
Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)

Report of the meeting held on 10th November 2009

Matters for Information

23. 10:10 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Panel has considered a report seeking the Council's support for the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign which aims to achieve a 10% reduction in UK carbon emissions in 2010. Members have noted that the campaign is in line with the Council's Carbon Management Plan, which identifies a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by the Council of 30% over the next five years.

The 10:10 campaign has been launched only recently and applies equally to businesses, community groups and individuals. Local authority support will provide a message to local residents about the importance of the campaign and the Panel therefore has informed the Cabinet that it endorsed the recommendations in the report for the Council to register its support for the 10:10 Climate Change Campaign and promote the principle throughout Huntingdonshire.

24. CAR PARKING REVIEW

The Panel has received a report on the findings of the Car Parking Working Party. Members have welcomed suggestions for the provision of further spaces at Mews Close, Ramsey and noted that the County Council are considering limiting parking at High Street, Ramsey. Members are concerned however about the County Council's intentions for parking at the new "Park & Ride" site for the guided bus way in St. Ives to be free of charge. The Panel considers that this could have a detrimental effect on town centre parking, as drivers may opt to use the free car park given its proximity to the town centre. The Panel is of the opinion that this could adversely affect car parking income and could also impact on the number of spaces available for users of the guided bus. The Panel therefore has invited the Cabinet to press the County Council to reconsider their decision to permit parking in the car park free of charge.

25. TRANSIT SITES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

The Panel has endorsed a report to be considered by the Cabinet on the requirement for provision to be made for travellers' transit sites. Members have acknowledged the evidence of need for a transit site in Huntingdonshire and suggested that a location be identified swiftly

so that effective action can be taken to address the number of unauthorised encampments in the District.

26. THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY REVIEW – STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Panel has been acquainted with the Council's suggested response to four growth scenarios proposed by the East of England Regional Assembly for the period up to 2031. This results from the need by EERA to extend the period of the current East of England Plan from 2021 by another 10 years.

Each of the scenarios propose growth in Huntingdonshire but the Panel agrees with a suggestion that the pace of growth should be restricted to the rate contained in the existing plan to 2021 (scenario 1). The other three scenarios propose faster rates of growth which are not considered sustainable having regard to the lack of employment opportunities locally, further traffic congestion and the inability of the local infrastructure to accommodate the projected rates of development.

27. HUNTINGDON WEST AREA ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

Following its consideration of the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan in April 2009, the Panel has endorsed the draft proposed submission document for Huntingdon West Area Action Plan. The Panel has reiterated its support for the redevelopment and regeneration of the area, although there is ongoing concern on the part of some Members over the highway implications of the proposals. The Panel has been informed that the modelling for the proposed new link road has taken into account the proposals for development, and the Highways Authority are satisfied that the proposed level of growth is sustainable.

The Cabinet has been informed that the Panel therefore has no specific comments on the Huntingdon West Area Action Plan submission document. (Copies of the action plan and statement of consultation have been circulated to Panel Members under separate cover – please bring them along to the Council meeting)

28. COUNTY-WIDE AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND TARIFF

The Panel has endorsed a report on the draft Cambridgeshire Integrated Development Programme which brings together the various documents available to identify infrastructure needs on a sub-regional basis. The Panel has noted that this exercise has been useful in determining strategic and local infrastructure along with the levels of tariff in viability terms that can be applied in Cambridgeshire and will be an essential tool to guide future development.

29. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - FORWARD PLAN

The Panel has been acquainted with details of the forward plan of forthcoming decisions prepared by the Leader of the Council.

30. WORKPLAN STUDIES

The Panel has been advised of progress made to date on its programme of studies. Members will be considering possible topics for future studies at their next meeting.

31. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) PROGRESS

The Panel has been advised of progress on issues that had been previously discussed.

32. SCRUTINY

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed the matters contained therein.

P M D Godfrey
Chairman