table 4. Money spent in the last quarter: money previously held in the account which has been spent or transferred in the last quarter.

Table 5: Non-monetary benefits recorded as received in the last quarter

Summary

	This quarter	Previous quarter
Allocated schemes (Table 1)	£774,096	£774,096
Maintenance (Table 2)	£198,036	£190,116
Pending allocation (Table 3)	£126,552	£97,942
TOTAL	£1,098,684	£1,062,154

Spent since the last quarter (Table 4)	£15,000	£93,157
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(Note: This schedule was created 3 March 2010)

Table 1: Allocated schemes

ID	Date Received	Amount	Location	What the money will be spent on	Status	Service responsible	Expiry Date (if any)
66	28/08/2002	20,652	Eynesbury	Play Area Duck Lane and Henbrook Park: provision and/or maintenance of open space and play equipment	Meeting to take place March 2010 with St Neots TC to discuss spending plans	Operations	
69	07/09/2005	22,198	St Ives	Recreation and Leisure Facilities Contribution to be used for Hill Rise upgrade	Work to begin April/May 2010	Operations	7/09/2010
103	16/06/2005	208,013	Eynesbury	Leisure Centre contribution	Work started Nov 2009, to be completed and all monies spent by August 2010	Leisure	10/08/2010
199	27/11/2003	14,425	Godmanchester	Off-site Facilities Contribution: St. Judith's Field Skateboard Ramp	Spending plan received March 2010. £10,000 funding to be transferred via an indemnity agreement towards phase one of the three phase improvements to St Judith's Field.	Operations	
216	08/03/2007	10,889	St Neots	Off-site Facilities Contribution: provision of children or adult/youth open space and play equipment (Shady Walk)	Meeting to take place March 2010 with St Neots	Operations	

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					TC to discuss spending plans		
244	19/04/2005	20,514	Godmanchester	Skate Park contribution	Godmanchester TC 3 phase programme, details received March 2010. Detailed spend proposals to follow for second and third phases.	Operations	
247	15/05/2005	1,378	Huntingdon	Hinchingbrooke Park	Training in use of green gym	Leisure	
256	06/05/2009	49,450	Houghton and Wyton	Affordable Housing Contribution		Housing	30/4/2013
257	31/01/2007	11,811	Somersham	Play Area Contribution: allocated to the redevelopment of the play area and skate park in Somersham	Spending plan from Parish Council expected March 2010	Operations	
266	03/04/2008	28,854	Huntingdon	Public Open Space contribution: Riverside Park	Scheme under development March 2010	Operations	
267	10/12/2008	53,852	Huntingdon	Play Equipment improvements and Open Space Contribution: Riverside Park	Scheme under development March 2010	Operations	09/12/2013
269	13/07/2009	22,060	Huntingdon	Open Space contribution: improvements to Birds Estate	HDC Scheme providing play opportunities for under 6's to be developed Summer 2010.	Operations	
280	16/03/2009	250,000	Perry	Cyclepath		HDC Transport	15/03/2013
281	31/03/2009	60,000	Little Paxton	Environmental conservation contribution: Paxton Pits		Countryside Services	

Total		£774,096					
Last quarter		£774,096					

Table 2: Maintenance

ID	Date Received	Amount £	Location	What the money has to be spent on	Service responsible
181	15/06/2006	3,936	St Ives	Open Space Maintenance (transferred to HDC December 2009)	Operations
206	17/07/2007	8,435	Yaxley	Off site recreation Facilities Contribution: skate park renewal	Operations
237	08/08/2008	154,184	Cambridge Road, St Neots	Sports Facility Contribution (replacement and renewal of all-weather pitch)	Leisure
244	19/04/2005	8,791	Godmanchester	Skate Park	Operations
268	13/07/09	14,770	Kimbolton and Stonely	Open Space and Play Equipment Maintenance, spending plan requested at Nov 09	Operations
277 NEW	02/02/2010	7,920	Ramsey	Play Area maintenance	Operations
Total		£198,036			
Last quarter		£190,116			

Table 3: Pending allocation

ID	Date Received	Amount £	Location	What the money can be spent on	Service responsible	Expiry Date (if any)
103	16/06/2005	22,858	Eynesbury	On-site Facilities Contribution: Local Play Area. £30,523 spent on play equipment (Table 4).	Operations	16/06/2010
215	23/10/2006	11,918	Huntingdon/Godmanchester	Off-site Facilities Contribution: for the provision of public open space, recreation and leisure facilities.	Godmanchester Town Council. To be spent on phases 2 and 3, detailed spend proposals expected in April/May	Operations
224	18/10/2007	17,083	Ramsey	Off-site facilities: Open space, recreation and leisure facilities. Scheme identified, site being considered but not confirmed as at feb 2010. County youth workers leading on this.	Operations	
229	28/01/08	9,231	St Neots	Leisure and Recreation facilities compensation sum	Operations	28/01/2013
229	28/01/08	12,123	St Neots	Leisure and Recreation facilities	Operations	28/01/2013
236	16/01/2009	9,762	St Neots	Off site facilities	Operations	
238 NEW	02/02/2010	28,610	Eaton Ford	Off site facilities	Operations	
276	20/01/2009	14,967	St Ives	Provision of children's casual and equipped play space. Operations to draw up a scheme in 2010.	Operations	
Total		£126,552				
Last quarter		£97,942				

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Table 4. Money spent or transferred in the last quarter

ID	Date received	Amount £	Location	Spend type	Division
288	09/02/2010	15,000	Burleigh Road, Dart Close, St Ives	Open Space Maintenance	Operations

Note: The contribution detailed under ID288 is not subject to a Section 106 or Grampian Condition.

Table 5: Non-monetary benefits recorded as received in the last quarter

ID	Address			Clause ref	Description	Amount	Date satisfied
181	Collingwood Farm	Woodside Way	St Ives	3.1.3	Owners to offer to transfer open spaces to Council by way of gift.	£0.00	31/12/2009
181	Collingwood Farm	Woodside Way	St Ives	4	Phased handover of public open spaces as per sub-clauses in Clause 3.1	£0.00	31/12/2009
181	Collingwood Farm	Woodside Way	St Ives	5.1	Council agrees to transfer of POS as per Agreement	£0.00	31/12/2009

Appendix B - Future S106 Benefits Listed by Location - developments commenced

This report shows Section 106 clauses with attached monies from developments that have commenced but where trigger points for the collection of the monies have not yet been reached.

Spend Area	ID	Address (Line 2)	Spend Type	Clause Amount	Spending Department
Bluntisham	200	Rectory Road	Education Contribution	£21,000	CCC Education
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£13,100	Operations
Bury	82	Bury Road	Open Space Maintenance	£8,000	Operations
Eynesbury	103	Barford Road	On-site Facilities Contribution	£10,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£24,000	Operations
Fenstanton	173	Headlands	Open Space Maintenance	£5,679	Operations
Godmanchester	244	London Road	Play Area Maintenance	£25,000	Operations
			Education contribution 2.part	£128,000	CCC Education
	261	Wigmore Farm Silver Street	On-site Facilities Maintenance	£31,125	Operations
			Open Space Contribution	£75,500	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£20,000	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£39,770	CCC
Transport Contribution 2.part	£82,000	CCC Transportation			
Houghton & Wyton	256	Thicket Road	Affordable Housing Contribution	£46,791	Housing
			Recreation Facilities Contribution	£16,000	Operations
Huntingdon	75	Kings Ripton Road	On-site Facilities Maintenance	£19,000	Operations
			Open Space Maintenance	£6,120	Operations
	186	Hinchingbrooke Park Road	On-site Facilities Maintenance	£27,000	Operations
			Open Space Maintenance	£37,000	Operations
	218	Parkway	Highways Contribution	£190,000	CCC Transportation
			Open Space Maintenance	£36,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£9,500	Operations
	220	Ullswater and Handscroft Lane	Off-site Facilities Maintenance	£5,000	Operations
			Play Area Contribution	£36,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£9,500	Operations
	233	Bus Depot Site 15 Stukeley Rd	Education Contribution	£14,000	CCC Education
	234	Moorhouse Drive	Education Contribution	£57,600	Education
282	Temple Close	Education Contribution	£8,400	CCC Education	
		Off-site Facilities Contribution	£867	Operations	
		On-site Facilities Contribution	£15,450	Operations	
Huntingdonshire	244	London Road	Transport Contribution	£62,000	CCC Transportation
	282	Temple Close	Play Area Maintenance	£6,180	Operations
Little Paxton	223	Mill Lane	Education Contribution	£646,000	CCC Education
			Open Space Maintenance	£36,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£24,500	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£200,000	Primary Care Trust

Note: The majority of transportation contributions are paid to Cambridgeshire County Council and are used in partnership with the district council.

Appendix B - Future S106 Benefits Listed by Location - developments commenced

This report shows Section 106 clauses with attached monies from developments that have commenced but where trigger points for the collection of the monies have not yet been reached.

Spend Area	ID	Address (Line 2)	Spend Type	Clause Amount	Spending Department
			Recreation Facilities Maintenance	£2,000	Operations
	281	Great North Road	Environmental conservation contribution	£60,000	Environment
Ramsey	277	St Mary's Road	Education Contribution	£40,000	CCC Education
			Miscellaneous	£5,000	TBC
			Play Area Maintenance	£20,000	Operations
	278	Old Station Road	Off-site Facilities Contribution	£21,630	Operations
St Ives	264	East Street	Education Contribution	£33,400	CCC Education
			Play Equipment Contribution	£22,000	Operations
	276	Needingworth Road	Transport Contribution	£20,000	CCC Transport
St Neots	223	Mill Lane	Transport Contribution 1.part	£221,500	CCC Transportation
			Transport Contribution 2.part	£221,500	CCC Transportation
	229	Bushmead Road	Amenity Strip Maintenance	£7,200	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£8,000	Operations
	231	Huntingdon Street	Education Contribution	£40,000	CCC Education
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£29,000	Operations
			Transport Contribution	£42,840	CCC Transportation
	236	516 Great North Road	Education Contribution	£12,000	CCC Education
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£6,000	Operations
			Transport Contribution	£6,000	CCC Transportation
237	Cambridge Road	Education Contribution	£3,520,000	CCC Education	
		On-site Facilities Contribution	£310,000	Community Initiatives	
		Play Area Contribution	£261,800	Operations	
		Transport Contribution	£3,441,000	CCC Transportation	
Warboys	174	Popes Lane	Open Space Maintenance	£1,043	Operations
	210	off High Fen Straight Drove	Environmental conservation contribution	£15,000	Trust Fund
	217	Poplar Farm	Open Space Maintenance	£1,206	Operations
Yaxley	187	Broadway	Open Space Maintenance	£54,000	Operations
			Highways Contribution	£97,000	CCC Highways
	212	Broadway	Open Space Contribution	£22,100	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£29,000	Operations
	252	Church Street	Education Contribution	£528,000	CCC Education
On-site Facilities Maintenance			£69,300	Operations	
Transport Contribution			£175,000	CCC Transportation	
Grand Total				£11,334,601	

Note: The majority of transportation contributions are paid to Cambridgeshire County Council and are used in partnership with the district council.

