

**COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH) –  
12th January 2016**

**OPEN SPACES WATER SAFETY POLICY**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economy and Growth) was presented a report regarding the Open Spaces Water Safety Policy. The Panel was informed that the policy had been developed to enable the Operations Service to better ensure the safety of users of public open space managed on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council.

The Panel was advised that for high risk areas risk assessments will be carried out every year and for low risk areas risk assessments will be carried out every three years. Members expressed their satisfaction with these timescales and wanted to emphasise to Cabinet that they believe the timescales are important to show that the Council takes water safety seriously.

Following a discussion regarding the future design of water edges in the development of new sites the Panel found the proposals promising and thought that it is crucial that the Council works with developers to ensure the design of water edges on new developments are safe.

Members wanted to emphasise to Cabinet that they would like the biodiversity of water edges to be considered when assessing the risk. Members thought it was crucial that the right balance is struck between the safety of the public and the environmental benefit of water edges.

The Panel would like to advise Cabinet that they agreed it was necessary for £30k to be pump primed as it is essential the policy is implemented within the requisite resources. Members indicated that they would like to review the policy at a meeting of the Panel in 12 months time.