OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL   **9 DECEMBER 2008**
(SERVICE SUPPORT)

**DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT DPD
(Report by HEAD OF PLANNNG SERVICES)**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council consulted on Issues and Options for the Development Control Policies DPD during May, June and July 2007 in conjunction with those for the Core Strategy to give stakeholders an initial picture of how the two documents would interrelate. Since then the Core Strategy has been given precedence leading to its submission in July 2008. With this in place the framework is now available in which to generate reasonable options for the Development Management DPD. The representations made on the Issues and Options Document have been taken into account in preparation of the attached document.

2 IMPACT OF NEW REGULATIONS

2.1 The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 came into force in June altering the procedures for public participation in the preparation of DPDs. The former Regulation 25 and 26 stages, commonly referred to as Issues and Options and Preferred Options, have been amalgamated into a single phase of ongoing public engagement in the development of any DPD. This amended Regulation 25 stage may encompass a variety of activities resulting in iterative changes to the proposed content of the DPD with no set time periods for consultation. This is expected to be the main phase of consultation and engagement where stakeholders are involved in the evolution of the DPD.

2.2 Submission arrangements have also been changed. Once the local authority is satisfied that there has been adequate public engagement in preparation of the DPD a Proposed Submission Document may be published with a formal consultation period of at least six weeks. Representations are invited on this which are intended to focus on issues of soundness, with the presumption that issues of content have been resolved through public participation under the amended Regulation 25 stage. Once the representations have been reviewed and summarised all documentation should be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

3   CONTENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS REPORT

3.1   The draft document sets out the Council's detailed policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire, complementing the strategic framework established in the Core Strategy. In many instances it also sets out reasonable alternatives on how the draft policies might be taken forwards.

3.2   At present the draft document contains policies promoting sustainable development, housing, prosperous communities and protecting and enhancing the environment. Through this document stakeholders will be invited to engage further with the Council on the range of policies proposed and their specific content.

3.3   Many of the draft policies have evolved from those in the Huntingdonshire Interim Planning Policy Statement (2007). The draft policies reflect the representations received during the Issues and Options consultation and the Initial Sustainability Appraisal. They have also been updated to reflect changes in national guidance.

4   NEXT STEPS

4.1   The Development Management DPD: Development of Options document and its accompanying sustainability report will be presented to Cabinet on 18 December. Further public engagement will take place from January 2009 with a wide range of stakeholders. The proposed submission DPD will not be published until after the Inspector's report into the Core Strategy has been received.

5   RECOMMENDATION

5.1   Members are recommended to note the contents of this report and forward any comments on the accompanying document to Cabinet.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Submission Core Strategy 2008
Development Control Policies DPD Issues and Options Report 2007
Strategic Housing Land Availability Study
Employment Land Review
Huntingdonshire Retail Study Update 2007
Huntingdonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Green Infrastructure Strategy – Cambridgeshire Horizons

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