

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE 0.1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2010** at **6:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-
(Please note the time of the meeting)

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 12th October 2010.

**Mrs J Walker
387049**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN (Pages 5 - 10)

A copy of the current forward plan is attached, which was published on 14th October 2010. Members are invited to note the plan and comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**Mrs H Taylor
388008**

4. GREEN HOUSE PROJECT

To discuss, if necessary the Green House Project following site visits earlier in the day.

5. ABANDONED SHOPPING TROLLEYS

To consider the issue of abandoned shopping trolleys which was raised at the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Forum.

6. ST NEOTS EAST URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK (Pages 11 - 30)

To consider a report by the Planning Service Manager on the development opportunities for land east of the railway line, St Neots.

**P Bland
388430**

Please see link for full copy of the [St Neots Eastern Expansion: Urban Design Framework Draft](#) consideration, October 2010.

7. CABINET FEEDBACK (Pages 31 - 32)

To receive the Cabinet's views on Performance Management.

**Miss H Ali
388006**

8. WORK PLAN STUDIES AND WORKING GROUP TEMPLATES (Pages 33 - 38)

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

**Mrs J Walker
387049**

9. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS (Pages 39 - 42)

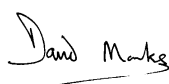
To consider a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services on decisions taken by the Panel.

**Mrs J Walker
387049**

10. SCRUTINY (Pages 43 - 50)

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.

Dated this 3 day of November 2010



Chief Executive

Notes

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

Please contact Mrs J Walker, Trainee Democratic Services Officer, Telephone: 01480 387049, email: jessica.walker@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 Committee/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 (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) held in the CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 12 October 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor P M D Godfrey – Chairman.

Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, J W Davies, P J Downes, P Godley, M F Newman, and J S Watt.

Mr M Phillips.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K M Baker and D Harty.

38. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 14th September 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

40. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000: FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered and noted the current forward plan of key decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet, which had been prepared by the Leader of the Council.

In so doing, Members requested sight of the report on the Local Transport Plan at a future meeting. The Panel was informed that reports on the St Neots East Urban Design Framework and the Environment Strategy were expected at their November and December meetings respectively.

41. CABINET FEEDBACK

The Panel received and noted a report from the Cabinet (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) with its response to the Panel's comments on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Performance Management. Members were advised that their recommendations with regard to the latter had not been addressed because of the late circulation of the report. However the Panel's views would be considered as and when discussions took place on the Budget, Corporate Plan, Community Strategy and systems of performance management.

42. FLOODING IN ST. IVES

Pursuant to Minute No.25, the Panel received a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) updating Members on steps being taken to resolve the problems encountered by residents in St Audrey's Lane, Warren Road and Pig Lane in St Ives arising from the flooding of the foul sewerage system. In addition, Councillor J W Davies addressed the Panel on the ongoing problems with unpleasant odours emanating from the sewers in West Street, St Ives and the response received by Anglian Water to his recent correspondence on the matter. Members also were advised by Councillor Davies of his concerns regarding new developments in St Ives and the capacity of the pumping station at Broadleas, St Ives to deal with the impact of such growth on the sewerage system.

With regard to the problems in the St Audrey's Lane area, Councillor Davies explained that, in recent correspondence, Anglian Water had referred to a need to clear the silt in a ditch which ran opposite the junction with Pig Lane which in their opinion was critical to the surface water drainage of the area. Members were advised that the matter had been referred to the County Council who would be liaising with District Council Officers but Councillor Davies stressed the continuing need to press the water company to resolve the unsatisfactory situation.

Other Members referred to similar problems being experienced within their Wards, the remedial action which had been taken and their own experiences in dealing with Anglian Water to resolve local issues.

The Panel discussed a suggestion by the Chairman that a local drainage liaison group should be established which would offer Ward Members an opportunity to meet representatives of Anglian Water and other relevant agencies to try and establish a way forward in tackling drainage problems. As the company appeared reluctant to attend Panel meetings, Members agreed that a small ad hoc group led by the Chairman might offer a more effective mechanism to resolve such issues with Anglian Water.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that an ad hoc local drainage liaison group be established comprising the Chairman and relevant Ward Members in an attempt to resolve local drainage issues; and
- b) that the group be invited to address the issues of flooding in the St Audrey's Lane area of St Ives in the first instance.

43. 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 the Panel's programme of studies and informing Members of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and

Scrutiny Panels. In doing so, Councillor M G Baker reported on the investigations being undertaken by the Working Group reviewing the role of the Planning Conservation Team.

44. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS

The Panel was advised of progress on issues that had been previously discussed.

In response to a question by Councillor P J Downes, the Chairman reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of the Joint Accountability Committee. Members were advised that the meeting had not proven particularly fruitful and that the value and future role of the Joint Accountability Committee was currently under consideration.

45. SCRUTINY

The Panel considered and noted the latest edition of the Council's Decision Digest summarising the Council's decisions since the previous meeting.

Chairman

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Prepared by Councillor I C Bates
Date of Publication: 14 October 2010
For Period: 1 November 2010 to 28 February 2011

