

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE 1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, CAMBS, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 10 APRIL 2012** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact  
(01480)**

### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**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 - 8)**

A copy of the current Forward Plan, which was published on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**Mrs H Taylor  
388008**

**4. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT (Pages 9 - 10)**

To consider a report by the Head of Planning Services on the consultation on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

**P Bland  
388430**

**5. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Pages 11 - 16)**

To consider a report by the Head of Planning Services on the Statement of Community Involvement.

**P Bland  
388430**

**6. WORK PLAN STUDIES (Pages 17 - 20)**

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

**Mrs J Walker  
387049**

**7. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS (Pages 21 - 24)**

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

**Mrs J Walker  
387049**

**8. SCRUTINY (Pages 25 - 30)**

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.

**9. SCRUTINY (Pages 21 - 26)**

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 29 day of March 2012



Head of Paid Service

**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@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:jessica.walker@huntingdonshire.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](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) (under Councils and Democracy).

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

**Emergency Procedure**

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

# Agenda Item 1

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) held in Civic Suite 1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 13 March 2012.

- PRESENT: Councillor P M D Godfrey – Chairman.
- Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, I J Curtis, J W Davies, P Godley, G J Harlock, D Harty and J S Watt.
- Co-opted Members Mr D Hopkins and Mr M Phillips.
- APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor M G Baker.
- IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor D M Tysoe.

### **82. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 9th February 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **83. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations were received.

### **84. 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 Executive Leader of the Council for the period 1st March to 30th June 2012.

Members were advised that the Statement of Community Involvement, which set out the Council's proposed methodology for involving the community and stakeholders in planning matters, would be available for the Panel to consider in April.

### **85. CAMBRIDGESHIRE RENEWABLES INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND**

*(Councillor D M Tysoe, Executive Councillor for the Environment, was in attendance for this Item.)*

Councillor D M Tysoe introduced a report by the Heads of Environmental Management and of Planning Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the Cambridgeshire Renewables Infrastructure Framework (CRIF) and Cambridgeshire

Community Energy Fund (CEF). The Head of Environmental Management then presented the case for the development of a framework for delivering action on the renewable and low carbon agenda in Cambridgeshire. Having outlined the environmental targets the County would have to meet by 2038 and the potential economic benefits of the CRIF project, Members were informed of the project's aims and objectives, the current position with regard to renewable sources of energy and the level of changes that would be required to achieve various scenarios. They were advised that the CRIF provided a robust evidence base which would promote and deliver the right projects in the right places. They also were advised of investment opportunities the project presented and the ways in which communities would be involved.

Members welcomed the news that solar panels had been installed at Eastfield House which would provide the Council with electricity for its own use and would provide a significant return on the investment.

The Head of Environmental Management then addressed the Panel on how the CEF would channel funds from development projects into low carbon infrastructure and carbon emission reduction projects. He outlined the potential benefits of establishing a CEF, the framework within which it would operate, the timescale for its introduction, how it would be collected and spent and the kind of projects that might be delivered.

Members recognised that developers were likely to challenge the inclusion of renewable energy policies in the new Local Plan. It was, however, accepted that the Council needed to have in place policy provisions to ensure that CEF income was retained locally. Having discussed detailed planning aspects of the CRIF and CEF, concerns were raised that applications for developments with high levels of renewable features would be looked on more favourably than others. It was, however, the case that such development would have to meet other planning requirements. Some Members expressed the view that the removal of the requirement for planning permission to be obtained for the installation of renewable features was having a detrimental effect on the appearance of some properties.

With specific reference to wind power, Members suggested that the Council should try to influence where wind turbines were located as it was acknowledged that wind farms worked better in some locations than others. It was reported that under the new National Planning Policy Framework the Council would be able to specify areas where wind farms would be more suitable. In making this recommendation it was accepted that there was no upper limit that could be imposed on the amount of wind turbines in an area. At present Huntingdonshire was dependant upon wind and photovoltaic power for its renewable sources of energy, which did not provide a constant source of energy. Members suggested that it would be necessary to make use of the full range of other options for renewables to fill gaps in energy supply. In light of the recent visit to Waterbeach Waste Management Park, the Panel recommended that the options should include deriving energy from waste.

The CEF presented commercial opportunities for both public sector organisations and commercial businesses. This was emphasised by

the fact that it was significantly cheaper to install renewable measures during construction than retrofit existing properties. Having discussed developer contribution rates, it was suggested that they should not be set at such a level that developers only provided on-site renewable measures. Given that Huntingdonshire had the greatest renewable potential in Cambridgeshire it was possible that the District could be a net beneficiary of CEF funds.

Having drawn attention to the possibility that the CEF could require considerable management and monitoring, the Panel recommended that the Cabinet should exert control over the arrangements put in place for these purposes to ensure they did not proliferate.

Owing to the complex and technical nature of both the CRIF and the CEF, the Panel strongly recommended that a clear communication strategy was developed for it. This should comprise simplified messages and emphasise the cost savings that could be obtained from renewables rather than carbon emissions. It was suggested that reference also ought to be made to energy conservation as this appeared to be missing from the current documents.