Appendix C - Future Potential S106 Benefits Listed by Location - developments not commenced

This report shows Section 106 clauses with attached monies from developments that have not yet commenced work.

Location	ID	Address	Spend Type	Amount Expected (£)	Service Responsible
Colne	203	East Street	Education Contribution	£24,000	CCC Education
			Recreation Facilities Contribution	£13,000	Operations
Hemingford Grey	262	London Road	Off-site Facilities Contribution	£6,500	Operations
			Play Area Contribution	£8,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£16,000	Operations
Huntingdon	113	32 High Street	Education Contribution	£14,000	CCC Education
			230	Thames Road	Off-site Facilities Contribution
			Open Space Maintenance	£40,170	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£6,180	Operations
	251	Lancaster House	Transport Contribution	£13,750	CCC Transportation
	260	St Peter's Road	Cycle Paths	£98,000	CCC Transportation
	265	Brampton Road	Transport Contribution	£40,000	CCC Transportation
	279	Christie Drive	Play Area Maintenance	£6,000	Operations
	283	Brookside	Education Contribution	£26,040	CCC Education
			Play Area Maintenance	£6,365	Operations
			Play Equipment Contribution	£25,914	Operations
			Recreation Facilities Maintenance	£2,937	Operations
			Transport Contribution	£64,500	CCC Transport
	287	California Road	Cycle Paths	£11,200	CCC Transportation
			Miscellaneous	£1,035,400	Policy
Play Area Maintenance			£24,720	Operations	
290	Kings Ripton Road	Education Contribution	£10,780	CCC Education	
		Off-site Facilities Contribution	£21,000	Operations	
Huntingdon Area	290	Kings Ripton Road	Transport Contribution	£11,000	CCC Transport
Little Paxton	222	Bydand Lane & rear of Park Crescent	Education Contribution	£4,450	CCC Education
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£16,100	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£14,000	Huntingdonshire PCT
Ramsey	226	Bury Road	Off-site Facilities Contribution	£13,400	Operations
			Transport Contribution	£7,000	HDC Transportation
Sawtry	180	Gidding Road	Play Area Contribution	£16,700	Operations
			284	Gidding Road	Cycle Paths
			Education Contribution	£634,600	CCC Education
			Transport Contribution	£7,500	Transport
		Transport Contribution 1.part	£50,000	CCC Transport	

Appendix C - Future Potential S106 Benefits Listed by Location - developments not commenced

This report shows Section 106 clauses with attached monies from developments that have not yet commenced work.

Location	ID	Address	Spend Type	Amount Expected (£)	Service Responsible
St Ives	239	Houghton Grange	Transport Contribution 2.part	£8,250	CCC Transport
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£60,000	Leisure
			Play Area Contribution	£72,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£23,000	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£18,126	Huntingdonshire PCT
	242	Houghton Road	Transport Contribution	£223,490	
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£199,680	Leisure
			Play Area Contribution	£80,000	Operations
			Play Area Maintenance	£25,000	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£21,952	Huntingdonshire PCT
	254	Orchard House Houghton Road	Transport Contribution	£350,900	CCC Transportation
			Off-site Facilities Contribution	£173,555	Leisure
			Play Area Maintenance	£72,000	Operations
			Primary Health Care Contribution	£19,132	Policy and Str. Services
			Transport Contribution	£424,536	CCC Transportation
St Neots	270	Kings Lane	Education Contribution	£20,040	CCC Education
			On-site Facilities Contribution	£16,317	Operations
			On-site Facilities Maintenance	£6,180	Operations
Yaxley	195	Broadway	Transport Contribution	£20,000	HDC Transportation
	221	west of 3 London Road	Education Contribution	£14,000	CCC Education
Yaxley Area	286	Broadway	Cycle Paths	£40,500	Transportation
Grand Total				£4,247,504	

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Note: The majority of transportation contributions are paid to Cambridgeshire County Council and are used in partnership with the district council.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING)

24TH APRIL 2010

PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE (Report by the Cabinet)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 22nd April 2010, the Cabinet considered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) on the findings of a study into the availability of play facilities in Huntingdonshire and the ongoing revenue costs associated with such facilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel established a Working Group to examine the availability of play facilities in Huntingdonshire. The Working Group decided to focus primarily on the provision of facilities for teenagers as this had been identified in the 2008 Place Survey by residents as the highest priority area in need of improvement in Huntingdonshire.

3. THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS

- 3.1 In considering the Panel's recommendations, the Cabinet were advised of issues linked to maintenance, insurance and inspection of facilities for maintenance and safety purposes.
- 3.2 The Cabinet concurred with the Group that further research into the availability of Group insurance schemes with the aim of achieving a lower insurance premium and the feasibility of combining safety inspections should be undertaken. In terms of the future revenue funding of play equipment and the Group's proposed formula for maintenance of play equipment, the Cabinet decided that the provision and management of local play facilities should be undertaken at a local level by local parish councils and community organisations and that the District Council's role should be confined to strategic, district-wide initiatives and in advising on opportunities for funding.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Minutes and Reports of the meeting held on 22nd April 2010.

**Contact Officer: Helen Taylor, Senior Democratic Services Officer
(01480) 388008.**

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Scrutiny Committee

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th April 2010



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Action

56. ASSESSMENT OF LAST MEETING – 4th February 2010

The assessment of the meeting held on 4th February 2010 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to substituting Councillor V McGuire's name for Councillor Austen's as the member declaring a personal interest by reason of working for a caring agency (minute 45), and changing the start of the second sentence of the penultimate bullet point on page 2 (minute 46) to read "The Council's risk was two thirds of the total overspend of £5m (i.e. £3.4m)" instead of "one third ... (i.e. £1.66m)".

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Heathcock, Kenney, Read and J West declared a personal interest under paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct as members of Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE).

Councillor Austen declared a personal interest by reason of supporting a person who received social care from Older People's Services. Councillor V McGuire declared a personal interest by reason of working for a caring agency.

58. MANAGEMENT OF POOLED BUDGET ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members and officers from NHS Cambridgeshire (the Primary Care Trust, PCT), Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) and from Cambridgeshire Care Partnership (CCP). He welcomed the Chief Executive of the PCT to his first meeting of the Committee and congratulated CCS on its new status as an NHS Trust. Members and officers present were

- Maureen Donnelly, Chair of NHS Cambridgeshire and of Cambridgeshire Care Partnership
- Peter Southwick, Non-Executive Director and Chair of Finance and Performance Sub-Committee, PCT
- Councillor Fred Yeulett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Vice-chair of CCP
- Matthew Winn, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Community Services
- Paul Zollinger-Read, Chief Executive, PCT
- John Leslie, Director of Finance and Performance, PCT
- Mandy Renton, Executive Nurse, PCT
- Rod Craig, Executive Director: Community and Adult Services
- Claire Bruin, Service Director: Adult Support Services.

Under current section 75 contract agreements between the County Council (CCC), CCS and PCT, adult social care was delivered through joint commissioning and pooled budgets. At its two previous meetings, in December

2009 and February 2010, the Committee had considered the overspend in the Older People's pooled budget for 2009-10, and how it was being dealt with. The Committee now went on to consider a report from the PCT providing an update on current joint commissioning arrangements for adults using section 75 contract agreements, particularly the predicted overspend for 2009-10 and the lack of focus on performance management.

Introducing the Committee's scrutiny of the pooled budget arrangements, the Chairman explained that members were particularly interested in

- when the PCT had first become aware that the budget was in difficulties
- what lessons could be learnt from the problems of 2009-10
- how the new section 75 agreement might be formulated
- what controls should be put in place in the light of the 2009-10 situation
- where the evidence was to assure the Committee that the same situation would not recur
- how a more robust agreement and management controls might be developed
- how the responsibilities of the Care Partnership and of the Scrutiny Committee related to one another
- how to remedy the current situation, under which officers were asked to present similar reports for scrutiny to both Partnership and Committee.

The Chair of the PCT thanked the Committee for its invitation to participate in the meeting. She said that she shared members' concern both about the overspend and about the process issues arising from the relationship between the work of the Care Partnership and that of the Committee.

In response to the question of when the PCT had first become aware of the budget difficulties, the PCT Chair said that at the CCP meeting on 30th July 2009, the Chair and members had expressed concern at the lack of both a detailed financial report on the preceding year, 2008-09, and a plan for the current year, 2009-10. As Chair of the PCT, she sat on CCP, along with PCT non-executive directors Peter Southwick and Glenn Clark. Situational briefings had continued over the summer, and the CCP of 17th September 2009 was the first formal meeting at which it had been reported that there was likely to be a significant overspend of £5m in the Older People's pooled budget. She and the Vice-chair, Councillor Yeulett, had both been concerned about the overspend, and anxious to know why it had arisen and what sort of mechanisms could be put in place to control the budget in future.

The Chair went on to say that the overspend had been frequently discussed at PCT board meetings. She and key PCT officers had met with the Leader of the County Council, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, the Corporate Director: Finance, Property and Performance, and the Executive Director: Community and Adult Services in order to review the position; they had asked officers to develop a joint action plan to address the overspend. Progress on the action plan had continued since then, though it had proved difficult to do more than contain the overspend in the second half of the financial year.

The PCT Chair, the non-executive directors, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member had started to review the governance arrangements within CCP; information on the overspend had not been coming to the Partnership, Cabinet and PCT Board. Subsequently, the PCT's Executive Nurse had been working with CCC's Executive Director: Community and Adult Services and Service Director: Adult Support Services on how to improve the working of the

Partnership. When they had examined the section 75 agreement, they had found that control mechanisms were in place, but were not being used.

CCP members were receiving monthly reports on the Older People's budget, but the need to establish why the overspend had arisen remained. One difficulty which had been identified was that the financial systems of PCT and CCC did not communicate with each other. CCC and PCT officers had set up monthly meetings to review activity and financial performance, and were producing a joint report to CCC Cabinet and PCT board. There were to be quarterly reports to CCP, showing the activity levels as well as the financial position; there was also the question of how to deliver services where the demographics – the number of people needing care – were increasing dramatically at a time when finances were static.

The Chair further said that the PCT had asked GO-East to review the delayed transfer of care, benchmarking Cambridgeshire's performance against best practice elsewhere. The GO-East report had indicated that the model of care being delivered in the county did not reflect a modern reablement approach. However, changes were already being made to implement reablement.

The Chief Executive of the PCT said that realisation of the extent of the overspend had been slow; the necessary information had not been assembled and presented until the CCP meeting in February. The situation had been exacerbated by the PCT and CCC operating on different financial cycles. The overspend was proving difficult to rectify for various reasons, including that Cambridgeshire had probably some of the worst delays in transfer of care in England. However, the causes of the overspend were now understood, governance mechanisms were in place and the necessary information was available. All parties were working together to resolve the problems and implement the action plan.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care endorsed the CCP Chair's remarks, stressing the need for regular reports to Care Partnership, Cabinet and PCT Board, for flexibility within budgets and how they were allocated, and for clear cogent monthly reporting to members of CCP.

