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Tuesday 9 February 2010

To: Chairman – Councillor Ray Manning
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Tom Bygott
Members of the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board –
D Ball, J Barker, P Barlow, J Bridge, T Cooper, M Farrar, M Gyte, GJ Harlock,
M Lawrence, K Lloyd, A Mackintosh, J Maxwell, S Moir, R Needle, Tony Orgee,
J Reeve, A Smith and D Spreadbury

Quorum:

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**, which will be held in **MONKFIELD ROOM, FIRST FLOOR** at South Cambridgeshire Hall on **WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2010** at **2.00 p.m.**

Members are respectfully reminded that when substituting on committees, subcommittees, and outside or joint bodies, Democratic Services must be advised of the substitution *in advance of* the meeting. It is not possible to accept a substitute once the meeting has started.

Yours faithfully
GJ HARLOCK
Chief Executive

Requests for a large print agenda must be received at least 48 hours before the meeting.

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the South
Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership
Board held on Thursday, 21 January 2010 at
2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ray Manning – Chairman
Councillor Tom Bygott –Vice-Chairman

Members: P Barlow (Faith Groups), R Evans (Business Sector), M Farrar (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils), GJ Harlock (South Cambridgeshire District Council), M Lawrence (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire & Service Service), S Moir (Cambridgeshire County Council), R Needle (Cambridgeshire Constabulary), I O'Meara (NHS Cambridgeshire), J Reeve (Voluntary Sector) and D Spreadbury (Cambridgeshire ACRE)

P Adams, A Ankin, M Barnes, Mrs G Barron, K Bennett, P Howes, K Hawkes and A Speed were in attendance by invitation.

Apologies were received from D Ball, J Bridge, M Gyte, A Mackintosh, Jon Maxwell and Tony Orgee

Action**76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

77. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

Engaging parish councils

It was noted that January had been unsuitable for a number of parish councils and so this event had been postponed to March.

Sustainable parish energy partnership

Tom Bygott stated that a report on the above project would be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership in February.

78. CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND CAMBRIDGE CITY

Paul Howes presented this report on the proposal to merge the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership and the Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership.

The following concerns were expressed:

- What advantages were there to the merger, which could not be achieved through greater co-operation?
- What benefits were there to South Cambridgeshire and its residents?
- Would the agendas become too large and unwieldy?

- Could a merger with East Cambridgeshire or Huntingdon LSPs be considered?

In response the following advantages to a joint Board were highlighted:

- A number of representatives currently attended both LSPs and so a merger would be more efficient.
- The City was more ethnically diverse, which could allow a joint Board access to funding that would benefit minorities living in both administrative areas.
- A joint body would allow greater co-operation, or “joined-up working”, especially between the two local authorities.
- A joint body would better address issues that arose in the border areas, particularly regarding crime prevention.
- A joint body could better respond to sub-regional issues, such as the growth agenda.

Discussion of rural and urban issues

It was noted that provision would be made for a joint body to receive a presentation of one parish plan per meeting. It was understood that part of the agenda would also have to be set aside for urban issues. It was also noted that a merged Board would find it easier to secure funding for projects, as the administrative area would be both rural and urban.

Representation on Cambridgeshire Together

It was suggested that both the Chairman and Vice-chairman of a joint LSP should represent that body on Cambridgeshire Together.

Funding

It was assumed that the funding accessible to each LSP would be pooled to a joint LSP.

Annual review

It was understood that, if agreed, the Joint LSP would be reviewed after the first year and if necessary the decision could be taken to revert to two separate LSPs.

Membership of the Joint LSP

It was noted that the report suggested the following organisations would not be represented on a merged LSP Board:

- Anglian Water (Business Representative)
- Comberton Village College
- Youth Parliament

It was noted that there had been no representatives from either Comberton Village College or the Youth Parliament at recent meetings of the Board, whilst there were other business representatives on the LSP. Regret was expressed at the low attendance rate of representatives from the Village College and Youth Parliament. Ray Manning agreed to suggest to the City LSP that a youth representative sit on the new Body.

RM

It was suggested that a representative from Anglia Ruskin University should be considered, although it was acknowledged that it could prove difficult to get a representative who could speak for such an organisation to attend.

