

ST IVES WEST

Governance Arrangements for the Urban Design Framework Process

(Report by HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet's endorsement for the establishment of a St Ives West Working Group, consisting of nominated elected members from all of the applicable local councils with particular interests in securing high quality and sustainable development of the St Ives West area.
- 1.2 A Working Group with a similar range of membership was established to assist in the preparation of the St Neots Eastern Expansion Urban Design Framework. This proved to be successful and it is considered that similar arrangements will assist greatly in the preparation of the Council's ongoing programme of Urban Design Frameworks for larger development areas.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An area to the west of St Ives has been identified in the Adopted Huntingdonshire Core Strategy as an appropriate location for strategic growth within the district. It is envisaged that the total area has capacity for the development of some 730 new dwellings (some 230 of which already have the benefit of planning permission), and including the regeneration of the Houghton Grange site.
- 2.2 There is also potential to create a significant area of publicly accessible open green space, incorporating the Thicket path, along the banks of the River Great Ouse for the benefit of the residents of the St Ives West area, the surrounding Parishes, and the town of St Ives.
- 2.3 The purpose of the Working Group is to advise officers during the process of preparing the emerging St Ives West Urban Design Framework, prior to the District Council issuing a Draft Urban Design Framework for public consultation.
- 2.4 The two principal landowners that control most of the identified area, and the other smaller landowners that also have interests have expressed their support for the development of the Urban Design Framework.

- 2.5 The Working Group's membership is to include nominated representatives from the District Council, the County Council, St Ives Town Council, Houghton and Wyton Parish Council, and Wyton on the Hill Parish Council.
- 2.6 The development area lies within the wards of St Ives West and Houghton and Wyton. The intention is to have 4 District Council members (including the HDC Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport), 2 Town Council members, 4 Parish Council members (with 3 members from Houghton and Wyton Parish Council and 1 member from Wyton on the Hill Parish Council) and 2 County Council members (12 in total). A chairman will be nominated by the group.
- 2.7 Meetings of this group will take place as required at key points in the programme of preparing the Urban Design Framework, through to Spring 2011.
- 2.8 A Draft Urban Design Framework will then issued for public consultation purposes, and presented to Development Management Panel and Overview and Scrutiny for their comment. A final draft, taking consultation comments into account, will then be considered by Cabinet for adoption as Council planning policy.
- 2.9 The arrangement is good practice, and will ensure that a robust Member and public consultation mechanism is integrated into the preparation of the Urban Design Framework to ensure that the quality of the development and related community facilities that are ultimately delivered meet the aspirations of local communities.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to nominate the District Council membership, and request the County, Town and Parish Council's to nominate their membership for the Working Group.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009

Contact Officer: Mike Huntington
 **01480 388404**