

**REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS :
HUNTINGDONSHIRE ENTERPRISE FORUM**

(Report by Head of Policy)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the appointment of an Executive Councillor to the Huntingdonshire Enterprise Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council supports the Huntingdonshire Enterprise Agency (HEA) to provide support and advice to start-up and small businesses in Huntingdonshire. Business support for small to medium sized enterprise is provided by Business Link; delivered locally by Cambridgeshire Business Services Limited.

- 2.2 HEA is an operating division of the Cambridgeshire Enterprises Services, a company limited by guarantee. To ensure operational viability and long-term continuity Cambridgeshire Enterprise Services has merged with Cambridge Business Services, under the Business Link umbrella. To maintain a separate, local identities and the "ring fencing" of financial contributions from sponsoring organisations, four "local enterprise forums" have been established across the County. The Huntingdonshire Enterprise Forum will act as the steering group for the HEA and its role will include –

- ◆ Guiding the provision of start-up and small businesses in Huntingdonshire
- ◆ Ensuring that the services of HEA are co-ordinated with those of other business organisations
- ◆ Promoting a high and positive profile for the HEA.

- 2.3 The Council has been invited to nominate a Member to the Enterprise Forum. The Council's Economic Development Service will provide an advisory role to the Forum. The objectives and activities of the Forum and the HEA will support the achievement of the Local Economy Strategy and the emerging Community Strategy.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet are requested to nominate an Executive Councillor to represent the District Council on the Huntingdonshire Enterprise Forum.

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Background Papers: Correspondence from Huntingdonshire Enterprise Agency, held by the Economic Development Manager, Policy Division.