#### RESOLVED

that the Cabinet be recommended to:-

- a) note the work undertaken, formally sign off the CRIF/CEF projects and to endorse the future approach to energy and renewables outlined in the report;
- b) delegate authority to the Managing Directors to carry forward work on energy and renewables in the District, to deliver the best possible outcomes for business, the community and public sector, within the framework of the CRIF, and;
- c) note that the Managing Directors will consider the merits of setting up a CEF as outlined in the report.

#### **86. CAMBRIDGESHIRE FUTURE TRANSPORT STUDY**

Pursuant to Minute No. 11/78, it was

#### RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs M Banerjee be appointed to the Cambridgeshire Future Transport Overview and Scrutiny Review.

#### **87. WORKPLAN STUDIES**

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

#### **88. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel

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

Having noted that the Panel was due to receive a presentation on the planning implications of the Enterprise Zone, in response to a request, the Scrutiny and Review Manager undertook to circulate a plan of the area included within the Enterprise Zone.

With regard to the ongoing drainage issues in Yaxley, Councillor Mrs Banerjee reported that an on-site meeting had been held with the Council's Project and Assets Manager who had subsequently alerted Anglian Water to the fact that there was a problem with the surface and foul sewerage system. Having expressed concern over the long running nature of the problem, the Panel requested that a letter was sent to the Environment Agency asking that enforcement action was taken.

The Chairman advised Members that the Working Group looking at land use for agricultural purposes in the context of planning policies and agriculture's contribution to the local economy was progressing well and, following his attendance at a Working Group meeting, Dave Felce, the Linking Environment and Farming representative, had extended an invitation to the Panel to visit his farm.

## **89. SCRUTINY**

The Panel received and noted the latest edition of the Council's Decision Digest (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) summarising the Council's decisions since the previous meeting.

Chairman

### FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Prepared by**  
**Date of Publication:**  
**For Period:**

**Councillor J D Ablewhite**  
**16 March 2012**  
**1 April 2012 to 31 July 2012**

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor J D Ablewhite	- Executive Leader of the Council, with responsibility for Strategic Economic Development	3 Pettis Road St. Ives Huntingdon PE27 6SR  Tel: 01480 466941 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor N J Guyatt	- Deputy Executive Leader of the Council with responsibility for Strategic Planning and Housing	6 Church Lane Stibbington Cambs PE8 6LP  Tel: 01780 782827 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Nick.Guyatt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Nick.Guyatt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor B S Chapman	- Executive Councillor for Organisational Development	6 Kipling Place St. Neots Huntingdon PE19 7RG  Tel: 01480 212540 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Barry.Chapman@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Barry.Chapman@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor J A Gray	- Executive Councillor for Resources	Shufflewick Cottage Station Row Tilbrook PE28 OJY  Tel: 01480 861941 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor D M Tysoe	- Executive Councillor for Environment	Grove Cottage Maltings Lane Ellington Huntingdon PE28 OAA  Tel: 01480 388310 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Darren.Tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Darren.Tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor T D Sanderson	- Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities	29 Burmoor Close Stukeley Meadows Huntingdon PE29 6GE  Tel: 01480 412135 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>

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

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

Colin Meadowcroft  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report***	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	None.	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 or email Paul.Bland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N J Guyatt	Environmental Well-Being
Review of HR Service	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	None.	Helen Donnellan, Corporate Team Manager Tel No. 01480 388263 or email Helen.Donnellan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J D Ablewhite	Economic Well-Being
Waste Collection Policies	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	None.	Eric Kendall, Head of Operations Tel No. 01480 388635 or email Eric.Kendall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		D Tysoe	Environmental Well-Being
One Leisure, St. Ives - Outcome of Tender Exercise	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	None.	Simon Bell, General Manager, One Leisure Tel No. 01480 388049 or email Simon.Bell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T D Sanderson	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
Statement of Community Involvement	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	None.	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 or email Paul.Bland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N J Guyatt	Environmental Well-Being
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	Cabinet	19 Apr 2012	Examination in Public Report	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 - or email Paul.Bland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Outcome of Examination and recommend adoption to Council	N J Guyatt	Environmental Well-Being
CIL Governance Principles***	Cabinet	19 Jul 2012	None.	Steve Ingram, Head of Planning Services Tel No. 01480 388400 or email Steve.Ingram@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Endorse Governance Principles.	N J Guyatt	Economic Well-Being
Bearscroft Farm Urban Design Framework	Cabinet	19 Jul 2012	None.	Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy) Tel No. 01480 388430 or email Paul.Bland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	Adopt as Council policy.	N J Guyatt	Environmental Well-Being

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COMT  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (Environmental Wellbeing)  
CABINET

26<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2012

## **Consultation on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Report by Head of Planning Services)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report recommends that the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (the Scoping Report) is approved as the basis for Sustainability Appraisal of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. A draft Scoping Report has been prepared and consulted on. Taking into account comments received, and any additional comments from the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Wellbeing) Panel, the document can be approved with any necessary amendments.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 When drawing up new planning documents the effects they will have on the environment and people's quality of life, both now and in the future are some of the most important things to consider. To be sure that the plan does not cause environmental, social or economic problems there is a system of appraisal known as Sustainability Appraisal (SA). This appraisal system is at the heart of the plan production process and is set out in European and British law.
- 2.2 SA, as a legally required process, has been the focus of a number of recent legal challenges where people who are opposed to particular local plans have successfully challenged how the SA process had been undertaken. A recent court decision concerning the Joint Core Strategy for Norwich will require the authorities there to return to the plan production process with significant impacts on resources both financially and in terms of the time involved with going through stages of plan production again. It is therefore clear that it is worthwhile ensuring that the SA process is completed in a robust manner, in line with the relevant legislation and guidance.
- 2.3 The SA process is divided into five stages. The Scoping Report and consultation on it make up the first stage. There are three roles for the Scoping Report: it needs to determine what environmental, social or economic issues should be tackled by looking at influencing factors including existing plans and programmes that the Local Plan will need to work with and data about the existing situation; secondly it needs to come up with a system for appraising the alternative options for the Local Plan to see how they could impact upon the issues identified; the final role is to establish a methodology for applying the appraisal system.

