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## **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)**

**Report of the meeting held on 7th December 2010**

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### **Matters for Information**

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#### **32. TREE STRATEGY**

The Panel has received a presentation from the Council's Arboricultural Officer on the development of a Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire. Members have been advised of the desire to ensure that the District has a plentiful, healthy and attractive tree population that is managed and maintained to a high standard for the benefit of all which, it is hoped will be achieved by the Tree Strategy. In compiling the strategy officers will be establishing the nature and extent of the resource to be managed and consulting widely to ensure that the strategy meets the needs of the community. A small working group of the Panel have been established to assist in the process.

#### **33. ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY REVIEW**

Prior to its consideration by the Cabinet, the Panel has considered a report on the Council's Environment Strategy. The Panel has been advised that the recent budget consultation had highlighted that environmental projects were perceived as a low priority to the District's residents. However, the Environmental Management Team remain committed to delivering the aims set out in the Environment Strategy with the implementation of environmental projects providing an opportunity to save both the Council and residents money in energy costs, by becoming more environmentally efficient and making the district more economically competitive. Members have been informed that the Environment Strategy places the District Council at the forefront of moving forward the low carbon agenda.

Members have congratulated officers for their work to date on the Environment Strategy and endorsed the report for submission to the Cabinet.

**34. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

The Council's performance against the environmental well-being targets within the Corporate Plan "Growing Success" has been reviewed by the Panel.

**35. PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION**

The Panel has endorsed a response to the recently published Planning for Schools Development consultation exercise which invites views on the Government's proposals to make changes to the General Permitted Development Order to give permitted rights for a change of use for school development. The response to the consultation highlights the Panel's concerns that the proposed absence of any requirement for planning permission will prevent local objection to the opening of a new school, dispense with the requirement for a traffic impact assessment and remove any democratic involvement in the process.

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**Other Matters of Interest**

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**36. WORKPLAN**

The Panel has reviewed its workplan and received details of studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels. Members have been advised that the first meeting of the Local Drainage Liaison Group has been held and a progress report is now awaited from Anglian Water's Collection Manager.

P M D Godfrey  
Chairman