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 Resources and Policy	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 Housing and Public Health	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, Law, Property and Governance	17 Virginia Way St Ives PE27 6SQ Tel: 01480 388935 E-mail: Deborah.Reynolds@huntsdc.gov.uk
Councillor T V Rogers	- Executive Councillor for Finance and Customer Services	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
Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan	Cabinet	18 Nov 2010	None.	Steve Plant, Head of Housing Services Tel No. 01480 388240 or e-mail Steve.Plant@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	Social Well-Being
Homelessness Strategy	Cabinet	18 Nov 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.	A Hansard	Social Well-Being
St Neots East Urban Design Framework	Cabinet	18 Nov 2010	Agreed Urban Design Framework	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No 01480 388430 or e-mail Paul.Bland@huntsdc.gov.uk	Adopt as Council policy	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Environment Strategy Review	Cabinet	18 Nov 2010	None.	Dr Paul Jose, Head of Environmental Management Tel No 01480 388332 or e-mail Paul.Jose@huntsdc.gov.uk		J A Gray	Environmental Well-Being
Draft MTP	Cabinet	18 Nov 2010	Financial Strategy Previous Year's budget report - Various Annexes	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 or e-mail Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being)	T V Rogers	Economic Well-Being
Sale of Land at Mill Hill Road, Eaton Socon	Cabinet	18 Nov 2010	Estates File - M/436/1	Keith Phillips, Estates and Property Manager Tel No. 01480 388260 or e-mail Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk	Ward Councillors	Mrs D C Reynolds	Economic Well-Being
Home Improvement Agency Review - Future Delivery Model Consultation	Cabinet	16 Dec 2010	None	Steve Plant, Head of Housing Services Tel No. 01480 388240 or e-mail Steve.Plant@huntsdc.gov.uk		A Hansard	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
One Leisure, St. Ives - Proposal for Development	Cabinet	16 Dec 2010	None	Simon Bell, General Manager, One Leisure Tel No. 01480 388049 or e-mail Simon.Bell@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Social Well-Being
Local Transport Plan (LTP3)	Cabinet	16 Dec 2010	Draft Local Transport Plan	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No 01480 388430 or e-mail Paul.Bland@huntsdc.gov.uk	Endorse as Council policy	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Asset Management Plan - Annual Report	Cabinet	16 Dec 2010	Previous Cabinet Reports	Keith Phillips, Estates and Property Manager Tel No. 01480 388260 or e-mail Keith.Phillips@huntsdc.gov.uk		Mrs D C Reynolds	Economic Well-Being
Open Space Strategy***	Cabinet	17 Feb 2011	Open Space Strategy	Mr Howard Thackray, Policy and Strategic Services Manager Tel No 01480 388035 or e-mail Howard.Thackray@huntsdc.gov.uk	Planned with Town and Parish Councils	C Hyams	Social Well-Being
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy***	Cabinet	17 Feb 2011	Cambs County Council led project	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No 01480 388430 or e-mail Paul.Bland@huntsdc.gov.uk	Endorse as Council policy (further details required).	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Residential Travel Plan***	Cabinet	17 Feb 2011	Cambs County Council led project	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 or e-mail Paul.Bland@huntsdc.gov.uk	Endorse as Council policy (further details required).	D B Dew	Environmental Well-Being
Budget and MTP***	Cabinet	17 Feb 2011	Draft MTP previous year's budget report various annexes	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 or e-mail Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being)	T V Rogers	Economic 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
Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators***	Cabinet	17 Feb 2011	Previous year's strategy	Steve Couper, Head of Financial Services Tel No. 01480 388103 or e-mail Steve.Couper@huntsdc.gov.uk	Overview and Scrutiny (Economic Well-Being)	T V Rogers	Economic Well-Being

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Agenda Item 6

COMT	2ND NOVEMBER 2010
O&S	9TH NOVEMBER 2010
CABINET	18TH NOVEMBER 2010
ST NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK	

(Report by HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The St Neots Eastern Expansion Urban Design Framework (UDF) outlines the main planning and design factors, and the other requirements that the prospective developers, will need to address in order to deliver a sustainable urban extension to the east of St Neots.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to consider the principles, and consequent detail, contained within the document, to take into account the consultation responses received, and to thereby approve the revised document as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The St Neots Eastern Expansion area has been identified in the Adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy (2009) as the District's major development opportunity in the plan period to 2026 and beyond. The total area has the capacity for the development of up to 5,000 new dwellings, of which some 40% will be affordable dwellings, plus associated community facilities and services such as schools, shops, recreation areas and open space. It will also provide at least 25 hectares of new employment land.
- 2.2 The area is located to the east of the East Coast main line railway track, and is bounded to the south and east by the A428 trunk road and Priory Hill. Open countryside lies beyond the development area boundaries. The area is currently in mainly arable agricultural use, with some hedgerows and streams forming field boundaries. There are also some planted shelter belts.
- 2.3 The area is mostly within the ownership of two major landowners, neatly divided into an area to the north of Cambridge Road (approximately 1/3 of the site) and an area to the south of the site (the remaining 2/3rds of the site).
- 2.4 Proactive local governance arrangements have already been put in place with a dedicated steering group, made up of elected representatives from HDC, Cambridgeshire County Council and St Neots Town Council being charged with guiding the development process.

3.0 THE URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The purpose of the UDF is to ensure that appropriate design principles are firmly established in order to ensure that the Eastern Expansion Area is a well planned new place that is designed from the

outset as a positive, and to be very well integrated, part of the town and community of St Neots.

3.2 The UDF has been prepared in conjunction with the major landowners, and the potential developers of the area, and this interaction has helped to ensure that the principles in the UDF are achievable and deliverable.

3.3 The UDF sets broad design parameters for the successful development of the site although they are intended to be flexible enough to be able to accommodate creative solutions. The UDF provides a platform for the detailed design coding and master-planning exercises that the landowners and developers will now take forward as the next stage of the development process. These in turn will provide the basis for the preparation by the developers of subsequent outline and detailed planning applications.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 A great deal of public engagement has taken place since April 2010 to support the formulation of the UDF. This has involved a wide range of local community, business and other interest groups as well as the main statutory agencies. A number of detailed presentations have been given to the Town Council and its sub-groups.

4.2 A formal consultation on the Council's Consultation Draft UDF took place between 1st and 31st October 2010, and this included a staffed consultation exhibition at the Priory Centre. The Draft UDF was also presented to the Council's Development Control Panel on 18th October, St Neots Town Council on 7th October, and the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9th November.

4.3 The responses received to the consultation have commented in respect of the following themes:

- Impacts on the town centre
- Impacts on existing town services
- Transport and congestion concerns
- Dealing with flood risk
- The need to create local jobs
- The need to protect certain natural features within the area
- The need to enable the development / operation of community facilities including premises for faith communities

The attached schedule of responses indicates how, where appropriate, these will be incorporated into the finalised document.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The production of the draft UDF has enabled a large number of individuals and community / official organisations to comment on and influence how the development and planning principles for the St Neots Eastern Expansion area.

5.2 The UDF will now play an important role in bringing forward the delivery of this highly sustainable urban extension.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That the Cabinet approves the St Neots Eastern Expansion Urban Design Framework as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009

Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPD 2007

Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape Assessment SPD Sept 2007

Contact Officer: Mike Huntington
 **01480 388404**

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Annex A
St Neots East urban design framework
 Summary of Written Comments

The table below details the comments received in general letters and from comments or attachments from the public questionnaires.

