

**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being))**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 11th September 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the report by the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy on the Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 It is recognised that the purpose of the Statement is to balance future infrastructure requirements to allow developments to take place. However, the Panel has drawn attention to the Statement's claim that 'major developments, essential regeneration and infrastructure provision in Cambridgeshire's market towns continue to make positive progress' (para. 2.3) and questioned the evidence base for this assertion.
- 2.2 Given the need for joint working on cross border issues, Members have questioned why there is no reference to neighbouring authorities other than those in Cambridgeshire. There will be a need, for example, to work with Northamptonshire authorities. While attention has been drawn to this absence from the Joint Statement, it should be noted that two meetings have been held with partners including Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Peterborough Councils in order to comply with the Duty to Co-operate.
- 2.3 Having regard to the joint working arrangements, a Member has emphasised that historically this Council has delivered its objectives when neighbouring authorities have failed to do so. In response, the Panel has been assured that the joint working arrangements will establish the causes of this and will prevent undue development being forced upon this Council. The aim is to ensure that the right development targets are set for each authority.
- 2.4 Generally, the Panel has welcomed the joint strategic planning arrangements as a basis for enabling the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities to continue to work together at a strategic level across administrative boundaries and to plan effectively for growth. The Cabinet is recommended to endorse the Joint Statement on the Development Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the Local Authorities (2102).

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Cabinet is requested to take into consideration the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) as set out above when considering this item.

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