The Committee questioned the members and officers on the report and what had been said. Members' questions included

- **Given that one of the key documents for accountability and monitoring was the section 75 agreement, who was accountable for the current agreement, and what was the monitoring process?** The PCT Chair advised that the section 75 agreement had a three-year term, finishing in 2011. It had been revised to reflect CCS's status as an NHS Trust from April 2010, and the processes already contained in the agreement to ensure monitoring and control were now being implemented
- **Where did ultimate responsibility for the working of the section 75 agreement lie?** The PCT Chair said that she had asked a similar question. CCC was responsible for the strategy and budget for Older People's care, but the budget had been transferred to the PCT, so the PCT had responsibility for that aspect. One gap being closed was to ensure that whatever annual uplift was given to private sector providers by CCC (zero for 2010-11) was linked to the budget which the PCT was given, so that the PCT's budget matched what it was being required to do

- **This was not the first time that “systems not talking to each other” had been cited as a source of difficulty. What work was being undertaken in the three organisations (CCC, CCS and PCT) to ensure that their IT systems did communicate?** The Chief Executive of CCS explained that the problem in this instance was different from that of patient data systems, which had been discussed with the Committee on previous occasions. The problem in the pooled budget context was that the allocations of money had stemmed from three organisations, but questions of access and permissions had been solved, allowing each to have access to the other’s systems. CCS was now able to obtain monthly reports from the CCC system; the CCC system was adequate for CCS’s needs, so CCS had not built its own system.

The Service Director: Adult Support Services added that staff in CCS input data into CCC’s SWIFT system, which was part of what drove activity; CCS staff could access and download information for monitoring. The CCS Chief Executive said that the NHS patient data IT system had not been integrated with the care IT system, as this was not an NHS priority. However, the PCT was undertaking work to arrive at a common care plan for CCC/CCS/PCT, and it was already the case that it was only necessary to input information once, into SWIFT, and all three organisations had access to a single assessment process

- **Why was the decision taken to report the likelihood of a significant overspend to the Care Partnership meeting in September 2009?** The PCT’s Director of Finance and Performance said that it was acknowledged that reporting to CCP had been too infrequent. The Older People’s pooled budget had not created difficulties in the past, but when he had pulled together the available information, he had identified a large mismatch and had examined the situation more closely. Extracting information from three separate systems was not the best way of monitoring so large a budget, but it had been adequate in the past. Other issues included that the demographics had perhaps not been captured correctly, and that there was a slight misalliance in the three organisations’ budget-setting processes.

Having identified that there was a problem, he had gone through the figures in detail in early summer. He had identified three possible reasons for the overspend, that the same number of people were costing more, or that more people were costing the same per head, or that more people were costing more. His conclusion was that the primary cause was that the same number of people were costing more; in addition there had been a small increase in the number of people.

The Chair of the PCT Finance and Performance Sub-Committee added that his committee had been concerned with looking at the future rather than the past, to see what improvements might be required, if any. As a member of the Care Partnership, he had found that the quality of data had been such as to make it difficult to look back, but by looking forward, it should be possible to anticipate future developments. The difference was between an accounting system – which looked to the past – and a managerial system. The Executive Nurse said that joint strategic planning was important; the intention was to improve the rigour with which this process was conducted

- **What had the role of the non-executive directors been, when had they become aware of the problem, and what action had they taken?** The Finance Committee Chair said that he had himself first become aware at the September meeting of the Care Partnership, and indications of a problem had been given to the PCT Board at the same time. At the CCP meeting,

members had asked whether the problem was due to a poor budget, poor management, or both, or due to some other extraneous factor. The conclusion had been that the budget had not been very good, it had not been managed very well, and the question of demographics and the size of the population increase could also have played a part

- **How much more confident is it possible to be, aside from the global financial situation and the likely increase in demand for services, that similar difficulties will not arise part way through the current year?** The PCT's Director of Finance and Performance said that the budget had not been built up from a zero base, but had been examined in fine detail during construction, including consideration of growth trends and inflationary issues. NHS staff costs were set by a clear NHS protocol, and he was confident that all the known costs had been taken into account. Although less familiar with trends among the independent sector providers, he was confident that the PCT budget would be adequate. When looking ahead in a context of static finances, it would be necessary to find ways of containing demand within the available budget – this would be a problem for 2011-12.

The Executive Director: Community and Adult Services advised that the current year's budget had taken into account the best available prediction of inflation, demographics (based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, JSNA) and the increase in council tax. A large unanswered question was the unknown carry-forward effect of £2m overspend in 2009-10; in the light of the knowledge that there would potentially be a £4m overspend in 2009-10, an additional £4.7m had been put into the Older People's pooled budget to relieve the pressure of the overspend and provide pump-priming for future developments. It was necessary to make savings; there was a 0% uplift to providers in 2010-11, and it was planned to implement reablement across the county during the year.

The Executive Director answered the earlier question about where ultimate responsibility for the working of the section 75 agreement lay. He said that as Director of Adult Services, he had delegated his powers to CCS through joint commissioning. However, the buck stopped with him, as the senior manager responsible. He was confident that the budget would be sufficient, but it would be necessary to meet the year's pressures with agility

- **Looking at the report, there was a discrepancy between the figures for the 2008-09 overspend – was it £2.2m (para. 2.7) or £2.6m (4.4)?** The Director of Finance and Performance confirmed that the correct figure was £2.2m; £2.6m was a typographical error
- **At what point would the 2008-09 overspend be written off?** The Executive Director said that there had been no overspend to the pooled budget in 2008-09. In 2008-09, the social care expenditure had been overspent by £2.2m, but there had been an underspend in the PCT budget at the same time, which had been used for other purposes and was no longer available; this had been the subject of scrutiny on a previous occasion
- **Was the budget for 2011-12 expected to be adequate, or were public expenditure cuts anticipated?** The Executive Director replied that no increase in funding was expected, but it was helpful that the proposal to introduce free personal care had been postponed, as there had been some doubt whether the grant to local authorities would be enough to cover their costs. It was clear that reablement had a vital part to play in delivering savings; it was expected that £1.2m would be saved in the first half year. Cambridgeshire would be working with the Care Services Delivery Programme

(a national scheme), which had shown good results from the use of non-qualified staff, supported by trained staff, going into people's homes to e.g. deliver wound care and encourage exercise

- **It was important to ensure that sound information was available as a basis for planning to meet future needs arising from a growing and ageing population.** The Chair of the PCT replied that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment did provide a reasonably good basis for planning. However, the cost of care packages had been rising faster than expected, as more people had higher needs, so it was necessary to analyse what the need was and how it could be met. As part of her work on the JSNA, the Director of Public Health was looking at revising predictions on the rise in dementia, which would have implications for future care costs.

The Chairman thanked all participants for their frank and helpful contributions.

The Committee noted the progress that had been made

- to understand the position of the section 75 pooled budget for older people and
- to make arrangements to strengthen governance arrangements for 2010/11.

The Committee also noted that it was desirable that the Committee should see the same reports as were submitted to the Care Partnership, in order to avoid duplication of effort by reporting officers. The PCT Chair agreed to supply members with the current and the revised section 75 agreement for their information.

PCT

59. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meetings of the Committee would be held on Thursday 22nd April at 10.30am, and Wednesday 21st July at 2.30pm.

Members of the Committee in attendance: County Councillors G Heathcock (Chairman), S Austen, P Downes (substituting for Councillor C Shepherd), B Farrer, G Kenney, V McGuire, L Nethsingha, P Read (substituting for Councillor S King), K Reynolds and J West; District Councillors B Keane (Fenland), J Petts (East Cambridgeshire), L Walker (substituting for Councillor R Boyce, Cambridge City), and R West (Huntingdonshire)

Apologies: County Councillors J Dutton, S King, and C Shepherd; District Councillor R Boyce

Also present: County Councillors F Whelan and F Yeulett

Time: 2.30pm – 3.55pm

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Chairman

Scrutiny Committee

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Cambridgeshire
County Council

22nd April 2010

Action

60. ASSESSMENT OF LAST MEETING

The Committee noted that the assessment of the meeting held on 4th February had been agreed at the previous meeting. The assessment for the meeting held on 13th April 2010 would be brought to the July meeting.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dutton, Heathcock, Kenney, Read and J West declared a personal interest under paragraph 8 of the Code of Conduct as members of Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE). Councillor R West declared a personal interest as a member of the Buckden Surgery Patients' Association.

62. NHS FUNDED CONTINUING CARE AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IN CAMBRIDGE CITY AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE – UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW

The Committee considered an update report from NHS Cambridgeshire (the Primary Care Trust, PCT) on the development of continuing care and rehabilitation services in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. Mandy Renton, the PCT's Director of Nursing (Clinical Redesign and Service Improvements), introduced the report and answered members' questions, together with Matthew Winn, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS). Members noted that the PCT was currently evaluating the services on the Brookfields Hospital site, at Arthur Rank House and Davison House; the evaluation findings would be reported to the Committee in July 2010.

Members further noted, in response to their questions, that

- waiting times for Occupational Therapy (OT) were comparable to those reported to the Committee in February 2010, and Huntingdonshire remained the area of greatest concern. The aim of the Brookfields development was to ensure that community rehabilitation facilities were in place; the Chief Executive of CCS expected these facilities to continue and be successful
- it was too soon for a detailed evaluation of whether the OT and Physical Disability team at Davison House was improving turnaround times and throughput, but now the service's build-up phase had been completed, the review would be able to evaluate it working at full capacity

- despite the prevailing difficulties in public finance, the PCT and CCS were focussing on community rehabilitation as a high priority
- the original Brookfields proposal had been for a reduced number of NHS-led rehabilitation beds at Davison House, supplemented by other beds in care homes. Currently, there were usually two or three people waiting in Addenbrooke's for a Davison House bed, which was unacceptable; the July report to Committee was expected to include a county-wide look at patient flow for rehabilitation beds, including length of stay
- the identity of the third party which would be providing the 40-bedded neuro-rehabilitation facility at Davison House was not yet confirmed. The PCT would fund ten of these beds, which would be used for patients currently being cared for out of County.

63. THE FUTURE OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR SOUTH FENLAND RESIDENTS – PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF REVIEW

The Committee considered reports updating it on the development of health services in South Fenland, including interagency work to improve access and transport to Doddington Hospital. In attendance to present the reports and answer members' questions were

- Tracey Cooper, Assistant Director – Community Clinic based Services, CCS
- Glenn Edge, Head of Passenger Transport, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)
- Susan Last, Head of Public Engagement, PCT
- Vinny Logan, Interim Project Manager, PCT
- Mandy Renton, Director of Nursing (Clinical Redesign and Service Improvements), PCT
- Wendy Otter, Transport Development Manager, Fenland District Council (FDC).

Members noted that the PCT Board had endorsed the revised Option 3 at its meeting in September 2009, including the opening of intermediate care beds within an "extra care" housing facility constructed on the Doddington site. Since then, the development of the extra care facility had been proceeding well, with building work due to start by the end of June 2010. It was hoped that the minor injuries service, provided by CCS, would start working extended hours from early July 2010, with accompanying extended hours for the radiology unit. The radiology unit would provide a diagnostic service for the minor injuries service.

