

**THE REVOCATION OF THE REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 14th September 2010, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered a report by the Head of Planning Services on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the implications for strategic planning in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.

2. DELIBERATIONS

- 2.1 The Panel was encouraged to note that the District Council is one of a minority of local planning authorities that has an adopted Core Strategy which sets out a positive and robust framework to deliver sustainable development. Furthermore, the strategy has been tested at a recent public inquiry and found by the Planning Inspector to be sound. The Panel was somewhat relieved that the ambitious targets for development mooted by the now defunct East of England Regional Assembly for the review of the East of England Plan to 2031 have now been abandoned. However Members have noted that with the guidance from the Secretary of State calling for local planning authorities to identify a 15 years supply of land for housing, the Core Strategy which was until 2026 may soon need to be revisited.
- 2.2 Issues that remain a concern to Members are the need for employment provision to cater for the housing growth and infrastructure improvements in advance of development taking place. Members drew particular attention to the A428 which is under increasing pressure from housing developments in St. Neots.
- 2.3 The Panel welcomed the apparent change in direction over the provision of gypsy and traveller sites which will enable the District Council to assess its own need for additional pitches as opposed to this being determined regionally. Having been informed by the executive councillor for planning strategy that further guidance will be awaited before now progressing with a gypsy and traveller sites DPD, the Panel suggests that the Cabinet should make a public announcement on the present situation having regard to the magnitude of the public response to the recent SHLAA exercise on the identification of potential sites.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is invited to note that the Panel supports the recommendations in the report by the Head of Planning Services and consider the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as part of its deliberations on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

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