### **3. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT**

- 3.1 The Council is required to consult on the Scoping Report with the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. These bodies are known as the SA bodies. In the interests of openness and to encourage engagement with production of the Local Plan the consultation has been open to anyone to make comments. The period for consultation is statutorily set at five weeks.

- 3.2 At the time of writing the consultation is still open and is due to close on 30 March 2012. There have only been a very small number of comments received so far and as such it is considered that to summarise them in this report may give undue emphasis to these early comments. Instead a full summary will be presented to Members at the meetings of Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet as they will take place after the close of the consultation period.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet authorises the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing, in conjunction with the Head of Planning Services, to finalise and approve the Scoping Report.

#### **Background Information**

The consultation document and full comments are available on the Council's consultation portal: <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/portal>

**CONTACT OFFICER** - enquiries about this report to Paul Bland, Planning Services Manager (Policy) on 01480 388430

**COMT**  
**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY (Environmental Wellbeing)**  
**DM PANEL**  
**CABINET**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**10<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
**16<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
**19<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

## **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (Report by Head of Planning Services)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report recommends that a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is approved to replace the existing 2006 SCI. A draft new SCI has been prepared and was consulted on between 3 February and 16 March 2012. Some 23 comments from 13 organisations and individuals have been received. Taking into account comments received, and any additional comments from the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Wellbeing) Panel, and the Development Management Panel, the document can be approved with any necessary amendments.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 Preparation of a Statement of Community Involvement is a requirement on Council arising from the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Initially, Councils were required to prepare a draft SCI and have it independently examined by a Planning Inspector. This Council duly prepared such an SCI which was examined and then adopted in October 2006. The requirement for independent examination was removed in 2009. However, it is still necessary to have an approved SCI.

2.2 In an Equality Impact Assessment prepared in 2009 it was noted that the 2006 SCI was becoming dated and an action was identified to update it by 2012. Given the new Local Plan process agreed by Cabinet in December 2011, now is an opportune time. The Inspector who examines the Local Plan will consider whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the SCI.

2.3 The SCI's fundamental purpose is to set out how planning matters are consulted on. The focus of the draft SCI is on the new Local Plan process, although the procedures for other policy documents and consulting on planning applications are also covered.

2.4 The SCI fits with the Council's Corporate Consultation and Engagement Strategy. That document was approved by Cabinet in February 2008 and is at a higher level such that the two do not conflict.

2.5 The draft SCI states that the Council will encourage public participation within the context of available resources and the potential for 'consultation fatigue'. The Local Plan will be prepared with consultation stages on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (which has already occurred), key principles and evidence, draft proposals and then publication. At the publication stage comments can only be made on the issues of soundness as the plan will be ready for examination. The timetable for these is set out separately in the

Local Development Scheme, approved by Cabinet in February 2012 and now on our website.

2.6 In respect of other planning documents such as Supplementary Planning Documents and Urban Design Frameworks, it is noted that there will be at least one period of public consultation prior to approval by Cabinet.

2.7 The procedures for planning applications follow relevant legislation and the series of advice notes available on our website.

2.8 A consultation summary will be prepared for publication with the final SCI.

### **3. ISSUES RAISED IN COMMENTS**

3.1 Appendix A summarises observations and objections received and the officer response in respect of them. In addition to those in the appendix, several respondents noted general support for the draft SCI.

3.2 In respect of policy issues, comments show an interest in the way that Council will engage on strategic issues and the methods of consultation. The support that Council can give for neighbourhood planning is also noted.

3.3 Comments on the process for considering planning applications mostly relate to how applications can be viewed online and how objectors can be heard. The Council has comprehensive systems in place which are continually being reviewed and improved where appropriate.

3.4 Overall it is considered that the draft SCI is fit for purpose and no amendments are required as a result of the consultation. Subject to comments from the Development Management Panel, Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet, the procedures and processes can be finalised to guide consultation on planning issues.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 It is recommended that Cabinet authorises the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning and Housing, in conjunction with the Chairman of the Development Management Panel and the Head of Planning Services, to finalise and approve the Statement of Community Involvement.

