

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REMITS AND STUDIES
(Report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Members to plan their work programme and set out additional responsibilities that the Panels now have in terms of scrutinising strategic partnership working.

2. SCRUTINISING STRATEGIC / PARTNERSHIP WORK

- 2.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act introduced changes from April 2009 to secure effective scrutiny of strategic partnership working and of local area agreements. The thematic groups under the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership have been aligned to the terms of reference of scrutiny panels. The Environmental Well-Being Panel is responsible for the Environment, and Growth and Infrastructure thematic groups of the Strategic Partnership. The Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership itself is to be held to account through the full Council.

- 2.2 The Panel's remit also contains reference to the Council's corporate priorities and goals as they appear in the Corporate Plan. Specifically, this means that the Panel is responsible for scrutinising the Clean, Green and Attractive Place and Developing Sustainable Communities aims of the Council's corporate plan 'Growing Success'. The Panel also has the task of scrutinising the Managing Growth and Environmental Sustainability priorities of the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy (Cambridgeshire's Vision).

3. ENVIRONMENT THEMATIC GROUP

- 3.1 The Environment Forum aims to achieve the following:-

- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Efficient use of resources
- An environment that is protected and improved

It aims to achieve these by:-

Mitigate and adapt to climate change

- Increase energy efficiency
- Encourage renewable energy
- Reduce travel and emissions to air
- Adaptation to climate change

Efficient use of resources

- Encourage sustainable purchasing
- Efficient water use
- Make the best use of land
- Reduce waste

An environment that is protected and improved

- Reduce contaminated and polluted land
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and open space
- Protect and enhance urban and rural character
- Maintain a clean and safe Huntingdonshire

4. GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE THEMATIC GROUP

4.1 The Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group aims to achieve the following:-

- Sustainable patterns of growth and development
- Sufficient housing to meet future needs
- Appropriate business infrastructure to support sustainable growth of the economy and reduce out commuting
- An upgraded and managed transport network, including public transport to service existing and growing communities effectively and safely
- Enhanced market town centres that serve their surrounding area
- Appropriate flood risk management, sustainable water supply and sufficient provision of utilities, including the development of local renewable sources of energy
- Improved health, education/learning, training, community and leisure infrastructure and local and strategic open space through the appropriate provision of facilities to meet current and future needs
- New and upgraded homes and other buildings which are well designed, well maintained and contribute to lowering carbon emissions

It aims to achieve these by:-

Sustainable patterns of growth and development

- Ensure appropriate policies and plans are in place to meet the infrastructure needs
- Ensure effective and realistic delivery plans are in place

Sufficient housing to meet future needs

- Ensure an appropriate supply of new housing to at least meet RSS targets
- Increase supply of affordable housing (including key worker)
- To reduce the occurrence of homelessness
- Provide accommodation for gypsies and travellers as required by the emerging policy in the Regional Spatial Strategy

Appropriate business infrastructure to support sustainable growth of the economy and reduce out-commuting

- Ensure land, premises and infrastructure are available for the development of key sectors to support economic growth, including:
 - High value manufacturing
 - Environmental, science and technologies
 - High tech industries such as telecommunications
 - Creative industries

An upgraded and managed transport network, including public transport to service existing and growing communities effectively and safely

- Enhanced strategic highway capacity and safety
- Improved public transport
- Enhanced physical integration of bus/train/taxi/cycle/pedestrian services (including provision for people with mobility issues)
- Increased cycle and footway networks (particularly to key services in towns and villages)
- Develop improved access to services and facilities by community-based transport

Enhanced market town centres that serve their surrounding area

- Appropriate re-developed and new floor space to enable an improved mix of retail, leisure, commercial, cultural and public facilities
- Enhanced public realm
- Appropriate level of managed car parking

Appropriate flood risk management, sustainable water supply and sufficient provision of utilities including the development of local renewable sources of energy

- Appropriate flood risk management measures in place
- Develop capacity for renewable energy
- Sustainable water supply
- Develop utility provision including ICT (Broadband capacity)

Improved health, education/learning, training, community and leisure infrastructure and local and strategic open space through the appropriate provision of facilities to meet current and future needs

Provide appropriate:-

- cultural, leisure and community infrastructure
- local green, recreational and open space
- networked strategic green open space
- health and social care infrastructure
- life-long education/learning and training facilities

New and upgraded homes and other buildings which are well designed, well maintained and contribute to lowering carbon emissions

- Ensure the building of new homes and commercial/public premises comply to zero carbon standards by 2016 and Lifetime Home Standards
- Improve energy and water efficiency of existing homes, commercial and public buildings
- Ensure design and location of public and community services as far as possible reduce carbon emissions
- Well maintained/decent homes
- Conserved heritage assets

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Members are invited to consider the aims and objectives of the Environment Forum and Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group, and discuss possible subjects and mechanisms through which scrutiny might proceed.

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