

ADOPTION OF ROADS AND SEWERS WORKING GROUP
(Report of the Working Group)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Adoption of Roads and Sewers Working Group met on 22nd October 2007 when Councillors Mrs C A Godley and P K Ursell were present. A Roberts was in attendance.
- 1.2 Councillor Ursell declared a personal interest as his employer is a developer.
- 1.3 Councillor Mrs Godley has been appointed as the Working Group's rapporteur.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery) previously has identified problems with adopting roads and sewers in the District as an area that should be subjected to study. Accordingly a Working Group was established comprising Councillors J D Ablewhite, Mrs C A Godley, D A Giles and P K Ursell and tasked with undertaking a study on "the process of adopting estate roads and sewers with an aim to put measures in place that could streamline the process and make the procedures more transparent, initially by an investigation of introducing a District-wide register of un-adopted roads and sewers".

3. STUDY PLAN

- 3.1 The Working Group has discussed how the study should proceed. As a result it has been decided to approach those listed below with the aim of obtaining their views and experiences of the adoption process:
 - the District Council's Planning section;
 - the District Council's Building Control section;
 - Anglian Water;
 - the Federation of Home Builders;
 - the Chartered Institute of Builders;
 - developers; and
 - local architects.
- 3.2 In addition, it has been agreed to take up a suggestion by Councillor L M Simpson to carry out a site visit at Falcon Drive, Huntingdon. It also has been decided to visit a site where development is planned, possibly involving developer representatives.
- 3.3 The County Council is an obvious omission from the above list of potential consultees. There is, however, a long standing agreement that the District Council will not scrutinise County Council services and *vice versa*. The study will, therefore, concentrate on the adoption of sewers. This is often (but not always) a necessary precursor to road adoption. Nevertheless, it is the intention to compile evidence on current road adoption procedures. Depending on the findings, this

evidence could be submitted to the County Council for comment and/or action.

3.4 The Working Group has been specifically requested to consider the feasibility and utility of introducing a register of unadopted roads and sewers in the District; however:

- the County Council has a statutory duty to maintain a register of adopted roads:
- a register of unadopted roads would very quickly become out of date as new developments are completed; and
- maintaining a register would have resource implications.

Members recognise the importance of the principle that underlies the purpose of such a register, which is that new roads that need to be adopted do not get lost or forgotten. It is considered preferable to ensure that the necessary procedures are in place so that roads and sewers are always adopted as soon as they become eligible under the respective statutory procedures. Despite this, should the evidence suggest a register of unadopted roads would prove useful, this matter will be revisited.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Adoption of Roads and Sewers Working Group has held an initial meeting to plan its programme of study. It will be apparent that extensive work will be involved. Given this and in the absence of any other factors that might necessitate an earlier completion, Members have set themselves the goal of completing their work by August 2008.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Notes of meeting of the Adoption of Roads and Sewers Working Group.

Report and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Delivery).

Contact Officer: A Roberts
☎ 01480 388009