

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE  
STRATEGY AS EVIDENCE FOR PLANNING SERVICES  
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 11th January 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Planning Services entitled Endorsement of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy as Evidence for Planning Services. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

**2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS**

- 2.1 The Strategy does not make reference to the local agricultural industry, which is the largest industry in the District. In addition, the areas covered by the Strategy have increased in size. This is a concern as the emphasis of it appears to be that environmental organisations are taking responsibility for land. There is a danger that this will have an adverse effect on the local agricultural industry. Food security is of local, national and international concern and ought to be given a higher priority and be reflected to a greater extent in the Council's policy framework. East Anglia has an extremely high capacity to produce food yields and, therefore, the Strategy should identify current land use.
- 2.2 A suggestion that reference to the local agricultural industry is included in the new Local Plan has been accepted and a Working Group has been established to make recommendations on the terms of these references.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the accountability and reporting lines of the Green Infrastructure Forum should be clarified.

**3. CONCLUSION**

- 3.1 On the basis of these discussions, the Panel recommends the Cabinet, bearing in mind the primacy of the agricultural sector and its importance to the local and national economy, to endorse the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy as supporting evidence for planning purposes.

**Contact Officer: A Roberts, Scrutiny and Review Manager 01480 388015**

**Background Documents** - Reports and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) held on 11th January 2012.