#### **Appendix A: Consultation Summary**

##### **Background Information**

The consultation document and full comments are available on the Council's consultation portal: <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/portal>

The Local Development Scheme is on the Council's website: <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/Planning/Planning%20Policy/Pages/Local%20Development%20Scheme.aspx>

**CONTACT OFFICER** - enquiries about this report to Paul Bland, Planning Services Manager (Policy) on 01480 388 430

**APPENDIX A  
CONSULTATION SUMMARY**

<b>Summary of Comments</b>	<b>District Council Response</b>
<b><u>Policy Issues</u></b>	
<p>Strategic scale proposals should be subject to public consultation before being included in a draft Local Plan. Council should publish a diary of meetings with developers and presentations on strategic scale issues.</p>	<p>Strategic scale proposals such as that at Alconbury Airfield will be outlined at the key principles and evidence stage prior to inclusion in the draft Local Plan. A diary of all meetings would not be practical.</p>
<p>Cooperation with neighbouring councils, including the County Council, is supported. The impact of neighbouring developments such as the proposed Great Haddon will need to be taken into account in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>Draft paragraph 4.2 recognises the need for cooperation. The duty to cooperate is a legal requirement under the Localism Act and the impact of neighbouring proposals will be considered in producing the Local Plan.</p>
<p>An Appendix should be included listing all the groups included on the policy consultation database. The process for being added to the list should be noted.</p>	<p>There is an example of another Council listing groups on their website (Mid Sussex) but most other Councils have not. The list would quickly become out of date so the website would need to be updated regularly. The list would have to be limited to key contacts rather than all individuals, but there could be issues of Data Protection. The SCI indicates how people can put themselves on the consultation database. It is not considered necessary to also have a public list of who is on it.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum should be added to the list of those consulted with for all policies that have implications for access, recreation and rights of way.</p>	<p>A relevant email address has been added by the consultee to the consultation database and therefore the Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum will receive automatic notifications of policy consultations.</p>
<p>Engagement other than through the online portal is to be encouraged. The Federation of Small Businesses would be happy to support the authority in business engagement, for example by facilitating business focus groups where local plan activities have a significant impact on the business environment i.e. town centre or major employment sites.</p>	<p>The SCI supports additional means of engagement. The support of the Federation of Small Businesses is welcomed.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Plans may be difficult to produce. Guidance and support may be needed.</p>	<p>Draft paragraph 5.3 recognises that Council will need to provide guidance and support.</p>

Summary of Comments	District Council Response
<b><u>Planning Application Issues</u></b>	
<p>Consultation with neighbours should be required prior to applications.</p> <p>Pre-application consultation for small applications as well as large can save time and money. Are applicants already being encouraged to consult with neighbours and the local town or parish councils as early as possible?</p> <p>Written materials exchanged under preliminary enquiries relevant to a later application should be publicly available.</p>	<p>The Localism Act only requires consultation on very large scale developments at the pre-application stage. The Council cannot require consultation with neighbours for all applications, although it is encouraged. The Council's Pre-Application Advice Notes specifically encourage prospective applicants to consult with any neighbours and the local Town/Parish Council. Routinely making enquiries public would discourage some early pre-application discussions. Many people, for many reasons, would rather their enquiry is not revealed in advance of the submission of an application and particularly during the early stages of a prospective proposal. Many enquiries are indeed not followed by applications.</p>
<p>Applications should be available to view online within 2 days of validation.</p>	<p>Since the recent introduction of the Electronic Document Management (EDM), applications are available to view within 2 days of the consultation/notification letters being sent out.</p>
<p>Viewing planning application files has recently been made slower by replacement of the 'interface'. This should be improved.</p>	<p>It is understood that the replacement of concern on the Public Access system was made last year when the system was upgraded. Although this makes some viewing slower, other aspects have been improved. The Public Access software is bought as a package.</p>
<p>Discharge of condition applications should be given a different type of reference number to distinguish them on the planning portal.</p>	<p>Recent improvements to ensure that all documents displayed on the website are clearly described will ensure that it is easy to distinguish each conditions discharge submission from other documents.</p>
<p>It would be useful to have all 'consultee' responses to planning applications showing as is being done in Kings Lynn and West Norfolk.</p>	<p>All comments received have been displayed on Public Access on the Council's website since the beginning of this year. A specific system for statutory consultees may be possible at some time in the future as the Council is continually working to improve the experience for those viewing and responding to applications.</p>
<p>Stakeholders should be notified whenever there are significant changes to application plans that have already been consulted on.</p>	<p>Reconsultation/renotification is carried out if significant changes to a proposal are to be considered.</p>
<p>Consultation should be thoroughly carried out. More</p>	<p>The views of local residents are given very careful consideration and are</p>



<p>attention should be given to the views of local residents. Comments should not be readily overruled. Objectors should be made aware of their right to be heard at Development Management Panel. Guidance on rights to be heard could be included in District Wide or sent out with the annual Council tax bill.</p>	<p>summarised and considered in the officer report published on the website for all applications. When an application is referred to the Development Management Panel, objectors are sent a letter advising them of their right to address the Panel. The 'Your Right to Speak at Development Management Panel on planning applications' leaflet is available on the Planning Applications page on the Council's website. The Council no longer produces a District Wide magazine and it is not considered appropriate to include advice on this detailed matter with the annual Council tax bill.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Comments</b></p>	<p><b>District Council Response</b></p>
<p><b><u>Monitoring and Review Issues</u></b></p>	
<p>Paragraph 7.2 should describe what is considered a suitable manner for private consultations to be carried out, as it states that Council's approach may be amended where private consultation has been carried out in a suitable manner and the results made publicly available. .</p>	<p>It may be that the Council will not need to carry out consultation on an issue which has already been consulted on. The suitability of private consultation will need to be considered in relation to the complexity of the issue. The public availability of the results is important and the level of public response will help inform whether there is a need for additional consultation.</p>

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

(SOCIAL WELL-BEING)  
(ECONOMIC WELL-BEING)  
(ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)

3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2012  
5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012  
10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012

## WORK PLAN STUDIES (Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members 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 Overview and Scrutiny remits. Details of ongoing studies being undertaken by the two other Panels are set out in the attached Appendix.