Action Code:

- 1 Action Taken
- 2 Not within remit of planning guidance document
- 3 No action required

Comment by:	Respon dent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
Sport England	1	In general terms pleased to see the strong over riding commitment to the development meeting the need for both formal indoor and outdoor sports facilities	Noted.	3
		Sport England has produced detailed guidance in the form of 'Active Design' published in March 2007. Seeks to add this to the list of relevant supporting documents in the Appendix.	Agreed. Add to annex.	1
		Greater prominence for the need for indoor and outdoor community facilities	Noted. Will add comment giving greater prominence to this requirement.	1
		Support for the reference to the Sports Facilities Strategy for Huntingdonshire and the standards contained in the HDC Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit.	Noted.	3
		Further work should be carried out to see whether demand will be met by expanding the indoor facilities at St Neots Community College. Sport England could assist through	Noted. A bit early at this stage.	1

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		<p>planning tools such as Active Places and the Sports Facilities Calculator.</p> <p>Sport England will be happy to assist with the process of assessing any off site contributions that may be necessary.</p>	Noted.	3
Churches Together in St Neots	2	Have met for first time as part of the Cambridge Ecumenical Council who have been involved in other similar sized developments. Would welcome opportunity to be part of the discussions and would like to think about the opportunity for some sort of 'faith' building on the development site.	Noted. Will add reference to a faith building when discussing community facilities.	1
Police Architectural Liaison Officer	3	<p>Page 40, para 6.7. Request that the 'Carbon Cost of Crime' is highlighted.</p> <p>Page 73, Policy H7. Reference to a planning appeal decision that refers to 'Secure by Design'.</p> <p>Appendix – can two further documents be referenced in the appendix – i) Safer Places – the planning system and crime prevention, and ii) Secured by Design</p>	<p>Agree, add reference to the Carbon Cost of Crime</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Agree, make changes to the appendix.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p>
CPRE Cambs	4	<p>Welcomes the UDF and the clear objectives it gives.</p> <p>Concerned that it is being produced ahead of the Planning Proposals DPD and before the boundaries of the site have been defined.</p> <p>CPRE concerned that the extent and timing may need to be</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The boundary of the site has been defined through the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).</p> <p>Noted. The Core Strategy has only just</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		<p>reappraised through a review of the Core Strategy given the significant change in circumstances since it was adopted (such as revocation of the RSS, the Comprehensive Spending Review and the proposed Localism Bill).</p> <p>Seek assurances that housing and employment land will be developed simultaneously along with other infrastructure commitments, to ensure that the site meets local needs.</p> <p>Community facilities and other infrastructure must be phased to match housing development.</p> <p>Serious consideration for a new secondary school close to or on site, and question the ability of the existing schools within St Neots to be able to meet the needs of the housing proposed.</p> <p>Public transport connections between St Neots and Cambridge should be established in phase 1.</p>	<p>been adopted (late last year), and presents the planning strategy up to the year 2026. The delivery of the development may take place over an extended time period.</p> <p>Noted. This will be dealt with through the next phases of the master planning process.</p> <p>Noted. See comment above.</p> <p>Noted. Education provision is the responsibility of the County Council to implement. The Council are working closely with the County Council to ensure that the necessary education provision is being met.</p> <p>Noted. This will be dealt with through the next phases of the masterplanning process.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
Sustrans	5	<p>Para 1.1, 1.8 and 1.9. Think that the purpose, process and status of the document should be explained together, more clarity is needed and the final document should be made mandatory on the developers.</p> <p>Think there is some repetition of content. Would like to suggest amendments to the paragraph order so that for example the</p>	<p>Noted. Will add some more text to add more clarity to the document.</p> <p>Noted. Will add text to the document that explains that chapter 5 is abridged.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p>

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		<p>place making principles in chapter 5 are relocated to chapter 2, and that it be made clear that this abridged chapter should refer to the original Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth.</p> <p>What environmental, economic and social circumstances will exist during the life of the proposed development. The Council needs to make clear what it foresees the economic and environmental future will be, and thus how the design principles will match these future conditions. The design framework should anticipate and require a development which is designed to cater for low levels of car usage and out commuting, and high levels of walking, cycling and public transport use. Sustrans are happy to propose some wordings.</p>	Noted. Will discuss with Sustrans some preferred wording that helps to 'futureproof' the development in terms of cycling and pedestrian usage.	1
Little Paxton Parish Council	6	<p>There is real potential for a vast increase in the volume of traffic in the Cambridge Road / Cromwell Road / Barford Road area. Inevitably commuters will seek rat runs through Little Paxton onto A1.</p> <p>This is an overdevelopment of the countryside that has given St Neots a pleasing and pleasant aspect as it was approached from the A428.</p>	<p>Noted. HDC is working with County Council as Highway Authority to minimise the potential impacts of the development.</p> <p>Noted. The principle of development has been established by the HDC Core Strategy, adopted in 2009.</p>	3 3
St Neots Town Centre Initiative – Transport Group	7	<p>Welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the early stages of addressing the big issues.</p> <p>The Winteringham Park part of the site (the southern part) is heavily constrained by the railway line and the A428. There are a limited number of crossing points under the railway line. One has considerable potential as a pedestrian / cycle route to the</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Add some wording to effect that it seems that cycling and pedestrian access would be the most practical use of this crossing point.</p>	3 1

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		<p>centre of town. This looks the most practical, as opposed to vehicle passage.</p> <p>Vehicle access onto Potton Road looks like the least worst option in this part of the development, with links to the newly refurbished leisure centre, community college and links to the green corridor.</p> <p>Access into town will be problematic with unsustainable traffic volumes leading to congestion. More research is needed to investigate options to address this issue.</p> <p>The new development must make full use of the proximity to the rail station, and provide linkages from the furthest away parts of the development to the rail station.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Council is working with the County Council on this issue.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>
St Neots Town Centre Initiative – Redevelopment and Environment Group	8	<p>The site has environmental assets that can be protected.</p> <p>The site is very visible from the railway line and the bypass, and so the green ladder design approach will help to create a green view.</p> <p>The employment sites that are spread out in separate areas could help reduce travel to work impacts.</p> <p>Cambridge Road will be an important gateway to the town so its use of open spaces and visual enhancements will be important.</p> <p>A high quality science park could act as a gateway feature.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. There is debate as to whether a science park is viable in St Neots.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p>

