CABINET	10 JULY 2003
COUNCIL	23 JULY 2003

CAMBRIDGE SUB-REGION HOUSING STRATEGY 2003-2006
(Report by the Head of Housing Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To note and seek endorsement of the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Following the Cambridge Sub-regional Implementation Study, carried out by Roger Tyms and Partners, it was agreed that several county-wide working groups be formed. One of those groups was briefed to examine the issues in the delivery of affordable housing in the sub-region.

2.2 This group, whose membership includes chief housing officers, planners, and representatives of *G0-East,* the Housing Corporation, and the National Housing Federation, agreed that the way forward was to draft a sub-regional housing strategy.

2.3 During its development the Regional Housing Forum for the East of England also requested sub-regions to draft housing strategies to inform a housing strategy for the East of England.

2.4 From April 2004 there will be a new 'single housing investment pot' for the East of England. This 'pot' replaces direct funding to local authorities of LASHG. Details are still awaited on its operation.

2.5 The newly formed Regional Housing Board (East of England) submits its recommendations on strategic priorities for funding to the Minister. These recommendations are informed by the East of England Housing Strategy, which is now mandatory. This Strategy and sub-regional strategies are now vitally important as they inform investment and allocation decisions to and from Regional Housing Boards.

2.6 In response to this authorities in the East of England have formed themselves into various sized groupings to reflect local housing market areas.

2.7 For housing strategy purposes authorities straddling the boundaries of sub-regional areas were able to elect to belong to one or more sub-regional areas.

2.8 Whilst Huntingdonshire could be part of Greater Peterborough as well as the Cambridge sub-region it is considered that Huntingdonshire District Council's housing market has greater affinity to and affect from the Cambridge sub-region's housing market.

2.9   Peterborough City Council has not yet developed a Greater Peterborough sub-regional housing strategy. When it does this Council will make the appropriate contribution.

2.10   Eight local authorities have participated in the provision of information for the Strategy with the main co-ordination, editing and production carried out by Huntingdonshire District Council.

2.11   The Strategy is a collection of housing data from those authorities. From the data the sub-regional needs and priorities have been summarised.

2.12   Each sub-region was requested to submit to the Regional Housing Board (East of England) a short summary of their needs and priorities. The executive summary, accompanied by the full Strategy, was submitted. These summaries informed the drafting of the East of England Housing Strategy, launched on 12 June 2003.

2.13   It is anticipated that the ODPM will advise regions of their allocations for 2004 in October/November 2003.

3.   **IMPLICATIONS**

3.1   It is anticipated that future funding of sub-regions, by the newly created Regional Housing Board, will be based on sub-regional Housing Strategy submissions. The Cambridge sub-region is one of the first sub-regions to produce a housing strategy. Other sub-regions will need to develop their own strategies before this would become a reality. Nevertheless, the case for investment in the sub-region has been clearly made to the Board.

3.2   An action plan for delivery of the strategic priorities is in hand. Many of the actions are already built into individual authority's programmes. Cross boundary initiatives are being co-ordinated by established groups, on which HDC has representation.

3.3   Work is about to commence on refining and improving the content of our first sub-regional strategy.

4.   **RECOMMENDATION**

4.1   Council is asked to endorse the Cambridge Sub-Region Housing Strategy 2003-2006.

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