It was suggested that a gap analysis, in relation to membership, should be carried out after the first few meetings of a Joint LSP.

Balanced agendas

It was agreed that the agenda for the Joint LSP would be balanced between rural issues, such as the presentation of parish plans, urban issues, as well as issues relevant to all representatives.

Performance management

It was agreed that a common performance management system would be put in place, which would assess progress towards the LAA targets and the monitoring of Reward Grant projects.

Sustainable Community Strategies

It was agreed that both LSPs would have to keep separate Sustainable Community Strategies until these came to an end in March 2011. A joint strategy from April 2011 would be developed.

Reporting to the Board

It was agreed that local thematic groups should be maintained for the lifetime of the strategies they pertained to and local partnerships should have clear reporting arrangements to the new Board.

Scrutiny arrangements

It was noted that a new Board would be subject to scrutiny by both local authority's scrutiny arrangements. It was possible that the two Council's would agree a joint scrutiny arrangement, instead of working separately.

Officer support

It was noted that officer support requirements for the merged LSP Board would need to be assessed once the partnership was fully established.

A vote was taken and with eight votes in favour of the merger, one against and one abstention, the Local Strategic Partnership.

AGREED

- (a) In principle to the proposed merger between South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership and the Cambridge Local Strategic Partnership.
- (b) To support the principles set out in paragraph 18 of the report.

Next steps

It was expected that the first meeting of the new merged LSP Board would be held early in the new financial year. The next meeting of the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership on 17 February will include an item on the next steps of the merger.

The meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.

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Cambridgeshire Together Briefing – January 2010



Cambridgeshire Together Board Update

The Cambridgeshire Together Board, a group of the county's key decision makers, met for their bi-monthly meeting on 25 November. The Board discussed a varied agenda, including:

- An economic report on the recession and its effects on Cambridgeshire. The Board agreed to ask partners to identify actions to support communities and to report these back.
- A report on the findings of the Cambridgeshire Together rural strategy consultation, which would inform the development of the Cambridgeshire Rural Strategy. The Board agreed to ask the Local Area Agreement Reference Group (LAARG) to ensure that the development of the strategy document took account of regional and local planning policies.
- The next in the series of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, focusing on the health profile and requirements of migrant workers and homeless people within Cambridgeshire was received by the Board. The Board agreed to take forward the recommendations of the report.
- An update on LAA performance, outlining where the partnership is on target and areas where improvements need to be made. The Board agreed the Quarter 2 performance results and the conclusions reached in the report, to note the impact of the possible loss of Housing Growth Fund on the achievement of LAA targets and to review all the national indicators to determine the best strategy for meeting the LAA targets and the Vision for Cambridgeshire.
- Feedback from the Local Strategic Partnership (LSPs) and Thematic Strategic Partnerships (TSPs) regarding key issues. The Board agreed to encourage each partner organisation to commit to the Skills Pledge (if not already signed up) to provide positive leadership for other organisations to follow.

View minutes from the Cambridgeshire Together Board on 25 November

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/db/council2.nsf/index.htm>

The meeting scheduled for the 22 January 2010 was cancelled.

Oneplace says Cambridgeshire is working well for communities

A national report has rated Cambridgeshire as exceptional on driving up recycling and says the county's public bodies are working well together for their communities.

The Oneplace report, published for the first time, measures how public services are doing on issues that matter most for people in the county and was produced by six independent watchdogs.

It says how overall Cambridgeshire is a county of prosperity and growth and that local services are addressing the challenges their communities and agencies say they should tackle.

Cambridgeshire has been given a coveted green flag for reducing waste and driving up recycling and composting levels of household waste to over 50 per cent. Green flags are given to public bodies which are achieving exceptional outcomes or doing something innovative.

£1.5million provides over 200 temporary jobs for long term unemployed

237 temporary jobs for young people and the long term unemployed will be created across Cambridgeshire thanks to £1.5 million received this week by organisations across the county.

The new money was awarded to Cambridgeshire Together after it made a bid to the Government's Future Jobs Fund.

The partnership has been given the green light to create the jobs in tourism and leisure, community development, health and administration, with posts including finance and education, sports and fitness and the media.