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		Community facilities could be either small and dispersed or concentrated in a hub area.	Further guidance from Bidwells will be sought. Noted.	3 3
St Neots Town Centre Initiative – Retail Club	9	The club had a clear view that there had been no new investment in retail for many years, and there was a lack of large sites in the town centre to offer more retail variety.	Noted. The Council are currently working on options to enable growth to take place in the town centre.	3
St Neots Town Centre Initiative – Manufacturing Club	10	<p>The Club looked at how the 25 hectares of employment land could be developed.</p> <p>One key idea was that of a Science Park, particularly with the main landowner being the Nuffield Trust and their agent being Bidwells (the agent for the Cambridge Science Park). This would be advantageous as it would be near to the train station and create an attractive entrance to the town. This could be a reasonable alternative to the three way split of employment land that although would have some green advantages, would forego the option of a more ambitious and commercially more interesting approach.</p> <p>Sites for high value manufacturing should be attracted to the town. St Neots currently has a solid manufacturing base and this could be built on. Even though we are in a good logistics location, distribution was not a favoured employment offer.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted, further guidance will be sought to see whether such a facility could be achievable in St Neots, see response 8.</p> <p>Noted. It is agreed that medium to large scale logistics operations would not provide the high quality employment sites that are needed here. Make amendment to that effect.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		<p>Employment locations also offer the potential for district heating schemes and these should be investigated.</p> <p>Wyboston Lakes currently provides a large number of employment opportunities with others in the pipeline. This, together with the 25 hectares planned for St Neots East, offers the opportunity to create a better balance between jobs and houses.</p>	<p>Noted. The Council is investigating this aspect of the development.</p> <p>Noted. The document will be amended to note the existing employment uses and commitments in the Wyboston Lakes area.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1</p>
Huntingdonshire Fauna and Flora Society – Barry Dickerson	11	<p>Concern over potential plans to show potential education provision on the land known as Railway Meadow situated alongside the railway line between Hen Brook and the pedestrian level crossing at Marston Road. The plan shows development on the large stand of elm trees which provide a habitat for a Biological Action Plan moth, and the meadow also supports a rich and varied flora including three species of orchid as well as other locally rare plants and spiders.</p> <p>The meadow is ideally situated to act as buffer between the railway line and any housing areas, and would also provide an amenity for people to walk in and enjoy.</p>	Noted. Plans to be altered to ensure that this area is protected and acknowledge / highlight the habitat that this site provides.	1
Resident 1 P. Shaw	12	<p>Combined heat and power from Little Barford will not work because the power station only runs intermittently.</p> <p>New development need more land set aside for employment to redress the balance</p>	<p>Noted. The Council is working with Renewables East to produce a business plan for a District Heating Project for this area.</p> <p>Noted. The document will be amended to show other areas of employment land with and adjacent to St Neots.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1</p>

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		Cycle paths need sorting out before proper integration with development east of the railway line can work well.	Noted.	3
Resident 2 Dr Ian Kirkby	13	Cannot see how a town of this size can support another 5000 homes. There are barely any facilities in the town, and the roads are jammed.	Noted. The Council is working with the County Council regarding transport issues (see comment 6), and the Council is currently looking at options for the town centre (see comment 9).	
Resident 3 Roger Skillen	14	Objects to the building of 5000 more homes. Needs a complete town centre overhaul.	Noted. The Council is committed to bringing forward regeneration and enhancement of the town centre (See comment 9).	
Resident 4 Ms S Dance	15	Object to scale of development. Train station at capacity, lack of infrastructure.	The principle of development has been enshrined in the Core Strategy.	
Resident 5 Daniel Cornwell	16	What will be done to enhance the rail station What will be done to ease links over the river. What links are proposed with Cambridge.	Noted. The Council is working with the County Council regarding transport issues (see comment 6).	3
Resident 6 Margaret Forde	17	Concerns about the next phase of development. There are some redundant factory buildings in the town, is St Neots attracting new business? What is the capacity of the railway station?	Noted. It is intended that there will be a balance of jobs and houses. It may be appropriate to note the Noted. Network Rail have been consulted on the framework document	3 3

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		Concern over whether the flood drainage system will cope. Concern that not enough facilities are provided for teenagers and asks whether they are being consulted.	Noted. The Environment Agency are the statutory body responsible for flood prevention and will ensure that any flood prevention scheme is fit for purpose. Noted. A process is currently being set up to include teenagers in the consultation process throughout the life of the development.	3 3
Resident 7 Nick Leach	18	The local road network will be overwhelmed. For example the roundabout from the A428 into Cambridge Street will be overwhelmed.	Noted. The Council has liaised with the Highways Agency regarding the amount and type of development. A Highways Agency regarding the amount and type of development. A certain amount of development will be allowed in advance of improvements to the A428.	3
Resident 8 David Gadenne	19	Provision needs to be made for an open air swimming pool. There should be no pylons running through the site. Pylons should be underground along the A428 or in cut and cover where they are. There should be no provision for wind power on the site.	Noted. Appropriate amenity and sports provision will be incorporated into the new development. The Council is currently encouraging the developers to do this. Noted. The Council is working with Renewables East to produce an energy strategy for the area.	3 3 3

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action
		Objects to the use of community centres attached to schools. Thinks that there only needs to be one community hall.	Noted. The Council will be negotiating the appropriate provision of community buildings for the development site.	3
Resident 9 Ian Doran and Tara Skey	20	Concern over run off to Hen Brook.	Noted. The Environment Agency will be involved in assessing any detailed measures to deal with the increased run off from the development.	3
		Think that this urban extension should be cutting edge in terms of environmentally friendly technology.	Noted. This development should use the most up to date environmental and eco friendly standards.	3
		Rights of way need to be preserved and enhanced.	Agreed. These will be preserved and enhanced.	3
		Due consideration needs to be given to parking and other improved facilities at the railway station.	Agreed. It is anticipated that the facilities at the railway station will be improved.	3
		Concern over impact on traffic flow, particularly as there appears to be no viable northern by pass.	Noted. The Council is working with the County Council and the Highways Agency to assess the capacity of the highway network.	3
			Also typos and clarifications as highlighted by colleagues.	

Comment by:	Respondent no.	Nature of Comment	Response	Action

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Development Management Panel

Report of the meeting held on 18th October 2010

URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK: ST NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION

Following a presentation on the proposed urban design framework for the development of land east of the railway line in St Neots and discussion on the objectives to be achieved, the Panel has made a series of comments for consideration by the Cabinet prior to adoption of the framework document.

Principally these comments relate to –

- ◆ the impact of the development on local traffic in Little Paxton and Priory Park and on the A428;
- ◆ the importance of the improvement (dualling) scheme for the A428 Caxton to the A1 Black Cat roundabout and the desire that this should proceed in the short-term;
- ◆ the establishment of a new secondary school for the town;
- ◆ the integration of the new development by footpath, cycleway and road with the existing town;
- ◆ the provision of much-needed community facilities;
- ◆ awareness of the potential impact of a retail unit in the “district centre” which could have a detrimental effect on the vitality and vibrancy of the town centre;
- ◆ the need to take account of the findings of the St Neots health check; and
- ◆ the need to consider carefully the planning of the development in terms of phasing and size albeit accepting that the latter could generate Section 106 contributions which could achieve the facilities considered to be desirable by the Panel

Notwithstanding these views, the Panel accepted the potential design parameters and objectives contained in the design framework.

