

<b>Appendix 'A' What actions will be taken – Officer comments</b>	
	<b>OFFICER COMMENTS</b>
<b>LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE</b>	
<b>Priority 1: Preventing rural deprivation</b>	
Use OCSI (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion) data to develop and interpret the Cambridgeshire rural evidence base to influence how local services are provided in rural parishes.	No comment other than clarification regarding who will fund the work
Liaise with parish councils and attend rural community events (such as meetings and fairs) in order to raise awareness of fuel poverty, energy efficiency, grants for repairs and assistance available for vulnerable rural households.	District Council offices already attend a number of community events promoting energy efficiency measures.
Ensure each parish has at least one local service / meeting place that provides a 'social hub'.	Over the last 11 years the District Council has extensively invested via its grant aid budget to both the provision of and improvement to village meeting places (Village Hall's)
To achieve one new intervention in an agreed area of deprivation in each district.	The District Council via its 3 neighbourhood management programs is actively working in partnership with a variety of other agencies both statutory and voluntary on a number of interventions in areas of highest need within Huntingdonshire
Develop Neighbourhood Forums as a way of clustering parishes in rural areas in order to develop wider approaches to local issues and needs.	Neighbourhood forums have been established and are operational in Huntingdonshire.
<b>Priority 2: Building local homes for local people</b>	
Build relationships and gather best practice information from Rural 80 and Rural 50 local authorities on how they deliver affordable housing through all available methods, including Section 106 agreements.	No comment

Develop a Countywide set of principles to ensure effective development in rural communities on rural exception sites, in agreement with the Regional Spatial Strategy		Officers have with this proposal to meet a set of criteria prior to planning consent been issued.
. Rural proof District Local Development Frameworks to ensure rural housing provision is catered for and that it will aid rural community sustainability.		This is un-necessary as the LDF would have gone through a raft of sustainability tests before adoption
Continue to conduct an independent Housing Needs Survey where applicable to ascertain local needs and make people aware of the results.		The undertaking of surveys should be targeted at areas where evidence suggests that there may be a need, requires further investigation. Any undertaking of housing needs survey would require additional financial resources.
Set affordable rural housing development targets for rural exception sites.		Targets for rural housing may be acceptable and will probably be a subset of NI 155 – Number of new affordable homes built each year.
Continue to develop Cambridgeshire's Affordable Rural Housing service bringing together Local Authority Housing Providers (RSLs), Local Authorities and parish councils in order to address proven need in rural areas.		No comment
Explore the concept of Community Land Trusts for delivering affordable rural housing in Cambridgeshire.		Statutory agencies can release their land to housing associations for housing if in appropriate locations; this does not need to be done through a community land trust.
All statutory agencies to assess their own estates for land which could be released for the provision of affordable housing.		This is undertaken as a matter of course.

<b>Priority 3: Protecting and enhancing rural services</b>		
Monitor the change in provision of rural services by repeating the Rural Services Survey (last undertaken in 2007).		No comment other than clarification regarding who will fund the work
Build relationships and gather best practice information from Rural 80 and Rural 50 local authorities on how they are supporting reducing the decline in rural services.		No comment
Support multifunctional mobile service facilities, such as libraries, police, citizens advice bureau and health services, to work together to bring services to rural areas.		CCC already operate mobile library services in Huntingdonshire and the District Council via its service agreements with Hunts CAB and DISH financially support the provision of both outreach and home visiting advice services in Huntingdonshire.
Support communities with saving essential rural services that are under threat.		No Comment
Provide support to community groups / parish councils for widening the use of existing buildings (e.g. village halls, churches, libraries, etc.).		As previously stated over the last 11 years the District Council has extensively invested via its Capital Grant Aid budget to both the provision of and improvement to village meeting places (Village Halls)
<b>Priority 4: Providing access to local healthcare</b>		
NHS Cambridgeshire to promote local service provision in order to allay fears.		No comment
Work with parish councils and other community groups to identify gaps in local service provision and consider what services could be provided.		The District Council along with other Cambridgeshire District Authority's have already commissioned Cambs ACRE to work with Parish Councils to undertake parish plans (statements) that should identify any service provision gaps.

<b>Priority 5: Widening transport options</b>		
Undertake a consultation to understand attitudes towards public transport.		For the vast majority of rural residents, the car is the only option and despite the objectives of the rural strategy will remain so.
Rural proof new Local Transport Plan to ensure that it reflects local rural needs.		The wording used to a certain extent implies that other options will be available to all, for the vast majority of rural residents, the car is the only option and despite the objectives of the rural strategy will remain so.
Support the development and implementation of accessibility action plans in the LTP priority action areas, informed by a robust evidence base and genuine stakeholder participation.		Developing accessibility action plans is an LTP objective but it is very unlikely that funding will be available to implement fully as elements will not be affordable.
Roll out of a Demand Responsive Transport scheme across Cambridgeshire and evaluate its success.		This statement implies that funding is in place to make it happen this is not the case. Developing a demand responsive scheme is an LTP objective but it is very unlikely as elements will not be affordable.
Map community transport provision in each District in order to identify gaps and opportunities for integration of services.		Mapping of community transport provision is ongoing and been undertaken by CCC.
Encourage cycling and walking between rural communities by making footpaths and bridleways suitable for everyday, year round use—perhaps by introducing a network of ‘inter village routes’ that are off road but surfaced (and possibly lit) in such a way that make cycling and walking possible at all times.		HDC and CCC have a current priority list of 30 rural cycling projects across Huntingdonshire but in reality a budget to only take the top 5 forward. In reality this is an initiative that has little hope of delivery.