The jobs are aimed at 18-24 year olds who have been out of work for at least nine months. The long term unemployed aged 25 and over who live in areas where the unemployment rate is 1.5 per cent higher than the national average will also benefit from the new job opportunities.

Environmental Sustainability Partnership

A meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Partnership is to be held at East Cambridgeshire District Council offices in Ely on 12 January at 6 pm. This will be the first full meeting of this thematic strategic partnership, which supports the delivery of the countywide sustainable community strategy and a number of key targets within the LAA. Agenda and other papers will be made available on the Cambridgeshire County Council website nearer the time www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Support and Advice

Partnerships Team

The Partnerships Team is able to provide support and advice about Cambridgeshire Together.

Matthew Hall, Cambridgeshire Together Communication Officer,
Matthew.Hall@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Adam Speed, Cambridgeshire Together Partnerships Officer,
Adam.Speed@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Chris Eyres, Cambridgeshire Together Performance Manager,
Chris.Eyres@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ross Spaltoff, Cambridgeshire Together Financial Advisor,
Ross.Spaltoff@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For more information online, read the Cambridgeshire Together e-magazine
www.cambstogether.org.uk

To: **South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership**

Date: **17 February 2010**

From: **Kirsten Bennett, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire ACRE**

Title: **Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy – Public Consultation**

Paper for Decision or Information: **Decision**

If Decision, Key Decision required: **Decision**

Purpose: **To receive the consultation document for the new Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy.**

Recommendation : **That the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership should note the Strategy and respond to the final consultation.**

1. Background

- 1.1. In January 2009, Cambridgeshire Together agreed that a new Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire should be created. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that the work of Cambridgeshire Together adequately reflects the distinct set of social, economic and environmental issues which affect rural communities and businesses in Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2. Over the last few months, consultation has taken place, including a workshop in South Cambridgeshire, and the comments of 233 respondents have been taken into account in developing the final Strategy document.

2. Rural Strategy – Draft Document

- 2.1. The strategy document is designed to be outward facing in order to communicate clearly to stakeholders Cambridgeshire Together's vision and ambitions for rural areas over the next five years. Clear actions have been identified for reaching those ambitions. These will be monitored by ten overarching key performance indicators which have been specifically set to measure the vibrancy of rural Cambridgeshire going forward.

2.2. The draft strategy has been launched for a 12 week period of public consultation in line with the requirements of the Cambridgeshire Compact. Consultation will run from 1 February 2010 until 23 April 2010.

2.3. The document will be available via the Cambridgeshire ACRE website and comments can be made either on-line or through a paper submission.

2.4. All parish councils have been asked to contribute, as well as those individuals and organisations that have already been involved in earlier stages of the strategy's development.

2.5. Cambridgeshire Together strategic partnerships and LSPs are also being asked to consider the document.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership should note the Strategy and respond to the final consultation.

KJB

26-Jan-10

Rural Cambridgeshire: Ensuring a Vibrant Future

A Rural Strategy for Cambridgeshire 2010 – 2015

Under consultation from 1 February – 23 April 2010

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What is the Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy and how does it affect me?

The Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy is a plan for the future viability of the County’s rural areas. It assesses the upsides and challenges of living and working in the countryside, reviews the area’s economic wellbeing and looks at the land and environment that surrounds us. It goes on to set out a long-term vision for rural Cambridgeshire, how we can get there and who can make it happen.

Why do we need a Rural Strategy?

The need for a Rural Strategy is clear. Significant parts of the County of Cambridgeshire experience a quality of life which is considerably below that of the national population at large. Alongside this, traditional rural life is gradually being eroded and yet local people tell us they want to keep the special ‘rural nature’ of the communities where they live and work.

Many of the problems in our local communities are distinctive and are rooted in their rural nature and legacy from the past. The Rural Strategy will play an important part in helping to describe and understand these conditions and will help shape and monitor how well the County’s major plans and organisations are addressing them.

How can a document change things?

The Rural Strategy will influence the work of Cambridgeshire Together, the partnership that delivers the Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement. The Local Area Agreement sets out the relationship between central and local government and what each expects from the other. This is documented in an action plan that has a balance of national and local priorities.