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

**2ND NOVEMBER 2010
9TH NOVEMBER 2010
11TH NOVEMBER 2010**

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT (Report by the Cabinet)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 21st October 2010, the Cabinet reconsidered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on their deliberations and proposals in response to the Council's performance against its priority objectives.
- 1.2 Councillors J D Ablewhite, S J Criswell and P M D Godfrey were in attendance at the meeting to present the report and answer questions on the conclusions that had been reached.

2. THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS

- 2.1 Executive Members' attention has been drawn to the comments of the Corporate Plan Working Group concerning expenditure on the employment of external consultants and the need to address the strategic and future direction and development of the Council.
- 2.3 The Cabinet has noted the Panels' views in respect of external consultants. In so doing, the Cabinet has referred the matter back to the Corporate Plan Working Group for further review to include the criteria used in the appointment of consultants and an assessment of the cost and value gained from using them. Executive Members have invited Panel Chairmen to attend a future meeting to present the conclusions reached by the Working Group.
- 2.4 In referring to the Panels' recommendation concerning the Council's search for financial savings, the Cabinet has informed Panel Chairmen that contributions have been and currently are being sought from a variety of sources including all Members, employees, local businesses and the public.
- 2.5 The Cabinet has responded to the Panels' views on reviewing the Corporate Plan. A review of the Council's priorities, aims and objectives and consequent service provision and levels is currently underway generally and specifically in terms of the work being undertaken to prepare budgets for 2011/12 and future years. The Cabinet has indicated that the views of the Corporate Plan Working Group, the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and those expressed during the consultation exercises will be taken into account as part of the review process.
- 2.6 Finally, the Cabinet has informed Panel Chairmen that a review of the Council's policy framework and performance management systems is underway and will take account of Government announcements on national performance arrangements. The review is intended to incorporate measures to improve the understanding and transparency of the Council's performance and activities. It has also been noted that the Redundancy Policy and Voluntary Release Scheme recently adopted by the Employment Panel

contains clear guidance on the criteria to be used in determining proposals or applications for the release of employees.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels are invited to note the contents of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Minutes and Reports of the meetings held on 16th September and 21st October 2010.

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

2ND NOVEMBER 2010
9TH NOVEMBER 2010
11TH NOVEMBER 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 Details of ongoing studies are set out in the attached Appendix.

2.4 Members are reminded that if they have a specific interest in any study area which is not being considered by their Panel there are opportunities for involvement in all the studies being undertaken.

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**

ONGOING STUDIES

STUDY	OBJECTIVES	PANEL	STATUS	TYPE
Car Parking at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital	To investigate the causes of public complaints regarding the provision of parking facilities at the Hospital.	Social Well-Being	Six month review of new pricing structure to be conducted with the Hospital in January / February.	Whole Panel Study
Visitor Development & Town Centre Vibrancy	To consider issues relating to Visitor Development & Town Centre Vibrancy.	Economic Well-Being	Further information requested on the cost of the tourism service and the benefits it brings to both the Council and to the District.	Whole Panel Study
Consultation Processes	To review the Council's current consultation processes with a view to determining whether the approach taken to consultation is suitable and consistent across the authority.	Social Well-Being	Panel has begun to scope this study and requested for background information to be circulated. Invitation to be extended to the Policy and Strategic Services Manager to attend a future meeting.	Whole Panel Study
Health Implications of the Night Time Economy	To follow up the previous study undertaken by the former Overview and Scrutiny (Service Support)	Economic Well-Being	Further information requested with regards to the rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under 18s and the availability of any available qualitative data on alcohol consumption in rural areas. Presentation on the Cardiff System to be given to January meeting.	Whole Panel Study

Gypsy & Traveller Welfare	To be determined pending receipt of background information on existing gypsy and traveller sites already established within the District.	Social Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting. Following consultation with the Chairman, agreed that the report would be deferred until further notice.	To be determined.
Planning Conservation	To consider & evaluate the role of the Council's Planning Conservation Team in the preservation of Huntingdonshire's built heritage with particular reference to conservation areas and listed buildings.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group meetings held on 29 th July, 5 th August, 2 nd September, 7 th and 22 nd October 2010. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled to be held on 11 th November 2010.	Working Group.
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	To review the overall financial performance and monitoring arrangements To consider the current Employment Structure.	Economic Well-Being	Requested further information for submission to future meeting.	Whole Panel Study.
Proposals to replace EEDA with EDRPs.	To establish the implications of these proposals.	Economic Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting,	To be determined.
A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting,	To be determined,
Tree Strategy	To form a strategy in conjunction with the Tree Officers for the retention and planting of trees.	Environmental Well-Being	Working Group meeting scheduled to be held on 5 th November 2010.	Working Group.

POSSIBLE FUTURE STUDIES

The Employees Performance Development Review Process	To review the current process.	Economic Well-Being	Outcome of Officer Review to be reported to the Panel when this is concluded. Work is expected to conclude in February 2011.	To be determined.
Land Use for Agricultural Purpose in the context of planning policies and its contribution to the local economy.	To review the lack of promotion and protection of land for this purpose.	Environmental Well-Being	Not being pursued as a study at the current time.	To be determined.
Rural Transport	To review the lack of transportation in rural areas.	Environmental Well-Being	Not being pursued as a study at the current time.	To be determined.

