

**SCRUTINY OF PARTNERSHIPS
(Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Panel with background information on the areas that fall within its responsibility before it commences scrutiny of Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership.

2. HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- 2.1 The Panel was advised at the last meeting that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act has introduced requirements for local authorities to scrutinise strategic partnership working. In Huntingdonshire the structure that appears at Appendix A has been adopted by the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership. The Strategic Partnership itself is to be held to account through the full Council. Following completion of the Democratic Structure Review each of the three new Scrutiny Panels has been given responsibility for scrutinising the Strategic Partnership's thematic groups. The Environmental Well-Being Panel will scrutinise the Environment and the Growth and Infrastructure thematic groups of the Strategic Partnership.

- 2.2 By way of background the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2028 is reproduced at Appendix B. This document contains outcomes and objectives that it is intended the thematic groups will work towards achieving. Each strategic theme has its own delivery plan. These identify measures and targets.

- 2.3 The precise mechanism through which scrutiny of the thematic groups will take place has yet to be finalised. It is suggested that a joint event involving representatives of Overview and Scrutiny and of the Strategic Partnership is held in order for both parties to understand each other better and to devise a way of working together. The delivery plans and progress towards their achievement will be a good starting point for scrutiny. These could form part of the discussions at the joint event.

- 2.4 In addition, Scrutiny Officers from all local authorities in Cambridgeshire have been planning a County-wide conference specifically on scrutiny of partnerships. This will be held on 7th September 2009. Further details appear at Appendix C. It will cover national developments in partnership scrutiny, the local picture and aims to identify issues that will form the basis of scrutiny subjects for all of the local authorities involved. The number of places available will be limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Scrutiny of the Strategic Partnership is one of the new roles that the Scrutiny Panels are taking on in the current Municipal Year. Members are invited to consider the attached documents as they relate to their remit and to discuss potential subjects and mechanisms through which scrutiny might proceed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2028.

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