2.3 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
Gypsy & Traveller Welfare	To examine existing gypsy and traveller sites in the District with a view to informing any future Planning Policy on sites.	Social Well-Being	Report requested for submission to a future meeting. Following consultation with the Chairman, agreed that the study would proceed once Government guidance has been issued on future provision requirements.	To be determined.
Leisure Centre Financial Performance and Employment Structure	To consider the future business model for "One Leisure" and the development of a methodology for the quantification of Social Value.	Economic Well-Being and Social Well-Being	Working Group met on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2012. Agreed to split into two sub groups to investigate each area.  Sub-Group looking at the 'Social Methodology' will meet once desktop research has been undertaken by Officers.  The Sub-Group looking at the future business model are currently scoping their work. Informal Meeting to be held shortly.	Joint Working Group
CCTV Provision within the District	To review the impact of the Council's proposal to cease the CCTV service with effect from April 2012.	Social Well-Being	A report on changes to the CCTV service in 2012/13 will be submitted to the Panel in November 2012.	Whole Panel Study.

A14 improvements.	To review the implications to the local economy of the decision not to proceed with the A14 improvements.	Economic Well-Being	A presentation on developments relating to the A14 will be arranged for all Members of the Council at an appropriate time.	Whole Panel Study.
Consultation Processes	To assist the Corporate Team with its review of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy.	Social Well-Being	Panel to appoint Members to undertake this work at its June 2012 meeting.	Working Group.
The Council's Relationship with the Voluntary Sector	To examine the proposed future relationship between the Council and the Voluntary Sector.	Social Well-Being.	Requested for investigation by the Economic Well-Being Panel. A report on Voluntary Sector Funding for 2013/14 onwards will be submitted to the Panel in June. Panel to determine how to proceed with their investigations at this meeting.	To be determined.
Review of Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire	To undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire.	Social Well-Being	Draft proposals considered by Panel in March 2012. The proposals will be subject to a six month consultation period with Town and Parish Councils and Partners once agreement to consult has been obtained from the Cabinet. Cabinet will be considering the proposals at	Working Group

			their April 2012 meeting.	
District Council Support Services	To review the services provided by the District Councils Document Centre to form a view on its efficiency and cost effectiveness.	Economic Well-Being	Working Group has formed two sub groups to consider:- a) the financial cost of the service; and b) the operation of the service  Meeting of the full Working Group held on 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.	Working Group

#### FUTURE STUDIES

Business Rates	To consider the implications to the Authority from changes to Business Rates.	Economic Well-Being	Update circulated by Head of Financial Services. Formal report to be submitted to the Panel later in the year when a better understanding of the potential impact of the Localisation of Business Rates is available.	To be determined.
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Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
19/05/10	<b><u>Corporate Plan – Growing Success</u></b> Councillors P M D Godfrey and D Harty appointed to the Corporate Plan Working Group.	Quarterly reports submitted to all Overview & Scrutiny Panels.		
13/07/2010	<b><u>Great Fen Project</u></b> The Panel attended a tour of the Great Fen.		The Director of Environmental and Community Services advised that updates on the progress of the project would be presented to the Panel at 6 monthly intervals.	July 2012
08/11/11	Presentation received and the Panel requested further regular updates.			
7/12/10	<b><u>Environment Strategy</u></b> The Panel received a review of the Environment Strategy.	Members requested a further review in 12 months time.	The Panel received an update at their November 2011 meeting when the Carbon Management Report was received. Further updates will be presented to the Panel when they become available.	November 2012
13/09/11	<b><u>Planning Implications of the Enterprise Zone</u></b> The Panel has requested further information to be circulated on the planning implications following the successful bid for an Enterprise Zone in the District.		A presentation will be delivered by the Head of Planning Services in due course.	July 2011
14/09/10	<b><u>Tree Strategy Working Group</u></b> To form a strategy in conjunction with the Tree Officers for the retention and planting of trees.	A series of Working Group meetings have been held. A draft policy is being		To confirmed