Members noted that FDC was represented on the Doddington Implementation Team (DIT), which provided a good example of partnership working across various authorities. The Fenland Strategic Partnership Transport and Access Group (TAG) was also involved in work on transport issues arising out of the review, but its work had been somewhat hampered by a lack of continuity in the PCT involvement in the TAG.

In the course of discussion, members

- expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of initial progress to resolve transport issues and pointed out that partnership working was dependent on partners communicating with each other regularly

- bearing in mind the Ambulance Service's first responder scheme, suggested that the possibility of involving the local community more be investigated, for example by inviting people to act as volunteer drivers
- sought clarification of the relationship between the minor injuries service, the out of hours service, and the local GP service. Members were advised that the minor injuries service would be run by nurse practitioners and would be based in the same building as the out of hours service. The extended service would be open during the day seven days a week for the treatment of minor, non-urgent injuries; it would not be able to offer GP-led procedures or dentistry. The nurse practitioners would undertake simple diagnostics, some prescribing, and some treatments, including suturing, and would liaise with the out of hours service and local GPs
- asked what would happen if a minor injury turned out to be more serious. Members noted that if treatment at an acute hospital were required, either the patient would be given directions how to reach the hospital, or an ambulance would be called if the patient could not otherwise get there
- asked the Head of Passenger Transport what the County Council had done, as passenger transport authority, to promote work to solve the transport issues. The Head of Passenger Transport drew attention to the report's appendix on FDC's response on access and transport issues, which included reference to the County Council's involvement in this area; CCC was in constant dialogue with FDC officers and members.

He said that efforts to consult the PCT about joining forces for non-emergency transport had been hampered by a three-month delay in the PCT officer replying to his email.

More voluntary car schemes and drivers were required; many people still thought of community transport as for only the old and infirm, but this was not the case. He was still trying to find ways of developing a demand-responsive transport pilot, and Doddington might prove a suitable area in which to introduce such a pilot. He assured members that the slow rate of progress was not because of lack of effort, but because there were no easy answers. Members suggested that more use be made of parish councils as a channel for communication with residents

FDC's Transport Development Manager said that a new community car scheme had been launched in the last year and was available across the district, though there were issues about publicity for the scheme. Results of the transport questionnaire from the consultation had yet to be analysed, but map-based evidence had been used to show bus services, community transport and where bus-pass holders lived. Dial-a-Ride was now available across Fenland six days a week.

The Committee expressed disappointment and frustration at the slow rate of progress in resolving transport issues, and asked that a further report be made to its next meeting.

64. REDUCING DELAYS IN DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received a report updating it on work to reduce delays in discharge from hospital, following its earlier consideration of delayed

transfers of care from Addenbrooke's at its meeting in December 2009, and of the impact winter pressures on Addenbrooke's and Hinchingsbrooke hospitals at its meeting in February 2010. Present to report progress and respond to members' questions were

- Claire Bruin, Service Director: Adult Support Services, CCC
- Brenda Hennessey, Director of Patient Experience and Public Engagement, Cambridge University Hospitals Foundation Trust (Addenbrooke's)
- Mandy Renton, Director of Nursing (Clinical Redesign and Service Improvements), PCT
- Matthew Winn, Chief Executive, CCS
- Councillor Fred Yeulett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, CCC.

Members noted that the hospitals had not been formally invited to attend. Apologies had been received from Dr Gimson, Divisional Clinical Director of Medicine at Addenbrooke's.

The Director of Nursing introduced the Service Director's written report on the current performance against the National Indicator 131: Delayed Transfers of Care, and on the response within the health and social care system. She emphasised that it was essential that the position be improved before the autumn, to avoid struggling through another winter with the same problems of delayed transfer.

The Director of Nursing also reported on the feedback from GO-East, advising the Committee that

- the East of England's Social Care and Partnership Team at the Department of Health had been commissioned by Sir Neil McKay of NHS East of England (the Strategic Health Authority, SHA) to review Cambridgeshire's delayed transfers of care, in support of a whole-systems approach; the review had been carried out in close co-operation with NHS Primary Care, Acute trust, SHA and Local authority colleagues
- the review had made four key observations
 1. There was no overarching picture of the system so there was no simple way of tracking together impacts of change
 2. Fewer A&E attendances than in the benchmark areas, but more people becoming a lodged patient
 3. Figures suggested a problem with patient flow across the system
 4. There was a lot of support in the community but was it reabling effectively?
- in response to Observation 1, the PCT was developing a system to analyse what patients were coming through and what gaps in the system needed to be filled to help reduce admissions or stay length
- Observation 2 suggested that once people arrived on the hospital site, there was a shortage of alternative routes for their care other than hospital admission
- Observation 3 had found that there was a problem in moving patients, particularly the elderly and frail, from acute care into NHS non-acute care

- the finding of Observation 4, that the Cambridgeshire level of reablement was low, had not come as a surprise. Neuro-rehabilitation seemed to stand out as an area of blockage; those waiting for it tended to be recovering from a head-injury rather than a stroke. Recovery times for head injury were in general longer than stroke recovery times, and it was necessary to ensure that provision for the patient was appropriate.

The Director of Nursing said that in the light of the GO-East review, the existing action plan to maximise patient flow might have to be streamlined and prioritised. It would be necessary to think at a high level how to deal with

1. admission avoidance
2. maximising recovery through use of reablement
3. the whole area of maintenance and keeping things safe
4. increasing the public's understanding of what was appropriate use of acute hospitals; they were for acute care only, with follow-up care continuing in the community.

Members noted that working with the community now formed part of the work stream.

Invited to comment by the Chairman, Robert Boorman of COPE said that the PCT was right to identify re-education of the public about acute hospitals as a need. People were often not aware of what else was available other than hospital, or there were not enough non-hospital facilities, or people were afraid of the cost of using alternative services. Kim Armit of the Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network (LINK) said that people often preferred to be treated in the community rather than as an acute hospital in-patient, but the facilities were not always available, and provision of support for the patient often depended upon family carers. She said that it was important to start considering discharge options early in a patient's stay in hospital, and reported that LINK had been involved in work being done by Addenbrooke's about post-hospital care.

The Addenbrooke's Director of Patient Experience said that some new patients required a long stay in hospital, and it was often necessary to send acute neurological patients to Bristol or Leeds. She confirmed that the Director of Corporate Development at Addenbrooke's had been working on this problem; she would report his findings to the Health Scrutiny Co-ordinator before the Committee's next meeting.

BH

In the course of discussion, members

- expressed concern that the problem of delayed transfers of care was getting worse rather than better and asked why it was proving so difficult to resolve. The Director of Nursing advised that there was no one cause; both Addenbrooke's and Hinchingsbrooke had systems in place to address discharge planning, but the two hospitals were very different from each other and required different solutions.

The Director of Nursing said that two years ago Cambridgeshire had had a low level of delay. Probable reasons for the change over the years included changes in the health pathway, which meant people had different needs on arrival in hospital, and an increase in the number of older people with complex needs

- were advised by the Service Director that Adult Support Services staff were involved in negotiations and ongoing discussion with home care agencies, with a view to ensuring that there was adequate home care capacity for the number of people being discharged from hospital. The agencies had recruitment programmes to increase staff capacity; the more frail clientele required more carer time to meet their needs.

She said that in 2004, Cambridgeshire had been the worst authority both in the region and amongst its comparator authorities in terms of home care capacity; capacity was still not entirely adequate and needed to be increased further. However, reablement would reduce people's need for home care in the longer term, which would release more capacity to meet the needs of those newly-discharged from hospital

- asked whether inadequate funding contributed to the problem. The Director of Nursing advised that GO-East had examined the funding against benchmarking and had found that it was not a problem.

The Chief Executive of CCS said that what did cause difficulties was the constant, unremitting demand for post-discharge care, all year round, not just in winter. In Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire, home care agencies experienced some recruitment difficulties, contributing to the difficulties of establishing the complex care packages needed by some people. It was important to realign resources to care for people better, for example in Brookfields and the neuro-rehabilitation unit. If these issues could be dealt with, then he would be less worried about the few people who preferred not to leave hospital because they lacked family support

- noted that key projects to improve the figures were
 - reablement – with work starting actively in August 2010
 - carers' respite
 - a look at the work of the falls service
 - a project on putting intensive support into residential and nursing homes
- asked what scope there was for increasing capacity in settings other than acute hospitals in time for autumn. Members noted that capacity could be increased by spot purchase of beds, but that was not necessarily the best solution. GO-East had found Cambridgeshire to be well-provided with beds; what was more significant was the length of stay in hospital
- asked whether there was any financial incentive for hospitals to admit patients presenting at Accident and Emergency. The Director of Nursing said that there was certainly no incentive in the current year, as the tariff had been reduced by 30%. She thought it likely that the reason for the high proportion of patients attending A&E going on to be admitted to hospital was that people were more seriously ill when they arrived
- commented that it was difficult to judge the report in isolation; it would be helpful to have regional and national comparators, and specific details for each of the two acute hospitals
- noted that hospital discharge was classified as priority 1 for Occupational Therapy purposes, and equipment could be obtained in one to three days
- expressed concern at the possibility that readmission rates might increase if people were hurried out of hospital, and asked to see readmission figures for the past 12 months

- noted that the number of delayed patients for whom the County Council reimbursed the PCT had reduced recently, reflecting the proportion of cases in which health problems were the cause of delay.

The Committee noted the progress made in establishing a co-ordinated whole system approach across Cambridgeshire in order to reduce the serious problem of delayed transfers of care.

65. MEMBER LED REVIEW OF ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES – IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered a report on progress in implementing the recommendations from the member-led review of access to health services for people with learning difficulties which had been conducted in 2008/09.

Attending to present the report and answer members' questions were

- Sean Anderson, a Peer Champion on the Cambridgeshire (Learning Disability) Parliament and Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Jean Clark, Service Development and Commissioning Manager, Adult Support Services
- John Ellis, Head of Mental Health, Learning Disability and Substance Misuse Commissioning, PCT
- Tracy Gurney, Acting Area Manager, Huntingdon Learning Disability Partnership, Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Partnership (LDP).

Apologies were received from two members of the LDP Carers' Network, family carers Elaine Davies and Vicky Raphael.

Members noted that an action plan was in place to address both the recommendations of the member-led review and the findings of the self-assessment process conducted by the SHA. Progress made in implementing the review recommendations included an increase to 78% in the number of known people with learning disabilities having a health check in the last year, and the roll-out of Patient Passports in hospital trusts, along with a considerable improvement in hospital trusts' general awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities. Initial indications from the SHA self-assessment were that significant progress had been made in seven key areas.