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Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
13/01/09	<u>Heavy Goods Vehicle Parking In The District</u> The outcome of discussions of the first meeting of the three county group to be reported.		The County Council are developing a County advisory route network for HCVs, which they will be consulting the District Council on.	
09/02/10	The Panel requested an update on the situation with regards to HCVs parking in the District.	The Transportation Team Leader updated the Panel on the current situation.	The Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport has responded on behalf of the Council to the HCV Advisory Route Network Public Consultation. No further formal consultation has been received from the County Council.	
08/07/08	<u>Petition By St Audrey Lane Area Residents, St Ives</u> Representatives from Anglian Water in attendance at the Panel's July meeting. Requested that an update be provided in 6 months time and that residents be informed of the outcome of their investigations.	Email requesting update sent	CCTV survey of St Audrey Lane and Pig Lane Surface Water sewer completed. Funding now available to Jet Sewer – will be carried out shortly.	
12/10/10	The Panel discussed the ongoing problem of flooding in St Ives. The Chairman suggested that a Local Drainage Liaison Group be established to offer local Members an opportunity to meet with Anglian Water to try and establish a way forward in tackling drainage problems.	An email was sent to Anglian Water's Collection Manager inviting him to meet with a small group of Members and officers.	The first meeting of the Local Drainage Liaison Group will be held on 1 st November 2010.	1/11/10

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
13/07/10	<p><u>Cycling In Huntingdonshire</u> An update was requested from the Transport Team Leader.</p>		<p>Hunts AJC considered the Perry proposals at their meeting on 11th October 2010. They endorsed the development of Option 1 and further development work is now taking place, including negotiations with both Anglian Water and the Sailing Club. Subject to the satisfactory conclusion of those negotiations, it is planned that the scheme will be implemented during Spring 2011.</p>	
14/09/10	<p>An update was requested from the Transport Team Leader.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman undertook to make enquiries with the County Council regarding the audit trail for Section 106 contributions generated from development in Huntingdonshire.</p>	<p>Discussions have been held with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport regarding the wider review which was scheduled for completion by December 2010. Given the ongoing consultation by the Council on budget spending and the possible cuts in the overall transport related budget, it has been considered unwise to consult with District and County Members on schemes at this time as this would exacerbate the unlikelihood of current schemes being delivered as well as any of those to be added, and raises Member and public expectation to an unnecessary degree with presently little hope of delivery. It was felt that the review should be over a longer timeframe when there is more certainty regarding likely funding.</p>	<p>At the same AJC meeting, the Committee were acquainted with the current proposals for the next phase of the cycling programme for Yaxley and Farcet which includes the provision of a first-time off-road pedestrian and cycle route between the two villages. The Committee endorsed further development, including the need to secure third party land to deliver the scheme. It is hoped that the scheme will be delivered, subject to the completion of all required negotiations, during 2011/12 using a combination of S.106 and Capital funds.</p>	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
19/05/10	<u>Corporate Plan – Growing Success</u> Councillors P M D Godfrey and D Harty appointed to the Corporate Plan Working Group.	Quarterly reports submitted to all Overview & Scrutiny Panels.		
19/05/10 12/10/10	<u>Local Area Agreements</u> Councillor P M D Godfrey appointed to Joint Accountability Committee. Substitute Members to be appointed in consultation with the Head of Democratic and Central Services. The Chairman advised the Panel that the meeting of the Joint Accountability Committee which was held on 5 th October 2010 had not proven particularly fruitful and the value and future role of the Joint Accountability Committee was currently under consideration.			
13/07/2010	<u>Great Fen Project</u> The Panel attended a tour of the Great Fen.		The Director of Environmental and Community Services advised Members that updates on the progress of the project would be presented to the Panel at 6 monthly intervals.	11/01/11
12/01/10 13/07/10 13/07/10	<u>Forward Plan</u> Site Options Planning Proposals Development Plan Document Environment Strategy Review Local Transport Plan			TBC December December

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Decision Digest

Edition 108

Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 1st to 29th October 2010.

FLOODING IN ST IVES

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) has been updated with the ongoing problems being encountered by residents in St Audrey's Lane, Warren Road and Pig Lane in St Ives arising from the flooding of the foul sewerage system. The matter had first been raised in February 2008 when a petition signed by 26 people had been presented to a meeting of the Panel. Attention was also drawn by Councillor J W Davies to the problems being experienced by residents in West Street, St Ives as a result of unpleasant odours emanating from the sewers, together with his concerns about the capacity of the pumping station at Broadleas to deal with the impact of new developments in the area.

Having regard to the ongoing discussions with Anglian Water which had yet to produce a satisfactory conclusion to these issues, the Panel has agreed to establish a local drainage liaison group to offer local Members the opportunity to meet with Anglian Water and other relevant agencies to try and establish a way forward in tackling the problems. Councillor P M D Godfrey has been appointed as the lead member of this Group which will meet on an ad hoc basis.

As there may be similar problems experienced in other Wards within the District, it has also been agreed that concerns raised by other Members should be addressed to Councillor P M

D Godfrey in the first instance who will decide whether a local liaison group for that area may be an appropriate way of addressing the issues raised.

STUDY: CONSULTATION PROCESSES

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has begun planning its study on the Council's consultation processes. The Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy and associated guidance has been received together with a list of consultations already undertaken by the Council.

Matters that were discussed included the role of pressure groups during consultations, public perceptions of consultation exercises and the need to publicise and communicate more effectively consultation expectations. Other matters that were discussed included the structure of questions posed within consultation documents, the role of Councillors in their decision making, effective use of the Neighbourhood Forums, the prescriptive nature of some consultations, the need to analyse data on a Ward specific basis and the format of District Wide. Comment was also made that rigorous assessments should be undertaken prior to commencement of a consultation and the need to ensure that they have been effectively reviewed.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP: CHILDREN AND

YOUNG PEOPLES THEMATIC GROUP

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has received details of the Children and Young Peoples Thematic Group of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership (HSP), including its objectives, terms of reference, membership and current matters being considered. Members have further noted the Thematic Group's achievements to date and risks identified that might prevent its objectives from being achieved.

It was suggested that some priority should be accorded to reviewing the Council's role in shaping new residential developments, given that there is a perceived shortfall in the availability of facilities for some sectors of new and developing communities. Further background information has been requested for circulation to Panel Members and an invitation will be extended to the relevant Executive Member to attend a future meeting. Details of a Member-led review being undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young Peoples Services Committee on integrating children and young people's services and social infrastructure provision into the County's new communities will be circulated to Panel Members for background purposes.

NHS CONSULTATION: PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) have made a series of comments on a consultation being undertaken by NHS Cambridgeshire on pharmaceutical services in Cambridgeshire.

The Panel has queried the design of the consultation and its distribution and suggested that future NHS

consultations should elicit information on where respondents live in order to better understand local needs. The purpose of the consultation is to inform the Primary Care Trust's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment which is required to be completed by 1st February 2011.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADULTS WELL-BEING AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

An update on matters currently being considered by the Cambridgeshire Adults Well-Being and Health Scrutiny Committee has been received. This included the Government's proposals to reform the NHS as outlined within the "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" White Paper, adult support services, training on dementia for care home staff and membership of the neonatal intensive care joint committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – FORWARD PLAN

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has requested sight of the Cambridgeshire Local Investment Plan prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE REVIEW – 12 MONTHS ON

The Cabinet has been acquainted with the findings of a review by the Democratic Structure Working Party on the impact of changes made to the Council's democratic structure since its implementation in September 2009. The findings revealed Member support for the changes introduced by the Council and the Cabinet has subsequently recommended to Council that no change should be made to its current democratic structure. The Cabinet has also agreed to retain the Working Party in its current format to consider and report, on an ad hoc

basis, on legislative and other changes that may have an impact upon the Council's democratic structure.

EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET FORM OF EXECUTIVE

Having considered the implications for the Council of its decision to change its executive arrangements, the Cabinet has recommended that the Council should change its form of Executive with effect from 8th May 2011 to an Executive Leader and Cabinet model and to approve the consequential changes to the Constitution listed in the Annex to the report.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet has reconsidered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on their deliberations and proposals in response to the Council's performance against its priority objectives. The Council's expenditure on the employment of external consultants has been referred back to the Corporate Plan Working Group for further review to include the criteria used in the appointment of consultants and an assessment of the cost and value gained from using them. It was noted that contributions from opposition groups, all Members, employees, local businesses and the public currently are being sought in identifying financial savings for the Council and a review of the Council's priorities, aims and objectives is being undertaken. The review will impact upon consequent service provision and levels and is being considered in the context of budget preparations for 2011/12 and future years. The views of the Corporate Plan Working Group, the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and those expressed during the consultation exercises will be taken into account as part of the review process.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 2010/11 BUDGET

The Cabinet has been acquainted with variations in the capital programme in the current year and has discussed cost variations and timing changes for 2011/12. Clarification has been received on the appropriate level of borrowing compared to revenue.

FINANCIAL MONITORING – REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11

The Cabinet has noted the expected revenue budget variations already identified in the current year. Whilst welcoming a forecast reduction of £966,000 in the overall budget, the Cabinet's attention has been drawn to a number of uncertainties surrounding the actual expenditure incurred by the Council in respect of concessionary fares.

LAND ADJOINING 4 KINGSBROOK, ST IVES

The Cabinet has approved the disposal of Council owned land at Kingsbrook, St Ives and has authorised the Director of Central Services, or in his absence, the Head of Law, Property and Governance, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Leisure and Law, Property and Governance, to approve future land sale transactions up to the value of £50,000.

HUNTINGDON TOWN CENTRE RE-DEVELOPMENT

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has considered a report on proposals to redevelop Huntingdon Town Centre. Members have been advised that the local economy is driven by the market towns through service, employment and retail provision. Although Huntingdon is regarded as the District's economic lynch pin, its retail footprint (CACI)

ranking has recently declined. It has been noted that retailers have raised particular concerns about low levels of trade occurring on Saturdays. Existing units in the town are too small to attract the higher quality retailers that residents require yet, owing to its location, there would be little difficulty in attracting this kind of retailer to Huntingdon.

The Panel has acknowledged that there is a need to protect and develop the local retail market, particularly as Huntingdonshire has significant exposure to the potential contraction of the public sector given that it provides approximately one-third of local employment. As well as protecting existing jobs, the proposals could create a significant number of new jobs. While Members have recognised that the required construction works will create employment, concerns have been raised that the works could have an adverse impact on trade levels. In this respect, the Panel has recommended that the Council should seek to influence the sequence of developments in order to minimise disruptions to trade.

Having examined at length the financing arrangements for the proposals, the Panel is of the view that a formal analysis of the risks involved should be undertaken and contingency plans then devised. Members are keen that the proposals should succeed and following extensive discussions, they have outlined a number of concerns about them as they stand and made suggestions to mitigate risks to the Council.

Details of the economic benefits arising from the proposed redevelopment have been noted by the Cabinet. Updates were delivered on a number of matters, including negotiations concerning land ownership, funding of the Huntingdon West Relief Road and the financial and

commercial risks arising from the proposals. Funding arrangements for the new link road have been discussed and the view expressed by Executive Members is that it would be preferable for the County Council to be party to meeting the funding gap pending the receipt of Section 106 monies.

The Cabinet has authorised the Director of Environmental & Community Services to negotiate and conclude development agreements with Sainsbury's, Churchmanor Estates and Cambridgeshire County Council, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy, on the basis of heads of terms currently being considered and to agree funding arrangements for the Huntingdon West Relief Road until the future Section 106 receipts have been received. Additionally, the Cabinet has agreed to the release of Medium Term Plan funding for the construction of the multi-storey car park and the Huntingdon West Relief Road.

URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK: ST NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION

The Development Management Panel has received a presentation on the content of the proposed Urban Design Framework for the successful development of land east of the railway line, St Neots. An exhibition on the development is currently on display in the Priory Centre, St Neots. The site comprises 227 hectares of Greenfield land with capacity for up to 4000 new dwellings, community facilities, schools, shops, recreation and open spaces' and employment land. The Panel have made a number of observations about the proposals which are to be conveyed to the Cabinet. Principally, these related to potential traffic congestion in Little Paxton and Priory Hill, the need for completion of the scheme for the dualling of the A428, the need for an additional secondary and community

facility and the importance of integration with the existing town centre. The Panel was also concerned that the proposed District centre should not have a detrimental effect upon the vibrancy and vitality of the town centre and that the overall size of the development be carefully managed.

In supporting the proposed design parameters and objectives of the Urban Design Framework, the Panel were mindful, firstly, that they would still have the opportunity to consider the Master Plan and detailed development applications in due course and secondly that the S106 contributions generated by the size of the development would ultimately deliver the infrastructure required to ensure its success.

TREE REPLACEMENT NOTICE

Under Section 207 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Head of Planning Services has been authorised to issue a Tree Replacement Notice to the owner of a property in Hemingford Grey to secure the planting of a scots pine in place of a cedar which had been felled under a previous Tree Preservation Order (TPO). The Notice is required to ensure compliance with the original TPO and to maintain the visual amenity of the area.

For the future, the Development Management Panel has authorised the Head of Planning Services, or in his absence, the Planning Service Manager (Policy) to serve such notices under Section 207 of the Act in appropriate circumstances.

APPEAL DECISIONS

As part of their regular review of the outcome of appeals against refusal of planning permission, the Development Management Panel has noted that the applicant in the case of an application

for development at RAF Upwood, Ramsey Road, Bury has applied for judicial review of the decision made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

NEW HEADQUARTERS AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION CLOSE REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has considered a report reviewing the new headquarters and other accommodation project, which identifies lessons learnt that would be transferable to the inception, development and delivery of future projects. The Panel has been advised that there are plans to sell Castle Hill House and the site originally proposed for "Building A" once the property market shows signs of recovery. Members have also noted that although there is no demand at present for the sub-letting of part of Pathfinder House, if this is necessary in future then this could easily be sub-divided.