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
		drawn up by Brian Ogden for submission to the group for comment.		
<p data-bbox="129 395 232 424">13/9/11</p> <p data-bbox="129 598 232 627">10/1/12</p>	<p data-bbox="315 363 779 392"><b><u>Waste Collection Working Group</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="315 432 1010 563">A Working Group appointed to look into waste collection policies. The Working Group comprises of Councillors Baker, Godfrey, Harlock and Hyams, and Mr M Phillips.</p> <p data-bbox="315 603 1010 762">Following consideration of the Advanced Waste Partnership report it was agreed that the work of the partnership could overtake the findings of the working group, therefore the Working Group study should be put on hold.</p>	<p data-bbox="1032 432 1559 496">First meeting held on 6/10/11 with Mr E Kendall – Head of Operations.</p> <p data-bbox="1032 603 1559 699">The study of the Waste Collection Working Group has been postponed and will be reviewed in due course.</p>	<p data-bbox="1581 432 1995 528">The Group established their terms of reference and a way forward for their study.</p>	
<p data-bbox="129 906 232 935">8/11/11</p> <p data-bbox="129 1109 232 1137">6/1/12</p>	<p data-bbox="315 807 925 871"><b><u>Design Principles for Future Developments Working Group</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="315 879 1010 1070">A Working Group appointed to examine the matters raised during the Panel's discussions on Loves Farms, St Neots. The Working Group comprising of Councillors Banerjee, Curtis, Godfrey and Harlock will make recommendations to inform future developments.</p> <p data-bbox="315 1110 1010 1270">First meeting of the Working Group held. Councillor Mrs M Banerjee appointed rapporteur. It was agreed that the Working Group needed an overview of the site from a planning officer and this should be followed by a site visit.</p>	<p data-bbox="1032 1110 1559 1238">Working Group met with the Head of Planning Services on 26<sup>th</sup> January to receive an overview of the Loves Farm site.</p> <p data-bbox="1032 1310 1559 1437">Site visit held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March followed by a debrief on 21<sup>st</sup> March. A further meeting to be arranged with the Head of Planning Services.</p>	<p data-bbox="1581 1110 1995 1206">Site visit with Jennie Parsons and Mike Huntington to be arranged.</p>	



Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
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5/12/11	<p><b><u>Drainage Issues</u></b></p> <p>Consideration was given to a petition in respect of sewage overflow at Windsor Road and Main Street, Yaxley. Members were advised that the Executive Leader had written to Anglian Water expressing his concern over flooding issues in Yaxley and a response had been received. Although Anglian Water's response addressed the specific flooding incident, Members were not satisfied with Anglian Water's programme to prevent problems from occurring and their response to sewerage system failures.</p>	<p>Given the lack of powers that the Council has to influence Anglian Water, Members requested that the Leader of the Council writes to the Environment Agency to highlight their concerns and to ask it to ensure it used its enforcement powers where merited.</p>	<p>The Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) will follow this concern up with the Environment Agency. The Executive Leader has responded to Anglian Water to state that he is not satisfied with their programme to prevent problems from occurring and their response to sewerage system failures.</p>	
9/2/12	<p>The Panel received a presentation from the County Council's Flood and Water Manager on Flood Risk Management. During the presentation the issue of flooding in Yaxley was raised by Members and officers undertook to investigate this matter further.</p>	<p>C Allen, Project and Assets Manager has met with Anglian Water to discuss issues and will continue to pursue this matter.</p>		
13/3/12	<p>Ward Members attended an onsite meeting with C Allen, Project and Assets Manager who subsequently alerted Anglian Water to a problem with the surface and foul water sewerage system.</p>	<p>Having reiterated concerns over the long running nature of the problem, Members suggested that a letter be sent to the Environment Agency to highlight the ongoing issues.</p>	<p>The Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) to be asked to pursue this issue further.</p>	

Panel Date	Decision	Action	Response	Date
10/1/12	<p><b><u>Land Use for Agricultural Purposes in the Context of Planning Policies and its Contribution to the Local Economy.</u></b></p> <p>The Panel considered the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy and raised concerns over the lack of reference to local agriculture in planning policies.</p>	<p>A Working Group comprising of Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, P M D Godfrey, G J Harlock, D Harty and Mr D Hopkins has been appointed to review the lack of promotion and protection of land for agricultural purposes and to ensure that local agriculture is included in the new local plan.</p>	<p>A meeting will be held with the Planning Service (Policy) Manager on 9<sup>th</sup> February to discuss issues and establish a way forward for the Working Group.</p>	<p><b>February 2012</b></p>
9/2/12	<p>The Working Group had their first meeting and identified a methodology and way forward for the study.</p>	<p>Meeting scheduled with Planning Service Manager (Policy) on 12<sup>th</sup> March to receive an overview of relevant planning policies.</p>		
13/3/12	<p>The Chairman reported on a successful meeting which was attended by Mr David Felce, Environmental Farmer.</p>	<p>An invitation was extended to the Panel to visit Mr Felce's farm.</p>	<p>A date is awaited from Mr Felce for the Panel's visit. Further Working Group meetings to be arranged with the Planning Service Manager (Policy) and Paul Hammett, Environmental Adviser, NFU.</p>	

## Decision Digest

Edition 123

**Monthly summary of the decisions taken at meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Overview & Scrutiny and other Panels for the period 27 February to 23 March 2012.**

### **CASTLE HILL HOUSE – FORMER HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES – HIGH STREET, HUNTINGDON**

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and the Cabinet have considered the options that the Council had previously considered for Castle Hill House, High Street, Huntingdon and the details of an offer which had been received for the property.

Having been advised of the financial implications for the Council and the Medium Term Plan of the offer, the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has considered the assessment of Barker Storey Matthews on the local property market and the prospect for change.

During their deliberations on the matter, the Panel has discussed a range of issues including the terms of the current offer, changes in property values, and the cost of refurbishing the building. The Panel has also queried the difference between the offer and the figures included in the MTP for the sale of Castle Hill House and the timing of the decision to put the building on the market. Having also considered other uses of the building, the Panel agreed that the Cabinet should be recommended to accept the offer for Castle Hill House, Main Street, Huntingdon on the terms described to them.

