

PROPOSED CIL GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES
(Report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being))

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 4 October 2012, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) received an update on the progress being made with the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy for Huntingdonshire and details of a proposed governance structure for CIL receipts and related spending. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Panel's discussions on the report.

2. THE PANEL'S DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1 The Panel has noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy for Huntingdonshire has been in place since 1st May 2012 and that in view of the limited expenditure which is expected in the forthcoming year, the District Council's Cabinet has agreed that any monies received during 2012/13 will be banked. Members have been informed that the Government has still to provide guidance with regard to the distribution of CIL funding and that the report which has been produced is a step in the process of identifying appropriate governance arrangements.
- 2.2 Councillor M F Shellens, with reference to the re-development of RAF Brampton, has commented on the need for the Government to determine a specific figure for the 'meaningful amount' of receipts which will be allocated to the area in which the development lies. The amount has been the subject of an outstanding government consultation. It is estimated that there will be a dedicated pot in the region of 5% to be spent on infrastructure to support growth. This is in addition to any other monies from CIL or Section 106 funding for a particular development.
- 2.3 Members have questioned what funding provision there might be for adjacent areas which are affected by a particular development. In response, the Head of Planning Services has explained that the legislation states that a meaningful proportion of CIL receipts will be allocated to a particular community but it has been recognised that a number of issues may be broader than that. He reminded Members that with the exception of the meaningful proportion, CIL in general can be spent anywhere and therefore it is important to develop a business plan to look at the needs of the District.
- 2.4 In terms of the proposed governance arrangements set out within the report, Members have commented on the need to provide an opportunity for Parish Councils to exert some influence on the process. Although Members have been informed that work has been ongoing with local communities to consider the needs in a group of parishes, Members are of the opinion that there should be representation from the parishes and the rural areas within the Growth & Infrastructure Thematic Group.
- 2.5 Reference having been made to the existing Section 106 Working Group and the audit trails which have already been put in place to monitor the spend of

Section 106 monies, Members have asked about the processes for the Community Infrastructure Levy. Having been reminded that the District Council is responsible for making final decisions on the allocation of funding, Members have been advised that Service Level Agreements might be used and that expenditure for particular projects will be monitored. Their attention has been also drawn to recommendation c in the report which further attempts to address this issue and the legal requirement for there to be a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism to account for all CIL funding on an annual basis.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Having concluded their discussions, the Panel has recommended that the Cabinet should

- a) **Approve the proposed CIL governance structure;**
- b) **Authorise that work progresses with partners through the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership to further develop the framework and draft business plan to take forward the next stages required in the governance process;**
- c) **Request the Head of Planning and Housing Strategy to liaise with the Head of Finance and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree draft procedural and management protocols; and**
- d) **Authorise a further report to come forward to Cabinet in due course.**

3.2 The Cabinet is invited to consider the discussions of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) as part of their deliberations on this item.

Contact Officer: A Roberts - Scrutiny and Review Manager – 01480 388015

Background Documents

Report and Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) held on 4th October 2012.