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

**Report of the meeting held on 8th October 2013**

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### **Matters for Information**

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#### **15. MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY JOINT PROCUREMENT**

Pursuant to Item No. 10 of their Report to the meeting of the Council held on 25th September 2013, the Panel has been provided with further information on the joint procurement of a Materials Recycling Facility service for the bulking, sorting and onwards processing/sale of recyclable materials. At its September 2013 meeting, the Executive requested the Panel to consider the final Invitation to Tender (ITT) document prior to final approval for it being sought from the Cabinet. However, there will not be sufficient time for the Panel and the Cabinet to comment on the final draft ITT. In noting that there will be an opportunity for Members to review the tenders received, the Panel has reiterated its previous recommendation that the decision on the ITT should be delegated to the Head of Operations following consultation with the Executive Member for Environment. The Council's Section 151 Officer will be actively involved in the procurement process.

#### **16. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING – IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARGES**

The Panel has considered a proposal to introduce charges for the Council's Street Naming and Numbering service. Given the pressures on the Council to achieve savings and to generate income opportunities wherever possible, it has been suggested that the Council should adopt the practice employed by a number of other local authorities, including East Cambs, South Cambs and Cambridge City and introduce charges for the service. The proposed fees have been based on those of the other Cambridgeshire authorities.

In the case of new developments, the developer is expected to meet the costs of naming and numbering. This does not include the provision of street name plates. There is a separate budget for this purpose. Subject to confirmation being received from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that the Council has the power to make such charges, the Panel has recommended the Cabinet to approve the introduction of charges for Street Naming and Numbering services.

**17. A14 IMPROVEMENTS – HIGHWAYS AGENCY CONSULTATION**

The Panel has endorsed suggested terms of a response to the non-statutory consultation currently being undertaken by the Highways Agency on the proposed A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme. A further statutory public consultation will be undertaken in spring 2014 with construction works planned to commence in late 2016.

The Panel has received an explanation of the proposals for the A14 from Ellington heading eastwards and from the A1 at Alconbury heading south. A number of key issues have been identified including the introduction of a Toll Road between the A1/A14 junction and Swavesey. Having regard to traffic near Brampton, it was confirmed that the overall intention is to avoid creating any new traffic movements.

The Council will have a significant role to play in the determination of the Development Consent Order application which is hoped will be given approval in late 2014.

**18. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INVOLVEMENT IN IDENTIFYING PRIORITY AREAS FOR SAVINGS**

*(Part of the discussion on the following item was considered as a confidential item under paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.)*

The Panel has accepted a role in identifying priority areas for savings. There is a need for additional savings of £3,694,000 to be identified by 2018/19 and significant changes will need to be made to the way the Council currently operates. It has been decided that two additional meetings of the Panel should be held on 20th November and 4th December 2013 for this purpose.

The three Overview and Scrutiny Panels have been asked to assist with undertaking reviews of all the Council's services and to prioritise areas where savings can be achieved. The reviews have to be completed by December 2013 so that the Panels' recommendations can be submitted to the Cabinet in January.

With reference to an example of a service area, the Panel has discussed the format of a template which has been developed to facilitate this process. The template contains a range of information including statutory duties, service standards and current performance, manpower including any vacancies and financial data including historic spending. An explanation of each element of the template has been delivered to enable Members to gain a feel for the information that will be presented to them at the forthcoming meetings. Clarification has been received of various aspects of the review process and the level of information that will be provided in the templates.

The Panels' programme of meetings and schedule of work for November and December 2013 has been submitted to the Cabinet at its October 2013 meeting for approval. Members have been mindful of the need to allow for flexibility in the programme to enable reassessment of earlier reviews and prioritisation to take place. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen will be meeting at regular intervals to review their collective progress.

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### **Other Matters of Interest**

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#### **19. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING) - PROGRESS**

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies and received updates on the development of a Tree Strategy for Huntingdonshire and on the outcome of a recent site visit to the Great Fen. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have since visited the recently renovated Rhymes Reed Bed area of the project.

The Wind Turbine Supplementary Planning Document will be resubmitted to a future meeting of the Panel and Members have commented that the document needs to be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity but it will be necessary to ensure it is sound and appropriate for Huntingdonshire.

The Panel has reiterated its wish to scrutinise the work of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group.

#### **20. WORK PLAN STUDIES**

The Panel has received details of the studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

#### **21. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Panel has been acquainted with the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions. Items on the Carbon Management Plan and the Green Deal have been deferred for consideration to the Panel's January 2014 meeting.

#### **22. SCRUTINY**

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed matters contained therein.

G J Bull  
Chairman