The Cabinet has subsequently requested the Managing Director (Resources) to instruct the Council's Agents to contact the potential purchaser and to advise them that the Council will accept an offer of £625,000 for Castle Hill House but that this excludes the hardstanding area of land east of the property. Should this figure be unacceptable, the Cabinet agreed that the Council's agents should continue to market Castle Hill House with the aim of attracting potential interest locally and from outside the area.

Having discussed the potential to return the building to residential use, the Cabinet has authorised the Managing Director (Resources) to instruct another agent to market the property as a residential dwelling.

The outcome of the Cabinet's deliberations was reported to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and the Chairman reported that he had raised his concerns with the Executive Leader about the principle of items being submitted to the Cabinet at short notice.

### **OFFICER EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURE RULES**

Having been acquainted with the requirements of paragraph 4(e) of the Office Employment Procedure Rules, the Cabinet has confirmed that there was no material or well-founded objection to the Senior Officers' Panel's

decision to make the post of Head of Housing Services redundant and the consequential deletion of the post from the establishment.

### LOCATION OF THE CALL CENTRE

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) has considered a range of options for the future location of the District Council's Call Centre and the key developments which had taken place since their previous deliberations. Members have noted that the Council has now reached a licence agreement to let part of the Civic Suite to another public sector organisation which has enabled the Council to meet targets in the Medium Term Plan.

The Panel has discussed the investigations which have been undertaken to establish whether there could be any benefit achieved from co-locating the District Council's Call Centre with the Huntingdonshire Customer Service Centre. Members have questioned the validity of the comparison with Harlow District Council and suggested that other co-located facilities could have been found that would have better facilitated this decision. The Panel has also discussed whether there would be any opportunity to achieve staff savings from co-locating the services and have noted that benchmarking of the service is undertaken on a regular basis.

In considering the contents of the report, the Panel has welcomed the decision to prioritise improving the Council's resilience and has suggested that as a professional exercise has established the necessity to have disaster recovery arrangements located in a separate urban area, this should include improving resilience at Pathfinder House. In this respect, the Panel has received an update on the work which was being undertaken to review the Council's existing Business

Continuity Strategy and the Chairman will discuss with the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Panel, the best way for the Economic Well-Being Panel to contribute to the review.

Members are of the view that customer service quality is of paramount importance, that the call centre works extremely well and that there are no apparent advantages to changing the current arrangements. With this in mind, the Panel has congratulated the Head of Customer Services on the achievement of a Customer Service Excellence award and has recommended that the Council should seek to negotiate a new lease for Speke House for up to 5 years with a break after 3 years.

Subsequently, the Cabinet has agreed to the Call Centre being retained at Speke House. The Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) also has been authorised to negotiate the best terms available for a new lease for Speke House, before its expiry in June 2013.

### BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – HUNTINGDON

Arrangements to establish a Business Improvement District for Huntingdon has been supported by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being). A Business Improvement District (BID) is an area within which local businesses agree through a local ballot to pay an additional charge on their business rates. The BID will focus on the town centre and is essentially the area circumscribed by the ring road which covers 369 businesses across the retail and office sectors.

The Panel has asked about the operating arrangements for the collection of the BID levy and queried how the success of the BID will be measured. Members noted that if the

Business Plan was not convincing, this would be reflected in the outcome of the BID Ballot. In addition all projects would have their own critical success factors and it would be possible to dissolve the BID at any time if local businesses do not consider that it is delivering anticipated outcomes.

The Panel has discussed the funding which had been provided by the District Council to assist with the development phase of the BID and whether funding would be available to assist other towns if they wished to adopt a similar approach. The Economic Development Manager has explained that Huntingdon Town Partnership had evolved to such an extent that the District Council funding only amounts to 40% of its overall budget and therefore the town is best placed to become a Business Improvement District. Members have also commented on the changing face of high street shopping and the likelihood that town centres will become more leisure orientated and a focal point for the community in future years.

On the question of car parking being identified as a key priority area for BID activities, Members have been advised that it was possible for the BID to use its funding to reimburse the local authority to provide for free car parking. However, in other areas this had been considered but not pursued.

Having been advised of the Panel's views, the Cabinet has authorised the Head of Customer Service to enter into the BID Levy Operating Agreement required in order to meet the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2003. With regard to the 14 premises/areas under the Council's ownership that will be entitled to a vote in the local ballot, the Managing Director, Communities, Partnerships and Projects has been authorised to cast any votes to which

the District Council is entitled after consultation with the Executive Leader.

In discussing the potential impact an additional cost will have on small businesses and charities Executive Councillors have been advised that, subject to the agreement of those liable, the BID Regulations 2004 will allow for this vulnerable group to be excluded from the charge.

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE RENEWABLES INFRASTRUCTURE FRAMEWORK (CRIF) AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND (CEF)**

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) has received a presentation from the Head of Environmental Management on the CRIF and the CEF. This helped in the understanding of what is a complex, technical subject.

Members welcomed the news that solar panels had been installed at Eastfield House. These will provide the Council with electricity, a supply for external use and a significant return on its investment. It is recognised that developers are likely to challenge the inclusion of renewable energy policies in the Local Plan. It is, however, accepted that the Council needs to have in place policy provisions to ensure that CEF income is retained locally.