<b>Priority 6: Supporting and strengthening local communities</b>		
Co-ordinate a training programme for all parish councils that supports the increased use of the Well-being Power.		No comment this would be an issue for Parish Councils to finance themselves.
Support parish councils to own and run community assets through the Well-being Power.		No Comment
Support and encourage parishes to achieve Quality Parish status.		No Comment
Support and encourage the development and delivery of Community Led Plans by ensuring appropriate mechanisms at all levels for responding to actions identified.		As stated previously the District council along with other Cambridgeshire District authority's have already commissioned Cambs ACRE to work with Parish Councils to undertake parish plans (statements) that should identify service provision gaps. The reporting procedure for community led planning is via the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership.
Provide training and support for local people to develop the community leaders of the future.		This work is undertaken already e.g. How your Council works course operated in Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Neots.
<b>ECONOMIC WELLBEING</b>		
<b>Priority 1: Improving employment opportunities</b>		
Encourage specialist business advice for self-employed people at all stages of work to gain skills and develop their business.		The District Council is already working with a range of agencies and organisations providing support & advice to individuals who are or are considering establishing a self-employed business.
Ensure full allocation of the funding available through the Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme in order to increase land-based businesses.		There needs to be better publicity of the funding programme. Additionally the reporting and monitoring requirement for the Fens Adventures Programme are disproportionate to the level of funding provided and as funding is paid in arrears creates major obstacles to small business wishing to take advantage of the funding programme.

Attract a wider range and larger number of businesses to set up and expand in rural Cambridgeshire.	No comment
Encourage the development of rural workspaces in appropriate locations by ensuring that appropriate references are made in Local Development Frameworks.	No Comment
Encourage the growth of home based businesses.	No Comment
Investigate the potential for reduced business rates as a means of encouraging rural business growth.	Part of the DRR scheme applies to rural properties. The District Council already provides mandatory relief (50% where applicable) The District Council have the power to 'top up' the relief and the council bears 75% of the cost of the top ups. The authority already grants 100% relief to all rural Post Offices. Any additional increase in granting discretionary relief would require an MTP bid.
Influence decision makers to draw attention to the consequences of digital exclusion.	No Comment
<b>Priority 2: Maintaining and enhancing market towns as essential service hubs</b>	
To increase support for tourism in market towns through local farm diversification and business development.	Officers whilst supporting these aims consider it necessary that a diversity of business and local supply chains are required to ensure the sustainability of market towns in addition to tourism and farm diversification.
Produce a master plan for each market town.	Clarification would be required as to what such a master plan would cover that is not already been done? Who would undertake and finance the master plan?

<b>Priority 3: Improving skills through education and training</b>		
Support initiatives which increase qualification attainment levels (both higher and basic skills) in sectors where there are emerging employment opportunities.		No comment
Work with rural employers to improve the skills of their workforce, in order to equip them for the business challenges of the future.		This can be increased by the promotion of work based learning.
Encourage collaboration between businesses and further education facilities to develop apprenticeships with the intention of encouraging young people to stay in rural Cambridgeshire.		This work is already ongoing via the Cambridgeshire Learning Partnership's established in each District Council in Cambridgeshire
<b>LAND AND ENVIRONMENT</b>		
<b>Priority 1: Making the most of Cambridgeshire's unique landscape</b>		
Develop a project where parishes are supported to create green infrastructure plans.		No comment other than clarification regarding who will fund the work
Support communities to develop projects that increase biodiversity and access.		No comment other than clarification regarding who will fund the work
<b>Priority 2: Mitigating the impact of climate change</b>		
Work with parish councils to increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to allow them to lead communities in making a difference.		The District Council already provides extensive information direct to residents, and parish councils.
Undertake Cambridgeshire specific scenario planning on the effects of peak oil and peak water on rural communities, using existing projection models.		Support but have major concerns regarding 'Peak Water' this must deal with both abstraction and usage for both agricultural and residential requirements.
Encourage businesses to take up renewable energy schemes, green technologies and energy efficiency measures.		No Comment

<b>Priority 3: Ensuring sympathetic development</b>	
Investigate the use of Village Design Statements as a mechanism for influencing decisions on design and development so as to respect the local identity.	This would only be appropriate in village locations where substantial development is proposed.
<b>Priority 4: Promoting Cambridgeshire's food</b>	
Develop a 'Cambridgeshire Food Policy' to enhance local food supply chains and encourage stronger loyalty to local food production.	No comment
Encourage retailers and local businesses to promote and source local produce	No Comment
Continue support for projects that localise local food and farming such as community orchards, farmers markets and community food projects.	The promotion of farmers markets and community food project is undertaken already.