In response to their questions and comments, members further noted that

- Addenbrooke's Hospital now required every patient with a learning disability to have a passport; the same passport was used for all health purposes
- the details a person might choose to have included in their passport (e.g. "If I do... it shows I am in pain", "I like my food to be...") could form the start of their care plan. It was important to have the passport up to date for a planned admission to hospital, though the paper passport might not be readily available for an emergency admission
- officers would check the current position with regard to clear, intelligible signage within hospitals

- in relation to transport to hospital, work had been undertaken with the Ambulance Trust, and GP practices were being made aware that the needs of service users who required extra assistance must be flagged up when arranging hospital treatment
- as part of improved communication with hospitals, Learning Disability staff were becoming better known within the hospitals
- in addition to the improvements already seen in primary care and hospitals, it was necessary to ensure that progress was also made in community settings, so that the needs of a person with learning disabilities were taken into account as a matter of course.

The Chairman thanked all participants for their contributions. Members were invited to attend the next meeting of the Cambridgeshire Parliament, on 14th May 2010. The Service Development and Commissioning Manager undertook to supply members with further details.

JC

The Committee noted the progress made by the LDP and health bodies, and noted the current process and action plan in place to further improve the equity of access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities.

66. REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE: UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Committee considered a report on the progress made against the recommendations of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Report on the Member Led Review into the development of Self-Directed Support (SDS) in Adult Social Care. The review had taken place between October 2008 and March 2009. Mike Hay, Head of Transformation, Adult Support Services attended to present the report and respond to members' questions, along with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and the Service Director: Adult Support Services. The Committee noted that work to implement SDS was progressing well. The local target of moving 35% of adult service users onto SDS had already been achieved, a year ahead of the lower national target of 30%.

In response to questions and comments raised by members, the Committee further noted that

- the initial implementation focus had been on mechanisms and systems. The purpose of this approach was to enable a culture and way of working; more of the cultural issues would be picked up in the coming year. Some glitches had been experienced as people became accustomed to different paper-based and electronic systems
- no "mystery shopper" exercises had yet been undertaken, but a longitudinal study of SDS was being conducted at national level, and locally, officers were already working with the service-user reference group to see what role that group could play. It was already proposed to keep cultural change messages running for three years
- the user group was examining all communications; rather than using a national DVD, the production of a Cambridgeshire DVD was planned

- ongoing work with the learning disability day services continued, looking at their future role. Usage of the day services had tended to decrease, because the more able service users were participating in e.g. opportunities for learning and training provided by the Social Training Enterprise Group. An options appraisal was expected in late May
- a few years ago, a review had been conducted with a view to independent sector providers playing a larger part in relation to people with more severe needs, and some thought had been given to the establishment of a trust, but this had not occurred
- in response to a member comment that he and his local day centre had not been aware either that the trust idea had been abandoned, or that a further review was under way, members noted that the project group was still trying to articulate future options, and to engage family carers in working with the review. The Service Director acknowledged that communication with local members could have been better, and undertook to supply the terms of reference for the project group to the Health Scrutiny Co-ordinator after the project workshop planned for May
- liaison between County and Districts on housing support was carried out by a member of the Adult Support Services staff with a background in housing, who liaised with Cambridge City and with South Cambridgeshire when a service user needed housing support. Similar work was being done elsewhere in other districts, and consideration was being given to whether any of the available social housing was suitable for people with a learning difficulty.

CB

Members welcomed the report and noted the progress made in implementing self directed support across the County and the three case studies provided to demonstrate the positive outcomes that are being achieved

67. JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: MODEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered a report on the model terms of reference which the East of England Health Scrutiny Chairs Forum had agreed would be used as a basis for future regional and sub-regional joint health overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs). Members noted that waiving the political proportionality requirements for such committees would enable other authorities in the region to waive proportionality for their representatives to them. It would not affect the County Council's observance of political proportionality when appointing its own representatives to the joint OSCs.

The Committee agreed to endorse the model terms of reference, as appended to the report before Committee, and agreed to waive political proportionality requirements for joint health overview and scrutiny committees set up under these terms.

68. WORK PROGRAMME

a) Hinchingsbrooke Hospital – Membership of Working Group

The Committee considered a report inviting it to nominate an additional member to its working group on Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The working group

had originally been set up to liaise with the NHS and stakeholder panel on issues relating to the franchising of the management of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, and later also tasked with following up issues relating to the quality of services at the hospital.

The Committee agreed to enhance the existing working group by the addition of two further members, Councillors Dutton and King, to the existing four members, Councillors Farrer, Melton, K Reynolds and R West.

b) Committee work programme update

Members discussed how best to manage the Committee's very considerable work programme. It was suggested that it might be helpful to focus on exceptions when considering update reports, and acknowledged that new issues would continue to need a broader approach.

In order to avoid the calling of additional meetings, which had been necessary twice in the current municipal year, the Committee agreed to ask that the annual number of its scheduled meetings be increased from six to eight. Because the calendar for 2010-11 had already been drawn up, this increase would take effect for the municipal year 2011-12.

69. CALLED IN DECISIONS

Members noted that no decisions had been called in since the despatch of the agenda.

70. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 21st July 2010 at 2.30pm.

Members of the Committee in attendance: County Councillors G Heathcock (Chairman), J Dutton, G Kenney, S King, L Nethsingha, P Read (substituting for Councillor V McGuire), K Reynolds and J West; District Councillors R Hall (South Cambridgeshire), B Keane (Fenland), J Petts (East Cambridgeshire) and R West (Huntingdonshire)

Apologies: County Councillors S Austen, B Farrer, V McGuire and C Shepherd; District Councillors R Boyce and L Walker

Also present: County Councillor F Yeulett

Time: 10.35am – 1.15pm

Place: Shire Hall, Cambridge

Chairman



HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

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Overview and Scrutiny in Huntingdonshire in 2010/11

INTRODUCTION

Following a comprehensive review of its political management structure, in 2009 Huntingdonshire District Council introduced three new Overview and Scrutiny Panels. The new Panels' remits have been designed to reflect the Council's duty to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the District. This makes explicit the fact that the Panels are able to scrutinise the Council's internal operation together with its partnership working and any other matters affecting the area.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Group



Councillor Steve Criswell
Chairman of the Social Well-Being Panel



Councillor Philip Godfrey
Chairman of the Environmental Well-Being Panel



Councillor Jason Ablewhite
Chairman of the Economic Well-Being Panel



Councillor Richard West
Vice - Chairman of the Social Well-Being Panel



Councillor David Harty
Vice - Chairman of the Environmental Well-Being Panel



Councillor Gordon Thorpe
Vice - Chairman of the Economic Well-Being Panel

The Annual Report summarises the Panels' activities over the past year and presents examples of how Scrutiny has contributed to change and service improvements. It also illustrates some of the measures that have been

adopted to develop and improve the way Scrutiny works in Huntingdonshire and looks to the future by identifying some of the plans for 2010/11.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

The Overview and Scrutiny Panels operate in accordance with the four Principles of Good Scrutiny as identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, which are:

1. “To provide a ‘critical friend’ challenge to executive policymakers and decision-makers”
 - ❖ Clarity of purpose
 - ❖ Constructive, Robust and Purposeful Challenge
 - ❖ A Constructive Working Relationship with executive colleagues including external bodies
 - ❖ Be open, transparent and inclusive in its actions
2. “Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its community”
 - ❖ Ensuring an ongoing dialogue with the public to create an ‘accountability relationship’
 - ❖ Representing and engaging diverse communities and addressing inequalities where they exist in the district.
 - ❖ Promoting public understanding of the scrutiny role
3. “Independent minded governors’ should lead and own the scrutiny process”
 - ❖ Champions of the value and potential for good public scrutiny as the vehicle for public accountability
 - ❖ Active engagement of non-executive committee members in a scrutiny role
 - ❖ Ensure adequate public accountability and community leadership
4. “Drive improvement in public services”
 - ❖ Promote community wellbeing and improve the quality of life
 - ❖ Harness public concern as a lever for addressing wider issues
 - ❖ Coordinate reviews of policy and service performance in line with strategic objectives

More specifically, the Panels have the tasks of:

- ❖ holding the Cabinet to account;
- ❖ scrutinising decisions, both prior to and after they are made;
- ❖ developing and reviewing policies;
- ❖ monitoring performance; and
- ❖ investigating matters affecting the District.

Overview and Scrutiny continues to present ways in which Members can promote active community leadership and governance as well as addressing the needs of the residents of the District by enabling them to set their own agenda and to take an innovative approach to their work.

In practice this often means they consider and, where necessary question, decisions made by the Cabinet. They also monitor the way services are delivered and make recommendations on new policies or changes to existing policies.

Addressing issues of public concern has been an increasingly important role for the Panels which, for example, has resulted in a public campaign to defend Hinchingsbrooke Hospital against threatened closure.

The Panels meet in public every month, so that people can see what is being done and supporting background information is available in the public domain. The Panels are making access easier by improving the Council's website to enable people to submit their own comments and ideas on the issues being considered.

In the course of 2009/10, between them, the Panels have submitted in the order of 30 reports to the Cabinet. They have also made 23 recommendations on various policy development matters. In addition, one report has been submitted to an external body, which contains seven recommendations for changes. Examples of this work appear in the following paragraphs.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERS

Given past challenges experienced in carrying out overview and scrutiny and the opportunities presented by recent legislative changes, a number of options for developing overview and scrutiny were considered in the course of the review of the Council's political management structure. The ability to co-opt independent members on to the Panels offered an exciting opportunity to encourage members of the public to participate directly in Council business. It will also help to promote involvement in local democracy.

Following an extensive recruitment process, both the number of applications received and the quality of applicants applying were extremely high. A total of six individuals have been appointed, two to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. Each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels now comprise ten elected members plus two co-opted persons.

A co-option scheme was then developed and formally adopted. Although, they do not have voting rights or the right of call-in, the new members will be in a position to make a significant contribution to the Council. They have been appointed for a period of four years, so this is a significant commitment on the part of the Council. This initiative will enable the Council to benefit from the skills and knowledge of individuals that would not otherwise be available to it, whilst at the same promoting local community engagement.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING)

- Councillor Steve Criswell - Chairman
- Councillor Richard West – Vice-Chairman
- Councillor Peter Bucknell (part)
- Councillor Mrs Kendal Cooper
- Mr Roger Coxhead
- Councillor Paul Dakers (part)
- Councillor John Davies
- Councillor Jeff Dutton (part)
- Councillor John Garner
- Councillor Ms Patricia Jordan
- Councillor Peter Mitchell
- Councillor A Monk (part)
- Mrs Moira Nicholas
- Councillor John Sadler

Car Parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital

The Social Well-Being Panel has focussed on a study into car parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The study was proposed by the Chairman of the Panel following representations on this subject to him and other Huntingdonshire District Council members.

In the course of the study, the Panel took evidence from a range of sources, including Mr C Plunkett, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital's Facilities Business Manager, and representatives of Cambridgeshire Local Involvement Network.

A report on the Panel's findings has been submitted to the Hospital for consideration. Although the Hospital has not gone as far as the Panel would have wished in respect of the main recommendation regarding charging levels, the minimum period of stay has been reduced. A range of other recommendations also appear in the final report and these will be considered by the Hospital and Members are hopeful that they will be adopted.

The Provision of Play Facilities in Huntingdonshire

The Social Well-Being Panel has also completed a study into the provision of play facilities in Huntingdonshire. The 2008 Place Survey reveals that Huntingdonshire residents consider the provision of activities for young people to be the highest priority area in need of improvement in the District. For this reason the Panel has made a number of recommendations designed to secure the future of existing facilities and create conditions to encourage others to invest in providing new ones.