The Rural Strategy will ensure that the County’s rural areas are not forgotten when public money is being spent on these priorities, creating a vibrant rural economy that ensures people can live and work locally in a safe and pleasant environment.

The Strategy will have its own action plan that will set out exactly what will be done, by whom and by when. It will influence and coordinate existing activities to ensure the best approach is taken.

Where are we now?



Living in the Countryside

Living in the Countryside is a different experience across the County. Some areas, typically in the north and in pockets across the rural areas, show evidence of considerable disadvantage as measured by things such as income levels, access to services and transport.

Deprivation measures tend to focus on local concentrations and in rural areas more thinly-spread disadvantage can often go unnoticed, particularly that linked to issues of material deprivation such as fuel poverty, isolation / loneliness, lack of transport and fear of crime.

Lack of affordable housing is an issue across the area, as well as declining rural services such as shops, post offices and pubs. The ways in which expected growth in the County is channelled and controlled could have a major impact on these issues. New approaches to joint investment, community self-reliance and self-governance are needed to maximise future opportunities.



Economic Wellbeing

In recent years, traditional industries such as agriculture and manufacturing (especially food) have been added to by new technology and knowledge-based businesses and greater levels of self-employment and home-working.

Economic well-being across the County as whole is generally strong and expected to remain so, but the broad picture of economic prosperity and growth masks areas and communities which are relatively poor and less productive. Rural Cambridgeshire tends to have lower wages, smaller scale firms and employment opportunities with much economic activity operating below the radar of attention and support. Key potential areas for economic growth are tourism, food and farming (especially looking to build on local, distinctive products and markets) and other rurally-based business.

Whilst Rural Cambridgeshire has levels of young people not in education, employment or training lower than the national average, these levels are fast increasing and follow the more general patterns of deprivation in the County. This is resulting in the out-migration of many young people to more urban areas.



Land and Environment

Land and the environment in rural Cambridgeshire has undergone and continues to experience significant change, mainly as a result of the continuing development of new housing, business premises and associated infrastructure. Other influences are changes in agriculture (an overall decline in land used for farming but also shorter term shifts in the intensity and types of production), plus increased attention to recreation needs (mainly through increased access to the countryside).

The effects of climate change are expected to have different impacts on the different landscape areas and parts of the County, but a key challenge for the future is to ensure new development is more environmentally sustainable – including the better matching of where people live, work and access services, so as to reduce the amount of travel and its impact on the environment and local communities.

Where do we want to be?

Our vision is of a rural Cambridgeshire that will flourish with sustainable rural communities that are prepared for the challenges ahead.

People living in rural Cambridgeshire will have access to the jobs and services they require; the rural economy will be successful and diverse; and the environment will be protected and enhanced.

How do those who live and work locally see the future?

In putting together this Strategy, we consulted with over 230 local people who gave us both individual perspectives and views from the organisations they represented. Here are just some of them:

Philip Bradshaw

Farmer, Flegcroft Farm, Whittlesey

“There is recognition that food production has to increase dramatically at a local and international level in the very near future, and Cambridgeshire is able to play an important part in this process. It is essential that land based industry in the County is encouraged to accept the challenge of increasing output in a way that is sustainable, responsible and profitable.”



Helen Copping, Completely Chilli

Local Entrepreneur, Haddenham

“Setting up a new business is tough. Having the right idea and stacks of enthusiasm is just the start. Support from specialist advisors and local funding is crucial to getting your business running and keeping it going.”



Philip Broadbent Yale

Outdoor Programme Manager, National Trust

“The National Trust has a crucial role to play protecting Cambridgeshire’s unique landscape. We are lucky to have an amazing variety of places and habitats in this County and we will work in partnership to look after them for ever, for everyone.”



Hugh McCurdy

Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech

“My area of the Diocese encompasses many different villages. There’s a huge variation in economic prosperity across the County and I’d like to see more support to help communities help themselves.”



Living in the Countryside - What do we need to change?

The people we consulted have collectively identified six ‘priorities’ for action that will improve ‘living in the countryside’. For each priority we have considered what our ambitions should be and how we would know if we had been successful in achieving them...

