

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Wellbeing)  
14<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Executive Portfolio:** Planning and Housing Strategy

**Report by:** Paul Bland, Planning Service Manager (Policy)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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**Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on the work of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group. The Group has a role in identifying key infrastructure projects and recommending priorities for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds to infrastructure projects that support the District's growth.

**Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the report be noted.

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## 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT / PURPOSE?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Panel on the work of the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group. The Group has a role in identifying key infrastructure projects and recommending priorities for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds to infrastructure projects that support the District's growth.

## 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY / BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report is necessary as part of the Panel's ongoing programme of scrutinising work areas within its remit.

## 3. THE ROLE OF THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE THEMATIC GROUP

- 3.1 The role of the Group is important as it provides a formal interface and discussion forum for all of the main physical infrastructure providers that have responsibilities within the District, including senior elected Members from the District Council and County Council. The Group then makes informed recommendations to the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership on the prioritisation, in the short and medium term, of capital projects that require an element of Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Prioritisation is required because the Community Infrastructure Levy can only provide a proportion of the funds necessary to deliver the identified infrastructure projects. The outcomes of the Group's ongoing work are also reported to HDC's Cabinet.
- 3.2 The current membership of the Group is set out in Table 1 below. The Group membership reflects the broad range of infrastructure providers that operate within the District. Other organisations, such as Network Rail, are involved in infrastructure planning in the District through the Local Plan Duty to Co-operate Group.

**Table 1: Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group – Current Membership**

Name	Organisation
Councillor Nick Guyatt (Chair)	Huntingdonshire District Council
Councillor Ian Bates	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cameron Adams	Environment Agency
Alan Kirkdale	Highways Agency
Ian Burns	National Health Service Property Services Limited
Adrian Cannard	Greater Cambridgeshire / Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership
TBC	Town / Parish Council Representative
Dearbhla Lawson	Cambridgeshire County Council
Paul Bland	Huntingdonshire District Council
Claire Burton	Huntingdonshire District Council

- 3.3 At present there is no Town and Parish council representation on the Group. It is intended to seek appropriate representation from this sector, particularly to ensure that the Group can consider the most suitable ways of handling the proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (15% to 25%) that local councils are now able to receive by right in relation to new development activity within their area.

3.4 The Group influences a range of strategies and plans (as can be seen from the Group's Terms of Reference detailed in Table 2). In addition, the Group is responsible for co-ordinating the production of the Infrastructure Business Plan which comprehensively identifies, analyses, and prioritises the key infrastructure projects that need to be considered for delivery across the District in the period up to 2036. This in itself is an important part of the evidence base that supports the emerging Local Plan.

3.5 Table 2 summarises the Group's current activities in relation to its Terms of Reference:

<b>Table 2: Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group – Terms of Reference, Actions and Comments</b>	
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<b>Actions / Comments</b>
<p>To support and co-ordinate, as appropriate, the strategic growth and infrastructure development for Huntingdonshire, through the delivery of actions relating to key plans including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Strategy/ emerging Local Plan and associated planning documents and briefs</li> <li>• Local Transport Plan and associated strategies</li> <li>• Housing Strategy</li> <li>• Local Economy Strategy</li> <li>• Environment Strategy</li> <li>• LEP Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Members of the Group are involved in the preparation and co-ordination of all of the key plans that have relationships to growth and infrastructure.</p>
<p>To act as Project Board for the delivery of the Infrastructure needs for the District to match projected growth as outlined in the Core Strategy / emerging Local Plan</p>	<p>As development projects and planning applications arise, the Group is able to use the Infrastructure Business Plan and its collective knowledge to identify the key infrastructure projects that need to be developed and resourced.</p>
<p>To develop an Infrastructure Business Plan</p>	<p>The Group co-ordinates the production of the Infrastructure Business Plan, which is led by HDC Planning Services. The Infrastructure Business Plan is a key strategic document that enables the Group to consider infrastructure priorities and make recommendations accordingly.</p>
<p>To assess / review infrastructure priorities for the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy and other available funding through an agreed process</p>	<p>The Group identifies priorities for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy Funding, and recommends these to the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Board. The current single priority for this funding is the Huntingdon West Relief Road, which is under construction.</p>
<p>To ensure the co-ordination and delivery of the growth and infrastructure elements of the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy</p>	<p>This is essentially the role of the Group.</p>
<p>To co-ordinate and deliver other work required by the LSP</p>	<p>No other work is currently required of this Group by the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership.</p>