The recommendations have been put to the Cabinet and, as a result, the Council is to investigate the potential benefits of co-ordinating insurance and inspection schemes on behalf of Town and Parish Councils.

Petition

The Panel has received a petition from local residents on disturbance from the park at Hill Rise, St Ives caused by anti-social drivers late at night. Having referred the issue to the Community Safety Partnership, it was discussed at the local neighbourhood forum.

The Panel then was able to endorse proposals to address residents' concerns including making the area a police priority, introducing zero tolerance towards anti-social use of vehicles in the Park, the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices to those that are found to be using their vehicles anti-socially and the installation of speed-humps CCTV within the park. Residents expressed themselves satisfied with this outcome and this matter will be revisited in the autumn.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)

- Councillor Philip Godfrey - Chairman
- Councillor David Harty – Vice-Chairman
- Councillor Michael Baker
- Councillor Keith Baker
- Councillor Mrs Madhabi Banerjee
- Councillor Peter Downes OBE
- Councillor Jeff Dutton (part)
- Councillor Peter Godley
- Mr David Hopkins
- Councillor Miss S Kemp (part)
- Councillor Andy Monk (part)
- Councillor Michael Newman
- Mr Mike Phillips
- Councillor John Watt

Development Management Processes

The Environmental Well-Being Panel has put most of its energy into a detailed study of the Council's Development Management processes. Arising from anecdotal evidence of public concern over the pre-decision planning process, the Panel decided to look at the practices and procedures from first enquiry by potential applicants to the preparation of an officer's final report and recommendations, involving pre-application advice, public consultation, plans and amendments, duration of the process and other related matters.

Evidence was taken from a range of sources such as Town and Parish Councils, members of the public who have experience of the process, local developers and Ombudsman investigations.

The outcome was that charging developers for pre-submission advice will be investigated, relevant consultees and neighbours will be consulted again on amended plans, except for those of very minor significance, steps will be taken to ensure that all of those households that abut a development site be sent a consultation letter, training will be provided for town and parish councils on all aspects of the development management process; consideration will be given to allowing external speakers to respond to what they perceive to be factually incorrect information and the Council will take a robust approach concerning the retention of development where permission is subsequently refused.

Charges for Car Parking

The Environmental Well-Being Panel has made use of its ability to call-in decisions in relation to proposals to extend the scope of the charges the Council makes for off-street parking. Having already discussed this matter with Councillor D Dew, the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, the Panel felt that insufficient weight had been given to its views and formally invited Councillor Dew to return to expand on their case.

The formal procedures to implement a new car parking order are proceeding and the Panels views will be submitted as part of the consultation process.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)

- Councillor Jason Ablewhite - Chairman
- Councillor Gordon Thorpe - Vice-Chairman
- Councillor John Bell
- Councillor Eric Butler
- Councillor Mrs Julie Dew
- Councillor Andrew Gilbert
- Mr Roger Hall
- Councillor Lawrence McGuire
- Mrs Helen Roberts
- Councillor Michael Shellens
- Councillor Ms Mandy Thomas
- Councillor Richard Tuplin

Budget and Financial Planning

The Economic Well-Being Panel has primarily been occupied with scrutinising the Council's budget and future financial planning, the outcome of which has meant that it has been possible to endorse the proposed Budget, Medium Term Plan, Financial Plan and Council Tax for 2010/11.

Treasury Management

Importantly, given recent events concerning the economy and banking, the Panel has accepted responsibility for scrutinising the Council's treasury management.

Open System Computing

The Panel has considered a suggestion by a local resident that the Council might investigate the potential benefits of open system computing to itself and the local community. The suggestion was looked at with a research fellow from Cambridge University and her colleagues who are experts in the field. The likely cost of the consultants required to make the transition to open system computing meant it has not been possible to pursue it any further.

Leisure Centres' Financial Performance

Through its role in holding the Executive to account the Panel has monitored the Council's performance against its stated priorities. The Panel has highlighted concerns that the leisure centres' financial targets were not being met and asked for a detailed appraisal to be undertaken. This revealed that although income in 2009/10 was lower than the target greater savings meant

that the net position represented an overall improvement in the centres' financial performance

The Panel has suggested that the Council should take steps to promote the fact that this is the result of the Council's investments in its facilities.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE IN 2010/11

The composition of the Panels changes every year and they set their own Agenda so, to a large extent, the work programmes will be determined at the first few meetings in the new Municipal Year. All of the Panels, however, have ongoing work with which to continue.

The Environmental Well-Being Panel has given initial thought to a study on the rural economy, with particular emphasis on farming. The suggestion is that this could be done in conjunction with Overview and Scrutiny colleagues from South Cambs District Council.

The Social Well-Being Panel has recently adopted a role monitoring the progress of S106 agreements for the maintenance of play equipment and open space. A number of schemes have not been implemented despite being agreed some time ago. The Panel will investigate why this is the case.

The Economic Well-Being Panel has identified a potentially important area of work while reviewing the findings of a previous study into the consequences of alcohol consumption for the health of the local population. The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under 18s is higher in Huntingdonshire than in other areas of the Eastern region so this will be investigated further.

An important new role for the Panels will be Scrutiny of the Council's work in conjunction with its partners. A programme of training involving Overview and Scrutiny and the Strategic Partnership has been devised as has a protocol through which this work will be undertaken. It is stressed that this will be approached in a constructive way and will extend further the Panels' influence.

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS
(SOCIAL WELL-BEING)
(ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)
(ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)**

**1st JUNE 2010
8TH JUNE 2010
10TH JUNE 2010**

**WORK PLAN STUDIES
(Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Members of the Panel to review their programme of studies and to be informed of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

2. STUDIES

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

- 2.2 Studies are allocated according to the Council's service areas which have been identified as follows:-

Social Well-Being

Housing
Community
Leisure Centres
Operations (part)
Democratic and Central Services (part)
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)

Environmental Well-Being

Environmental and Technical Services
Planning Services
Environmental Health
Operations (part)

Economic Well-Being

Information Management
Finance
Customer Service and Call Centres
Revenues
Democratic and Central Services (part)
Law, Property and Governance
People, Performance and Partnerships (part)
HQ/Accommodation

2.3 On going studies have been allocated between the Panels accordingly:-

STUDY	PANEL	STATUS
Provision of play facilities for young people across the District.	Social Well-Being	Final report submitted to the Cabinet in April. Outcome of decisions to be reported to Panel in June.
Car parking at Hinchingbrooke Hospital.	Social Well-Being	Hospitals Business Facilities Manager to be invited to a future Panel meeting to report on decisions made by the Hospital's Senior Executive Group.
Tourism.	Economic Well-Being	Presentation to be received at Panel's June meeting.
Night Time Economy (Hospital's Perspective)	Economic Well-Being	Further Information to be sought from Council's Scrutiny & Review Manager.

2.4 The following have also been identified by Members as possible future studies:-

Review of the incentives contained in the Council's Travel Plan.	Environmental Well-Being
Waste disposal arrangements.	Environmental Well-Being
Management of capital projects by Environmental Management Section.	Economic Well-Being
The employee's performance development review process.	Economic Well-Being
Lessons learned from the Headquarters and other accommodation project.	Economic Well-Being
Industrial Units at Caxton Road, St Ives.	Economic Well-Being
Land use for agricultural purposes in the context of planning policies and its contribution to the local economy.	Environmental Well-Being

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

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

**Mrs J Walker, Trainee Democratic Services Officer
01480 387049**

**Mrs C Bulman, Democratic Services Officer
01480 388234**

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING)

1ST JUNE 2010

REMIT AND WORK PROGRAMME (Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny that were introduced following the comprehensive review of the Council's democratic structure have been in place for a year. However, minor changes have been made to Executive Councillors' responsibilities for the current Municipal Year. The Panel will be advised of these through this report. There also will be an opportunity for the Panel to review its current programme of studies and to devise a work programme for the forthcoming year.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

(a) Internal Scrutiny

- 2.1 Responsibility for the Council's services is divided between Executive Members. These, in turn, are distributed between the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels. It has not been possible to set out how this distribution has altered in the short time since Executive Members' responsibilities were determined. A breakdown of the allocation of Council services to the Panels will be circulated separately.

(b) External Studies

- 2.2 The Council has a duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the District and this is reflected in the structure of overview and scrutiny. It gives the Panel a wide remit to examine any issues that affect the District by conducting in-depth studies. A number of such studies have been completed in the past, such as the investigation into hospital car parking.

(c) Study Programme

- 2.3 At the first meeting in the Municipal calendar, it is usual for the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to give detailed consideration to a programme of studies that they intend to undertake in the course of the year. Members are requested to consider whether any studies or investigations of single issues within their remit might usefully be undertaken. These might be topical or contentious matters, for example, it could be an issue that has arisen in the course of a Member's contact with constituents.
- 2.4 Performance data, which is regularly submitted to the Panel, and the Decision Digest, also can be used to identify study areas. The latest performance report appears elsewhere on the Agenda.
- 2.5 At each meeting the Panel's discuss a progress report their programme of studies. The Social Well-Being Panel's current programme is reproduced at Appendix A.

(d) Study Methodology

- 2.6 The Panels have adopted a study methodology to guide their work. A report template giving details of the scope of this methodology appears at Appendix B. It will be seen that there is considerable flexibility in the way studies may be conducted. It is also important to note that the Panels have a budget with which to pursue their study aims, for example, by obtaining expert opinion on a particular issue.
- 2.7 A number of working groups already exist to undertake some of these studies. It has been the practice for the membership of working groups to continue to the completion of studies and it is suggested that this principle should continue.

(e) Completed Studies

- 2.8 Since the establishment of Overview and Scrutiny Panels in June 2000, a number of studies have been completed. These are listed below:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Orders
- Vandalism
- Cemetery Administration
- Arts Provision in Huntingdonshire and Major Events Promoted by the Council
- Registered Social Landlord Rent Levels
- Bus Stations/Bus Services
- Bus Shelters
- Bus Information/Publicity
- Flooding
- Post Office Network and Services
- Fly Posting
- Fly Tipping
- Trees and Hedgerows
- Emergency Planning
- Sun Beds in Leisure Centres
- The Council's Charging Policy
- Tourism
- Market Services
- Best Value Review on Access to Services
- Council's Budget and Expenditure
- Member Development
- Street Naming and Numbering
- Levels of Affordable Housing on Land Sold By The Council
- Procedural Arrangements for Development Control
- Local Procurement
- St Ives (Environmental Improvements Schemes)
- County Council Highway Standards
- Consumption of Alcohol in Public Places
- Safer Routes to Schools
- Rent Levels at Paines Mill Foyer, St Neots
- West Huntingdon Rural Transport Study
- Benefit Fraud
- Service Provision for the Elderly
- Health and Safety Management
- Member Involvement and Consultation Procedures in the Local Plan Process
- Substance Misuse in Huntingdonshire
- Play Equipment
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Services for Young People
- The Big Gig
- Biodiversity
- Council's Complaints Procedure
- The Budget and Medium Term Plan
- Rural Economy and Services
- District Council's Twinning Links
- Hear By Right
- Dentistry Services
- Promoting Better Health in Older People Through Physical

- Town Centre Initiatives
- Cycling in Huntingdonshire
- District Council's Travel Plan
- Electronic Communication
- Youth Forum
- Social consequences of alcohol abuse
- Section 106 process
- The Provision of Play Facilities
- Activity
- Small Scale Environmental Improvements
- State of the District Engagement Events
- Grant Aid
- Leisure facilities for older people
- Development Management Processes

3. SCRUTINISING STRATEGIC / PARTNERSHIP WORK

3.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act introduced a requirement for the Council to scrutinise the strategic partnership and other partnership working. The thematic groups under the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership have been aligned to the terms of reference of the scrutiny panels. The Social Well-Being Panel will be responsible for the Children and Young People, Health and Well-Being and Inclusive, Safe and Cohesive Communities thematic groups of the Strategic Partnership. The Panel has begun this work by scrutinising the last of these thematic groups. Although some initial training has already been provided on the Strategic Partnership, the Panel has decided to defer further consideration of the precise way this work will be undertaken until after training by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on this subject has taken place on 3rd June 2010.