1. Preventing rural deprivation



Our Ambitions

- To ensure the allocation of resources takes account of all types of deprivation, including isolation and fuel poverty.
- To support local neighbourhood management / partnership working as a method of counteracting rural deprivation.

What will success look like?

- Increased number of community neighbourhood initiatives in targeted communities making them better places to live.
- Rural isolation is reduced through the provision of ‘social hubs’ in each community.

2. Building local homes for local people



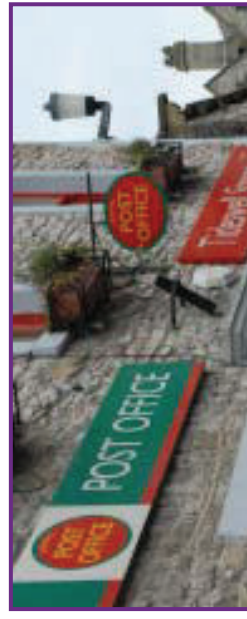
Our Ambitions

- To work with planners to support the sustainability of smaller rural communities.
- To build more homes on rural exception sites.
- To understand the scale of hidden homelessness in rural Cambridgeshire.

What will success look like?

- Vibrant, rural communities with a good mix of housing and associated infrastructure.
- Increased housing built in rural areas.
- Communities have better ways to manage homes that stay in local ownership.

3. Protecting and enhancing rural services



Our Ambitions

- To halt the decline of essential rural services.
- To support communities so they are able to play a greater role in finding their own solutions for viable service provision.

What will success look like?

- Increased number of community enterprises.
- Communities with better access to vital services with a reduced need to travel.
- More multi-use centres delivering a number of different services under one roof.

Living in the Countryside - What do we need to change?

4. Providing access to local healthcare



Our Ambitions

- To address peoples' concerns relating to the perceived centralisation of healthcare services.
- To look for opportunities where healthcare services can be provided locally in existing community facilities.

What will success look like?

- People believe that their primary care needs are being met within their local community.
- Increased use of community buildings offering some kind of healthcare service.

5. Widening transport options



Our Ambitions

- To encourage people to think differently about how they travel.
- To consult people in order to fully understand when, where and how they want to travel.
- To increase rural transport options.

What will success look like?

- Increased number of journeys made by community and public transport.
- Greater use and integration of public and community transport schemes.
- A Local Transport Plan that reflects rural need.

6. Supporting and strengthening local communities



Our Ambitions

- To increase the role of parish councils in providing governance to their own communities.
- To facilitate all rural communities in developing a clear vision for their own future.
- To ensure communities have the capacity to bring their plans to life.

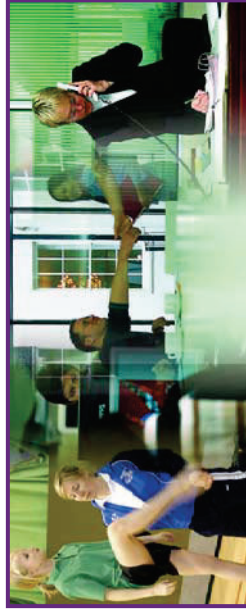
What will success look like?

- Parish councils will be managing services through the Well-being Power.
- Strong, cohesive, rural communities that work together for the benefit of all residents.
- Community members will have the capacity to lead.

Economic Wellbeing - What do we need to change?

The people we consulted have collectively identified three ‘priorities’ for action that will improve the County’s ‘economic wellbeing’. For each priority we have considered what our ambitions should be and how we would know if we had been successful in achieving them...

1. Improving employment opportunities



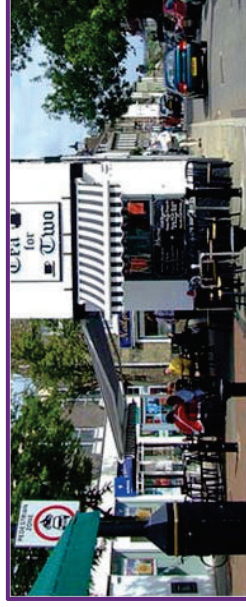
Our Ambitions

- To improve business and social enterprise support in order to facilitate rural entrepreneurship.
- To encourage more high skilled jobs in rural areas to alleviate the need for commuting.
- To create the correct mix of business premises to allow business development and growth.
- To improve broadband and mobile phone connectivity.