To ensure stakeholders have engaged in the process of strategy development and implementation on growth and infrastructure related issues	The Infrastructure Business Plan is subject to comprehensive development processes that involve the key stakeholders throughout its preparation. Updates of the document are presented to HDC's Cabinet at appropriate times, and it will be subject to scrutiny as part of the forthcoming Local Plan Examination (later in 2014).
To disseminate good practice	As a partnership based Group, good practice is disseminated between the organisations involved. It is anticipated that this will be extremely useful in future years as infrastructure projects are developed in detail.
To anticipate and co-ordinate the implementation of new legislation	The Group's members are able to respond and think through practical ways of implementing new legislation. For example, there have been many changes to the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations and the Group has helped to identify ways of ensuring these are understood and co-ordinated effectively.
To provide the LSP with performance management information	This is done as and when the Group reports to the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Board.
To support the LSP in development of the Sustainable Community Strategy	This will be done as and when the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership reviews the Sustainable Community Strategy.
To ensure smooth working between agencies and other Sustainable Community Strategy thematic groups	This is done through representation as required at meetings and events organised by other thematic groups.

#### 4. LINK TO THE LEADERSHIP DIRECTION

4.1 The work of the Group contributes to the Leadership Direction, as set out in Table 3:

<b>Table 3: Huntingdonshire District Council – Leadership Direction</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	
Huntingdonshire District Council will continue to improve the quality of life in Huntingdonshire by working with our communities and partners to achieve sustainable economic growth whilst providing excellent value for money services that meet local needs within a balanced budget.	
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Actions / Comments</b>
Strong local economy	The Group supports the development of a strong local economy by providing a transparent mechanism for recommending the prioritisation of infrastructure projects.
Enable sustainable growth	The Group identifies the key infrastructure projects that will be required to enable the delivery of sustainable development and growth.
Improve the quality of life in Huntingdonshire	The Group considers a broad range of infrastructure to support sustainable

	growth, including green infrastructure.
Working with our communities	The Group has identified the need to seek further representation from local councils (Town and Parish Councils).

## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Group's work is an essential part of the process of ensuring realism, transparency and accountability in the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership's prioritisation of infrastructure projects that may receive elements of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Group is primarily resourced by Planning Services staff, with the Planning Service Manager (Policy) and the Implementation Team Leader taking a lead role. Group meetings are organised by Democratic Services. The outcomes of the Group's recommendations enable the District Council to consider the most appropriate way of deploying staff resources over time to ensure that prioritised infrastructure projects are properly managed and implemented. Some projects will be directly delivered by the District Council, and others will require oversight from the District Council as they will be delivered by others.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The work of the Group is currently considered to be important as it brings the right partners together to consider growth and infrastructure projects in a comprehensive manner. The Group's work also provides practical direction to planning for project development, management and implementation.

## **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 8.1 The work of the Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group is ongoing, and will continue to be important as the receipts from the Community Infrastructure Levy increase over time. The Group's work has a strong relationship with the preparation of the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan and the implementation of growth related capital projects. The Group will also need to work with the Town and Parish Councils in the District that commit to preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

## **9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group - Terms of Reference

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership – Growth and Infrastructure Thematic Group**

#### **Terms of Reference**

- To support and co-ordinate, as appropriate, the strategic growth and infrastructure development for Huntingdonshire, through the delivery of actions relating to key plans including the:
  - Core Strategy/ emerging Local Plan and associated planning documents and briefs
  - Local Transport Plan and associated strategies
  - Housing Strategy
  - Local Economy Strategy
  - Environment Strategy
  - LEP Strategy
- To act as Project Board for the delivery of the Infrastructure needs for the District to match projected growth as outlined in the Core Strategy / emerging Local Plan.
- To develop an Infrastructure Business Plan.
- To assess/review infrastructure priorities for the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy and other available funding through an agreed process.
- To ensure the co-ordination and delivery of the growth and infrastructure elements of the Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy.
- To co-ordinate and deliver other work required by the LSP.
- To ensure stakeholders have engaged in the process of strategy development and implementation on growth and infrastructure related issues.
- To disseminate good practice.
- To anticipate and co-ordinate the implementation of new legislation.
- To provide the LSP with performance management information.
- To support the LSP in development of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- To ensure smooth working between agencies and other Sustainable Community Strategy thematic groups.