3.2 The Panel's remit also contains reference to the Council's corporate priorities and goals as they appear in the Corporate Plan. Specifically, this means that the Panel will be responsible for scrutinising the Housing that Meets Individuals' Needs, Safe, Vibrant and Inclusive Communities and Healthy Living aims of the Council's corporate plan 'Growing Success'. As has been said, a report monitoring progress against each of these aims appears elsewhere on the Agenda. Finally, the Panel will have the task of scrutinising the Safer and Stronger Communities priority of the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (Cambridgeshire's Vision).

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

- a. to note the contents of the report;
- b. to review the existing programme of studies; and
- c. to consider the addition of new subject areas to the programme of studies.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Contact Officer: A Roberts (01480) 388015

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Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
<p>13/05/09</p> <p>01/09/09</p>	<p><u>Future Governance of Hinchingbrooke Hospital: Consultation Arrangements</u></p> <p>This item was transferred over from the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery). Dr Stephen Dunn, Hinchingbrooke Next Steps Project Co-ordinator and Ms Jessica Bawden, NHS Cambridgeshire attended the Panel's January meeting to provide background to the consultation on the future governance arrangements for Hinchingbrooke Hospital. Advised the Panel that the consultation was likely to commence at some point in the middle of the current calendar year.</p> <p>Panel advised that Councillor S J Criswell had been appointed as the District Council representative on the Stakeholder Panel.</p>	<p>Panel to partake in the consultation when it emerges. Matter to be raised at a future Panel meeting.</p>	<p>Public meeting of the Stakeholder Panel held on 26th November 2009 at 2pm, Huntingdon Library. Future public meetings scheduled as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th February 2010 • 26th May 2010 • 5th July 2010 • 27th October 2010 • 6th January 2011 	<p>TBC</p>

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
19/05/10	<p><u>Corporate Plan – Growing Success</u></p> <p>Councillors S J Criswell and R J West appointed to Corporate Plan Working Group. A previous decision has been made by the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) to extend the Corporate Plan Working Group's remit by requesting it to investigate the cost implications of each priority area identified within the Corporate Plan. A suggestion has been made to invite Heads of Service to a future meeting to discuss their contributions in achieving the Council's objectives.</p>	<p>Quarterly performance reports to be submitted to all Overview and Scrutiny Panels in September, December, March and June of each year.</p> <p>Financial information currently being considered by Working Group.</p>	This item appears elsewhere on the Agenda.	1/06/10
13/05/09	<p><u>Provision of Play Facilities for Young People</u></p> <p>This item was transferred over from the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) who had identified this subject as a potential area for study. Particular interest expressed on how these facilities are managed and insured and if they were maintained by the District Council. Report submitted to Panel in March 2009 and a Working Group was established, comprising Councillors J D Ablewhite and P G Mitchell, to meet with</p>	First meeting of the Working Group held on 30 th April 2009.	Head of Operations and Service Development Manager undertook to investigate further, the likely insurance, resource (inspection) and maintenance costs of facilities located within the smaller Parishes.	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<p>the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services to investigate the provision of play facilities, with a view to making recommendations on achieving an even distribution of facilities across the District and on meeting the ongoing revenue costs associated with such facilities.</p>			
2/06/09	<p>Owing to their interests in the study, Councillors Mrs P A Jordan and R J West were appointed on to the Working Group. Additionally, the Panel requested for an update on progress since the first meeting of the Working Group to be submitted to the Panel for information.</p>	<p>Request submitted to the Head of Operations.</p>	<p>Meeting of the Working Group held on 13th August 2009.</p>	
6/10/09	<p>Preliminary report outlining the findings of the Working Group to date considered by the Panel. Requested that the Working Group should meet with the Executive Councillor for Operational & Countryside Services to discuss the findings further.</p>	<p>Working Group met with the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services.</p>		
2/02/10	<p>Further report considered. The Panel has recommended to the Cabinet that an agreement should be offered to Parishes to assist with the revenue costs of their facilities. It has also been recommended that the Council should also explore the co-ordination of a group insurance policy, with a view to achieving a lower premium.</p>	<p>Final report to be considered by Cabinet on 22nd April 2010.</p>	<p>This item appears elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	1/06/10

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	Councillors P G Mitchell and R J West have been nominated to present the final report to the Cabinet.			
	<p><u>Monitoring of Section 106 Agreements</u></p> <p>3/11/09 Panel agreed to include the Monitoring of Section 106 agreements in its work plan, subject to gaining the agreement of the Development Management Panel. It was agreed that only allocated schemes and those developments where funding has been received for future maintenance of the facilities would be considered by the Panel.</p> <p>1/12/09 The Panel has requested that when the quarterly monitoring reports are due for consideration, a representative from the Operations Division should attend the Panel's meeting.</p> <p>2/02/10 First monitoring report considered. Agreed that greater details on progress of schemes completed earliest should be included in the next monitoring report.</p>	<p>Councillor P G Mitchell raised the matter at the Development Management Panel's November meeting.</p> <p>Request submitted to the Policy Officer.</p>	<p>The Development Management Panel expressed their support for the Social Well-Being Panel to consider these schemes.</p> <p>This item appears elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	<p>1/06/10</p>

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
13/05/09	<p><u>Town Centre Cleaning Update</u></p> <p>This item was transferred over from the former Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery). A study had previously been undertaken by the Panel into Sunday Cleaning and a concluding report was submitted to the Cabinet, who approved the Panel's recommendations. At the Panel's meeting in April, Members requested for an update to be received on progress made to date in respect of the project.</p>	Request submitted to the Head of Operations.	An invite has been extended to the Executive Councillor for Operational and Countryside Services to provide an update to the Panel in September 2010.	7/09/10
2/06/09 1/09/09	<p><u>Car Parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital</u></p> <p>Identified as a potential study area. Requested that a scoping report should be submitted to a future Panel meeting.</p> <p>Presentation delivered by the Scrutiny and Review Manager on the current parking provision on the Hinchingsbrooke site, the scope available to increase the level of provision, other potential charging options, parking enforcement, the availability of public transport and the</p>	Scoping report considered by Panel in July 2009. Further information requested on the current parking situation.		

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
3/11/09	<p>impact of parking on the surrounding area.</p> <p>The Panel sought clarification on a number of issues relating to the Hospital's Green Travel Plan.</p> <p>Representatives from Cambridgeshire Link were also in attendance at the Panel's November meeting and agreed to assist the Panel with its study. Agreed that Hinchingsbrooke NHS Trust would be invited to a future meeting.</p>	<p>Letter submitted to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.</p> <p>Invitation to be extended to Hinchingsbrooke NHS Trust.</p>	Response from the Hospital received and noted.	
1/12/09	The Chairman advised Members that the Hospital were conducting their own review of the parking arrangements and requested the Scrutiny and Review Manager to investigate this further.			
2/02/10	Mr C Plunkett, Facilities Business Manager attended the Panel meeting, along with representatives of Cambridgeshire LINK. The findings of the review undertaken by the Hospital will be submitted to the Hospital's Senior Executive Group at the end of February. Agreed that the Panel's findings should also be forwarded to the Hospital.	The Panel's final report has been circulated electronically to Members and a copy sent to the Hospital.		

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
<p>6/10/09</p> <p>1/12/09</p> <p>2/03/10</p>	<p><u>The PLACE Survey</u></p> <p>In considering the results of the PLACE Survey, the Panel has requested a report on the data from further work with focus groups in three months time on the areas identified as needing the most improvement in Huntingdonshire; namely activities for teenagers, road and pavement repairs, public transport, traffic congestion and shopping facilities.</p> <p>Advised that there were difficulties across the County in getting the focus groups together. Nevertheless, the Panel placed on record their wish to ensure that steps were being taken to address the matters which had been raised in the Survey.</p> <p>The Chairman and Vice-Chairman undertook to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Corporate Plan Working Group.</p>	<p>Request submitted to the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships.</p>		
<p>3/11/09</p>	<p><u>Petition – Hill Rise Park, St Ives</u></p> <p>Preliminary details of the petition considered by Panel. The petition organiser has indicated that he will be in attendance at the Panel's January 2010 meeting. Agreed that investigations be</p>	<p>Advised that the petition would also be considered at a meeting of the Huntingdonshire</p>		

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
1/12/09	<p>made into the action taken by Officers and the Police on the issue raised, together with information on the arrangements in place at a similar site in St Neots.</p> <p>Reported that the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership would be submitting a response to the petition from a Community Safety and a Police perspective. Petitioners would also be advised of the forthcoming meeting of the St Ives Neighbourhood Forum on 6th January 2010, where the matter could also be raised.</p>	Community Safety Partnership on 26th November 2009.		
2/02/10	Petition organiser presented the petition to the Panel. A number of proposed recommendations have been agreed. An update report has been requested for submission to the Panel in 6 months time. The area was adopted as a Policing Priority at the St Ives Neighbourhood Forum meeting in January.	Request submitted to the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services.	Report anticipated September 2010.	7/09/10
	<p><u>Forward Plan</u></p> <p>St Ivo Leisure Centre – Proposals for Development</p>	Request submitted to the General Manager, Leisure.	Due to appear before the Panel in the summer.	6/07/10

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date for Future Action
	<p>Homelessness Strategy</p> <p>Home Improvement Agency Review – Future Delivery Model Consultation</p>	<p>Request submitted to the Head of Housing Services.</p> <p>Request submitted to the Head of Housing Services.</p>	<p>Due to appear before the Panel in July 2010.</p> <p>Due to appear before the Panel in September 2010.</p>	<p>6/07/10</p> <p>7/09/10</p>

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APPENDIX B

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STUDY TEMPLATE

AREA OF REVIEW	DETAILS/COMMENTS
Title of Study (name of Working Group)	
Appointing Panel	
Members Assigned (including date Working Group appointed)	
Possible Co-Options to the Group	
Interests Declared	
Rapporteur	
Officer Support	
Purpose of Study / Objective (specify exactly what the study should achieve)	
Rationale (key issues and/or reason for conducting a study)	
Terms of Reference	
Links to Council Policies/Strategies	

Methodology / Approach (what types of enquiries will be used to gather evidence)	
External/Specialist Support	
Existing Documentation	
Evidence to be Obtained (e.g. witnesses, documents, site visits, consultation, research, etc)	
Reference Sites	
Investigations	
Witnesses	
Site Visits (if necessary) (where and when)	

Meetings of the Working Group	
Costs (resource requirements, additional expenditure, time)	
Possible Barriers to the Study (potential weaknesses)	
Projected Timescale (Start and end times)	

Decision Digest

Edition 104

Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 25 March to 20 May 2010.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has scrutinised the work of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership, which is a requirement under the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006. The Partnership was established in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and aims to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the District. A number of strategic links have been established by the Partnership, particularly to the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership (HSP) and other District and County-wide groups. The Panel has acknowledged the complexity of the way in which the Partnership is required to operate to meet the challenges faced by the District and has concluded that it is effective in its work.