What will success look like?

- Better mix of employment opportunities.
- Increased number and mix of businesses operating.
- Reduced commuting.
- No broadband or mobile phone network ‘hotspots’.

2. Maintaining and enhancing market towns as essential service hubs



Our Ambitions

- To support the tourism opportunities within and around market towns.
- To ensure all market towns have appropriate master plans for their future development.

What will success look like?

- Increased visitor numbers to market towns.
- All market towns have a long-term vision for development of the local economy.

3. Improving skills through education and training



Our Ambitions

- To enhance training and educational provision across all rural areas and at all skill levels.
- To reduce the barriers to young people in accessing education, vocational training and apprenticeships.

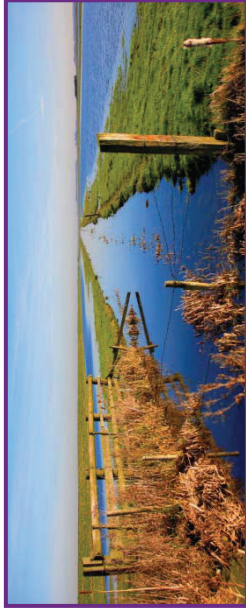
What will success look like?

- Young people have more choice in learning and training provision enabling them to remain in the rural areas.
- Cambridgeshire has an adequate workforce with varying skill levels across the whole County.

Land and Environment - What do we need to change?

The people we consulted have collectively identified four ‘priorities’ for action that will improve the County’s ‘land and environment’. For each priority we have considered what our ambitions should be and how we would know if we had been successful in achieving them...

1. Making the most of Cambridgeshire’s unique landscape



Our Ambitions

- To ensure that the planning of green spaces in and around rural parishes takes into account social, economic and environmental considerations.

What will success look like?

- Better use of green space is linked to the needs of the rural population and the wider Cambridgeshire environment.
- More opportunities for enhanced landscapes, better access and greater biodiversity value.
- Green spaces play a direct role in improving the lives, livelihoods and health of local people and communities.

2. Mitigating the impact of climate change



Our Ambitions

- To support communities with programmes of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- To fully understand the effects and concept of ‘peak oil’ and ‘peak water’.
- To support businesses with schemes which promote green technologies and energy efficiency.

What will success look like?

- Increased number of parishes with local climate change interventions being delivered.
- People have an understanding about the impact of climate change on rural sustainability.
- Businesses make better use of local assets and technologies.

3. Ensuring sympathetic development



Our Ambitions

- To recognise the character and distinctiveness of rural parishes across Cambridgeshire.

What will success look like?

- Rural Cambridgeshire will remain an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- Communities will feel their voices are being heard when new development is planned.

Land and Environment - What do we need to change?

4. Promoting Cambridgeshire's food



Our Ambitions

- To address the issue of global food security by Cambridgeshire-specific interventions.
- To develop better local food supply chains and clearer labelling.
- To develop a better understanding of food production.

What will success look like?

- Changes in local farming practices to mitigate against the effects of climate change and to protect the local environment.
- Increased demand for people purchasing food grown locally .
- Increased number of local community food projects.

How will we know what's been achieved?

Success in delivering the Rural Strategy will be overseen by the Cambridgeshire Together Board monitored through its Safer and Stronger Partnership. An Action Plan has been developed which details who is responsible for overseeing the delivery of each ambition. The actions are shown on pages 14 – 17.

The phrase 'rural proofing' is used within the Action Plan and this is the process of checking the effect that policies, programmes, initiatives and individual projects could have on rural communities. It ensures that the particular needs of people in rural areas are not overlooked and that policies or projects do not have any unintended negative outcomes for rural communities. One of the key elements of the Cambridgeshire Rural Strategy will be to rural proof key local initiatives.