With specific reference to wind power, it is suggested that the Council should try to influence where wind turbines are located. Under the new National Planning Policy Framework the Council should be able to specify the area where wind farms are more suitable. In making this recommendation it is recognised that there is no upper limit that can be imposed on the amount of wind turbines in an area. Huntingdonshire, at present is dependent on wind and photovoltaic

power for its renewable sources of energy. It will be necessary to make use of the full range of other options for renewables to fill the gaps. Having recently visited Waterbeach Waste Management Park, the Panel recommends that the options should include deriving energy from waste.

The CEF presents commercial opportunities both for public sector organisations and commercial businesses. It is significantly cheaper to install renewable measures during construction than retrofit existing properties. A key question will be developer contribution rates. They should not be set at such a level that developers only provide on-site renewable measures. Given that Huntingdonshire has the greatest renewable potential in Cambridgeshire, it is possible that the District could be a net beneficiary of CEF funds. There is the possibility that the CEF could require considerable management and monitoring. The Panel recommends that the Cabinet controls the arrangements that are put in place for these purposes to ensure they do not proliferate.

As the CRIF and CEF is a complex, technical subject, the Panel strongly recommends that a clear communication strategy is developed for it. This should comprise simplified messages and stress the cost-savings that can be obtained from renewables rather than carbon emissions. It might also make reference to energy conservation as this appears to be missing from current documents.

At the conclusion of their discussions on this Item, the Panel recommended the Cabinet to –

- ◆ note the work undertaken, formally to sign off the CRIF/CEF projects and to

endorse the future approach to energy and renewables;

- ◆ delegate authority to the Managing Directors to carry forward work on energy and renewables in the District, to deliver the best possible outcomes for Business, the Community and Public Sector, within the Framework of the CRIF, and;
- ◆ note that the Managing Directors will consider the merits of setting up a CEF.

Subsequently, these recommendations have been approved by the Cabinet. Executive Councillors have concurred with the Panel that the Council should try to influence the location of wind farms. In addition, the Cabinet has stated that the delivery of wind farms should not be restricted to private developers and that CRIF should recognise the commercial opportunities for public sector organisations.

#### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE FUTURE TRANSPORT STUDY**

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) has appointed Councillor Mrs M Banerjee to a joint Scrutiny Review of Cambridgeshire Future Transport which has been established to find solutions to Cambridgeshire's transport and accessibility challenges.

#### **GREATER CAMBRIDGE – GREATER PETERBOROUGH LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP: INCORPORATION AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

The Cabinet has supported the incorporation of the Greater Cambridge – Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects) and the

Head of Legal and Democratic Services have been authorised to complete the appropriate legal documentation and processes. Corporate membership will expand the Board's remit and enable it to enter into contracts.

### **CONSULTATION PROCESSES – AN UPDATE**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) has received an update on progress on its completed study on the Council's consultation and engagement processes. The Panel will appoint Members to assist with a review of the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy at its June 2012 meeting.

### **VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING**

At the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) the Panel for Social Well-Being has agreed to examine the proposed future relationship between the Council and the Voluntary Sector. Of particular concern to the Economic Well-Being Panel is the potential resource implications associated with administering the scheme and the decision making process employed to determine future applications for funding. The Panel will decide how to undertake their investigation in June, during their deliberations on a report by the Head of Environmental and Community Health Services on Voluntary Sector Funding.

### **POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) received details about the role and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner who will be elected on 15th November 2012. The Commissioner will be responsible overall for crime and disorder matters

across the Cambridgeshire area. A Police and Crime Panel will be established to scrutinise the role and performance of the Commissioner, discussions for which have commenced between the Police Authority and Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils. The Panel has expressed strong concerns that Huntingdonshire is not being represented at these meetings and has requested the Executive Councillor for Healthy and Active Communities' attendance at their April 2012 meeting to explain why this is so.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS WORKING GROUP**

The outcome of a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Forums Working Group was reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being). The Panel has endorsed the Working Group's proposals in respect of revised boundaries, composition, voting and constitutional terms for the proposed Local Joint Committees. It is intended that a consultation exercise will commence with the Town and Parish Councils and Partners shortly.

### **ONE LEISURE WORKING GROUP**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) was updated on the outcome of a meeting of the One Leisure Working Group. The Working Group has split into two Sub-Groups. The Social Sub-Group will investigate the development of a methodology for the quantification of social value and the Economic Sub-Group will investigate the business model to be employed by One Leisure.

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

Following concerns expressed by Members of the Overview and Scrutiny



Panel (Social Well-Being) over the lack of communications about the future of Housing Services, the Executive Councillors for Customer Services and Strategic Planning and Housing have been requested to attend the Panel's April 2012 meeting.

### **ANNUAL ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

The Development Management Panel has reviewed the activity undertaken by the Enforcement Team during 2011 and progress achieved against objectives identified for the service in 2010.

92% of recorded site visits had been undertaken within 10 working days underlining the importance now placed on making an initial visit shortly after a complaint had been made.

Regarding priorities for 2012, it was agreed that these should be –

- ❖ to focus on quality outcomes where unacceptable breaches were identified; and
- ❖ to maximise the efficiency of the enforcement service.

The Panel also has been made aware of the potential impact of the Localism Act on enforcement provisions but assured that these would not affect either the 2012 priorities or case loads.