The Panel has reviewed the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2010-11 and Members have been advised that a Strategic Assessment is conducted each year to inform the priorities that are included within the Plan. A number of matters have been discussed,

including the publication of crime statistics, the contribution made by all Partners to the work of the Partnership, various projects/initiatives undertaken and the role of the two Anti-Social Behaviour Case Workers.

The Panel has expressed their satisfaction that the Partnership has appropriate monitoring and accountability mechanisms in place. Additionally, the Panel has been reminded of the programme of events designed to assist all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels in complying with the duty to scrutinise the HSP.

PROVISION OF PLAY FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

The final report of the Provision of Play Facilities Working Group has been submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being). Investigations have been undertaken into a number of areas associated with operating play facilities, the inspection of facilities for maintenance purposes, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents inspections and the costs associated with these activities.

A number of recommendations arising from the Working Group's investigations have been endorsed by the Panel, which are intended to ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for teenagers in Huntingdonshire. Owing to the current financial pressures on the Council, the Panel has decided that the feasibility of introducing a maintenance agreement should be investigated by the Cabinet in which responsibility for meeting Town facilities' revenue costs should be divided between the District Council, Town Councils and users before consideration is given to extending the Council's own commitments.

In discussing these recommendations the Cabinet concurred with the Panel that further research into the availability of group insurance schemes with the aim of achieving a lower insurance premium and the feasibility of combining safety inspections should be investigated further. However, in discussing the suggestions on the future revenue funding of play equipment, the Cabinet has agreed not to take any action in respect of the Panel's proposed formula for the maintenance of play equipment. Executive Councillors are of the opinion that the provision and management of local play facilities should be undertaken at a local level by local parish councils and community organisations and that the District Council role should be confined to strategic, district wide initiatives and advising on opportunities for funding.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor R J West has drawn the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's (Social Well-Being) attention to issues surrounding mental health and the inequalities in service provision that exist within the District. A Working Group has therefore been appointed by the Committee to investigate dementia services, to which Councillor West has been appointed.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) – PROGRESS

In respect of parking at Hinchbrooke Hospital, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) have requested that the Hospital's Business Facilities Manager be invited to a future meeting to report upon the Senior Executive Group's final decisions on the Panel's concluding report and the recommendations contained within it. Whilst a decision on the car parking charges has already been made to reduce the minimum length of stay of £2 for 2 hours, the Panel's other recommendations are still subject to consideration by the Executive Group at a future meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has requested sight of items entitled Home Improvement Agency Review –

Future Delivery Model and Homelessness Strategy prior to their consideration by the Cabinet.

COVERT SURVEILLANCE POLICY – RIPA

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has received a joint presentation by Mr W Smalley, the Council's Solicitor and Mr N Jennings, Fraud Manager, on the use of covert surveillance by the District Council.

As part of the presentation, the Panel has been acquainted with the background to the use of covert surveillance by local authorities and the scope of its use for the prevention of crime and disorder. The Panel has also received details of the policy employed by the District Council, including the authorisation procedure and the reporting and record keeping arrangements in place. The Panel has noted that the Council's use of covert surveillance is low, that overt surveillance was used whenever possible and covert surveillance only used as a last resort.

The Fraud Manager has provided information on the ways in which surveillance is used within the Benefits division, together with the outcomes of benefit fraud investigations in recent years. The Panel has been advised that there had been 35 authorisations since the introduction of the regulations, 2 of which had taken place in the previous year. Members have been informed that covert surveillance was a valuable tool which, in addition to supporting or refuting allegations of benefit fraud, was

used to identify weaknesses in the Council's systems.

Having considered the content of the presentation, the Panel has commented on the cost of intensive training for authorising officers compared to the small number of authorisations that were made. Questions have also been raised as to whether noise monitoring was effective when targets had to be informed that such action was being undertaken and the role of the Communications Commissioner.

In discussing the investigation of potential benefit fraud, the Panel has queried whether the evidence obtained might be weakened by not undertaking surveillance of suspects throughout the night and has also commented that use should be made of the local press to publicise the outcome of successful prosecutions for benefit fraud as a deterrent to others.

REQUEST FOR A LOAN TO THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH - FEEDBACK

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel Economic Well-Being has received a report outlining the conclusions of the Cabinet in respect of a request for a loan to the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough. The Panel noted that the Cabinet had agreed with their earlier conclusions on the matter.

STANDARDS COMPLAINTS

Information has been provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) outlining the financial costs incurred by the Council in dealing with complaints against District and Parish Councillors since the responsibility for dealing with complaints was transferred to local authorities from Standards for England in May 2008.

Having considered the information provided, which included an estimate of the time spent by the Monitoring Officer and his deputy on standards related matters, the Panel has expressed their disapproval at the imposition of this significant area of work without additional funding from the government.

The Panel has also discussed the sanctions which could be imposed upon individuals found to have acted inappropriately under the Code of Conduct, the mechanisms by which details of cases were circulated to Parish Councils and the outsourcing of investigations to an external investigator because of staff capacity within the Council. In respect of the latter, the Panel has noted that the use of a former employee with experience in the subject matter has been significantly cheaper than the alternatives

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT: THE CRIMINAL LAW ACT 1977 AND THE PROTECTION FROM HARASSMENT ACT 1997

The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Environmental and

Community Services to appoint Officers to enforce the provisions of the Criminal Law Act 1977 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 when dealing with allegations of harassment and illegal eviction in the private housing sector. Eight to ten reports of such cases are reported each year but at present, the Council does not have the necessary powers to undertake investigations and prosecute offenders. The new powers will enable Officers to regain possession of a property on a tenant's behalf enabling them to reside there until the correct legal procedures for possession have been followed. The changes will not have any financial implications for the Council.

GROWING SUCCESS

The Cabinet has considered the performance of the authority against its priority objectives in the quarter to 31st December 2009 which are defined in "Growing Success" - the Council's Corporate Plan. At the same time, the Cabinet has approved the revised targets, objectives and measures for 2010/2011.

HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFITS, ANTI-FRAUD STRATEGY AND PROSECUTION POLICY

In approving the contents of a revised Benefit Fraud Strategy and Policy the Cabinet has authorised staff within the Fraud Team to undertake investigations in fraud affecting Local Taxation and Housing Services and to report to

the relevant Head of Service on their findings.

CHEQUERS COURT, PLANNING BRIEF, SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

The contents of the planning brief for Chequers Court in Huntingdon has been approved by the Cabinet as a Supplementary Planning Document. The brief sets out the vision for the redevelopment of the area so that developers will be fully aware of what is expected of them in the preparation of more detailed proposals.

GREAT FEN MASTERPLAN

The Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) Panel has received a report on the Great Fen Masterplan which has been approved by the Project Steering Committee. Members have been informed that further detailed work will be undertaken to produce action plans by the partners and that it is for the partners to satisfy themselves as to the business and financial planning aspects of the Great Fen on which they will be leading. The Panel have agreed to a suggestion that a site visit to the Great Fen be convened with representatives of partner groups and the Project Manager present to enable Members to review how the land is being managed and to discuss the project with partners.

The contents of a revised Masterplan for the Great Fen has been considered by the Cabinet. The Masterplan is a spatial plan that indicates how the project might be developed by the partner

organisations. The document was the subject of extensive consultation with interested parties prior to its approval by the Project Partners.

FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Head of Financial Services has drawn to the Cabinet's attention variations to the approved Capital Programme and spending variations in the revenue budget for the current year. Having noted that savings in the revenue budget are likely to be achieved which will enable the contribution to the special reserve to be increased to the sum of £1.6m, the Cabinet has approved its transfer on the closure of the account.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT WITHIN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The principle of entering into an Information Management and Technology Partnership alongside Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Fenland District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council has been approved by the Cabinet. The purpose of the Partnership is to oversee a number of Cambridgeshire ICT projects including the procurement of the Cambridgeshire Public Sector Network which aims to extend the scope of the shared infrastructure and the "Tell Us Once" Initiative which concentrates on the sharing of information.

LAND AT CEMETERY ROAD, ST. NEOTS

The Cabinet has approved the transfer of land at Cemetery Road, St. Neots to St. Neots Town Council. The Urban District Council of St. Neots acquired the land in 1933 for the purpose of a burial ground. However as a result of local government organisation in 1974 the land became invested to Huntingdonshire District Council and the land was never formally transferred. The terms of the transfer will ensure that the land is used for cemetery purposes only.

WESTERN LINK ROAD, HUNTINGDON

The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Central Services, after consultation with the Executive Councillors for Finance and for Resources and Policy, to approve the terms for the acquisition of properties required for the implementation of the Western Link Road, Huntingdon. The road will improve traffic movements on the ring road and will open up land for new development. The acquisition of properties is subject to an assessment that demonstrates there is minimal risk to the Council.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The Development Management Panel has considered the report of the Working Group appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) to investigate the process for the determination of planning

applications. Of the recommendations made by the Working Group, the Panel were aware that these either had been largely implemented or were being considered further by the Development Management Division. Above all, the Panel concurred with the conclusion that it was essential to establish an ongoing programme of training and assistance to town and parish councils. The Working Group were commended for their endeavours and the quality of their final report.

PROPOSED S106 AGREEMENT - RAF UPWOOD, RAMSEY

In the event that the Secretary of State determines following the current appeal hearing, that proposed development at RAF Upwood should proceed, the Development Management Panel has, following support by the S106 Agreement Advisory Group, authorised the Head of Law, Property and Governance to enter into an appropriate S106 Agreement for the development.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION, HUNTINGDON

The Cabinet has approved in principle the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire land required for the construction of a multi-storey car park as part of the redevelopment of Chequers Court, Huntingdon. In authorising the Director of Environmental and Community Services to undertake the necessary preparatory work, Executive Councillors have requested that a

Further information can be obtained from the Democratic Services Section ☎ (01480) 388007

further report be submitted to Cabinet on the cost implications of serving the CPO. The redevelopment of Chequers Court is an important element of the overall regeneration of Huntingdon town centre.

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