ONE LEISURE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2009/10

The financial performance of One Leisure for 2009/10 has been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being). There has been an improvement in the forecast financial position but the Council's forthcoming budgetary decisions could have an impact on the forecast. Efforts are made on an ongoing basis to reduce costs and staffing structures are constantly under review.

Members have indicated that the preparation of more detailed financial reports would be of value and could assist when considering future proposals and recommendations. In particular, it has been suggested that a distinction needs to be made between those areas of activity that compete with the private sector and others that

have a purely "social" benefit, such as swimming, which are subsidised by the Council. The Panel has noted that each centre has a five year business plan for both "social" and financial aspects of their operations, which are constantly updated. There is also an overall business plan for One Leisure. Members have requested further information differentiating between the "social" services provided by One Leisure from those services that compete with the private sector. This is to include key business indicators, reference to the business plan, the calculation of re-charges and a breakdown of the staff structure at the leisure centres. The Panel has also requested an annual report on the performance of One Leisure.

LEISURE CENTRES' HOSPITALITY, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has received a report on the financial performance of the Hospitality Section of One Leisure. Overall trends in hospitality have improved in recent years and in 2010/11 a profit of £45,000 is projected. However, the bars continue to make a loss. Members have emphasised that both the bars and Impressions are competing with the private sector and as such should be run as businesses with clear business plans. The Panel has questioned whether the leisure centres should have bars given that one of their objectives is to improve the health of the local population. In response, Members have been advised that there is a continued demand for alcohol and confectionary at the leisure centres, though there is a growing demand for healthier options. However, the centres endeavour to meet both needs. Members believe that an assessment of the degree to which the bars attract customers to the leisure centres will assist their discussions

when they receive further detailed reports on the overall performance of One Leisure.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMIC WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS

In the context of their study on the impact of the Licensing Act, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has accepted the Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator's offer to attend a future meeting to discuss the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

WORK PLAN STUDIES

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has requested a report on the implications for Huntingdonshire of the abolishment of the East of England Development Agency and its replacement by Local Enterprise Partnerships. Members have also suggested that the implications for the local economy of the Government's decision not to proceed with improvements to the A14 should be considered at a future Panel meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

The Licensing and Protection Panel has recommended to the Council to adopt an amendment to schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The amendment, if adopted, will allow the Council to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar types of activity as "sexual entertainment venues".

The Council has already adopted the relevant parts of the Act that requires the licensing of sex shops and sex cinemas in the District. Although there are currently no sexual entertainment

venues in Huntingdonshire, failure to adopt the amendment would result in an inability to regulate any new venture that may be established.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990

The Licensing and Protection Panel has been updated on progress with pollution control issues associated with an area of land within the District.

Declaration of the land as contaminated has so far been unnecessary and it is hoped that such action can be obviated by future developments.

EQUALITY ACT 2010 – TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Licensing and Protection Panel has been advised of the implications for the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles necessitated by the Equality Act 2010. The Act embodies many of the taxi and private hire provisions previously contained in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 but also includes some important changes that came into effect on 1st October 2010.

Such changes include a duty to assist passengers in wheelchairs at no additional charge, the carriage of guide dogs and assistance dogs and the issue of exemption certificates to drivers exempt from such tasks on medical grounds.

Due to the Council's previous decision to delimit taxi numbers for applicants with wheelchair accessible vehicles, a further requirement lifting the control of numbers of such vehicles will not affect the Council.

LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS AND PERMITS 2010

The Licensing and Protection Panel has noted a report listing the current

number of licences, registrations and permits administered by the Licensing Section and the number of new applications that have been processed during the period 1st October and 30th September 2010.

The Panel has also been apprised of the inspections and investigations that have taken place and the measures taken against two public houses that were causing problems for their local communities.

LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Following a consultation a revised statement of licensing policy has been endorsed by the Licensing Committee pending its submission to Cabinet and approval by Council in December.

The revised statement has been modelled on the existing document which came into effect on 7th January 2008 for a period of three years. It has been amended to have regard to updated guidance issued by the Secretary of State and legislative changes that have taken place in the intervening period. These changes include a mandatory code of practice for retailers, the provision for elected members to become interested parties for the purpose of making representations and applying for reviews and re-classification of lap dancing clubs so that they require a sex establishment licence and new mandatory conditions relating to the supply of alcohol.

RE-BALANCING THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Details of a consultation paper on proposals to re-balance the Licensing Act and the legislative changes that are likely to result as a consequence, have been considered by the Licensing Committee.

The coalition government is of the view that the problems of irresponsible sales and drinking habits have not been resolved by the changes introduced by the Licensing Act and that there is insufficient flexibility in the system for licenses to be reviewed or for discretion on the part of the licensing authorities. The changes are expected to give a greater opportunity for local communities to ask for a review of the minority of premises where alcohol consumption, crime and disorder or public nuisance is cause for concern.

A response to the consultation has been endorsed by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

SECRET GARDEN PARTY

The Licensing Committee has received a report on the outcome of the Secret Garden Party festival held in Abbots Ripton between 22nd and 26th July 2010.

The festival, for which organisers were granted a licence in perpetuity in January, attracted 26,000 people with licensable activities taking place throughout the event period. There is now no formal opportunity for the licence conditions to be revisited unless an application for review is made by one of the responsible authorities or an interested person, or a change to the licence conditions is applied for by the licence holder. Officers from the Democratic and Central Services and Environmental and Community Health Divisions were on site for most of the event's duration to ensure that licence conditions were adhered to.

Pre and post event meetings have been held with the event organisers and other relevant organisations. A significant Police presence at the event was funded by the organisers but the popularity of the festival is thought to

have attracted a small minority who target such events by way of thefts and illegal entry. Although a large number of people required medical care, both Hinchingbrooke Hospital staff and event paramedics were satisfied with the arrangements made on site to care for those in need of assistance. The issues identified at the post event safety advisory group meeting will be addressed by the organisers in association with the Licensing Section and other responsible authorities in advance of the 2011 event.

Although no letters of complaint have been received from local residents, some concerns were expressed by parish councils which are currently subject to investigation.

The event, which is well known on the festival calendar, continues to be well managed and is enjoyed by both local people and visitors to the District.