

**A QUALITY CHARTER FOR GROWTH IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Faced with huge pressures to build new housing in Cambridgeshire and achieve much higher standards than in the past, Cambridgeshire Horizons has been working with a range of partners on the draft of a 'Charter For Quality Growth in Cambridgeshire'.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to consider the draft charter and indicate its willingness to sign up to the document.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The charter is the result of over a year's work by a top level group from the public, private and voluntary sectors on how to achieve higher standards in the new housing developments that are planned for Cambridgeshire.
- 2.2 The charter provides a simple prospectus for what major new housing developments in Cambridgeshire should aspire to provide.
- 2.3 It should be short so it can be read without having to wade through a mass of guidance or research, is compatible with other plans, is drawn up with the active support of different stakeholders, and is supported by local authorities, statutory agencies and hopefully major landowners and developers.
- 2.4 It essentially contains principles and parameters to guide growth with the aim of securing some common good.
- 2.5 When it is agreed and publicised the charter will provide a basis for helping communications with existing communities, equip councillors, officers and developers with a common language, and secure investment commitments from government agencies and public utilities.
- 2.6 The charter will be a working document which can be used as a reference point to check that agreed principles are being adhered to during the lifetime of a development.
- 2.7 In many respects Huntingdonshire District Council is already applying elements of this document to new developments within the District, through the use of its Design Guide.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Cabinet indicates its willingness to sign up to the document.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Quality Charter for Growth in Cambridgeshire Consultation Draft September 2007

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