Nine key performance indicators (KPIs) have been set to enable us to measure the vibrancy of Rural Cambridgeshire going forward. These are:

1. Number of homes built on rural exception sites in Cambridgeshire.
2. Number of essential rural services maintained.
3. Number of new rural enterprises set up.
4. Number of Cambridgeshire parish councils using the Well-being Power.
5. Number of broadband notspots and slowspots in rural Cambridgeshire.

How will we know what's been achieved? (continued)

6. Number of people that work within five kilometres of their home address.
7. % of apprenticeship opportunities located in Cambridgeshire's rural villages/market towns.
8. % of Cambridgeshire communities with a green infrastructure section within their community led plan.
9. Number of village design guidance documents adopted by parish councils to inform their response to planning consultations.
10. Number of organisations taking part in developing and signing up to a Cambridgeshire Food Policy.

These KPIs will be measured each year and an annual report on progress towards achieving the ambitions of this Rural Strategy will be issued.

What actions will be taken?

LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Priority 1: Preventing rural deprivation

- Use OCSI (Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion) data to develop and interpret the Cambridgeshire rural evidence base to influence how local services are provided in rural parishes.
- Liaise with parish councils and attend rural community events (such as meetings and fairs) in order to raise awareness of fuel poverty, energy efficiency, grants for repairs and assistance available for vulnerable rural households.
- Ensure each parish has at least one local service / meeting place that provides a 'social hub'.
- To achieve one new intervention in an agreed area of deprivation in each district.
- Develop Neighbourhood Forums as a way of clustering parishes in rural areas in order to develop wider approaches to local issues and needs.

Priority 2: Building local homes for local people

- Build relationships and gather best practice information from Rural 80 and Rural 50 local authorities on how they deliver affordable housing through all available methods, including Section 106 agreements.
- Develop a Countywide set of principles to ensure effective development in rural communities on rural exception sites, in agreement with the Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Rural-proof District Local Development Frameworks to ensure rural housing provision is catered for and that it will aid rural community sustainability.
- Continue to conduct an independent Housing Needs Survey where applicable to ascertain local needs and make people aware of the results.
- Set affordable rural housing development targets for rural exception sites.
- Continue to develop Cambridgeshire's Affordable Rural Housing service bringing together Local Authority Housing Providers (RSLs), Local Authorities and parish councils in order to address proven need in rural areas.
- Explore the concept of Community Land Trusts for delivering affordable rural housing in Cambridgeshire.
- All statutory agencies to assess their own estates for land which could be released for the provision of affordable housing.

Priority 3: Protecting and enhancing rural services

- Monitor the change in provision of rural services by repeating the Rural Services Survey (last undertaken in 2007).
- Build relationships and gather best practice information from Rural 80 and Rural 50 local authorities on how they are supporting reducing the decline in rural services.
- Support multifunctional mobile service facilities, such as libraries, police, citizens advice bureau and health services, to work together to bring services to rural areas.
- Support communities with saving essential rural services that are under threat.
- Provide support to community groups / parish councils for widening the use of existing buildings (e.g. village halls, churches, libraries, etc.).

What actions will be taken?

LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (continued)

Priority 4: Providing access to local healthcare

- NHS Cambridgeshire to promote local service provision in order to allay fears.
- Work with parish councils and other community groups to identify gaps in local service provision and consider what services could be provided.

Priority 5: Widening transport options

- Undertake a consultation to understand attitudes towards public transport.
- Rural-proof new Local Transport Plan to ensure that it reflects local rural needs.
- Support the development and implementation of accessibility action plans in the LTP priority action areas, informed by a robust evidence base and genuine stakeholder participation.
- Roll out of a Demand Responsive Transport scheme across Cambridgeshire and evaluate its success.
- Map community transport provision in each District in order to identify gaps and opportunities for integration of services.
- Encourage cycling and walking between rural communities by making footpaths and bridleways suitable for everyday, year round use – perhaps by introducing a network of ‘inter-village routes’ that are off-road but surfaced (and possibly lit) in such a way that make cycling and walking possible at all times.

Priority 6: Supporting and strengthening local communities

- Co-ordinate a training programme for all parish councils that supports the increased use of the Well-being Power.
- Support parish councils to own and run community assets through the Well-being Power.
- Support and encourage parishes to achieve Quality Parish status.
- Support and encourage the development and delivery of Community Led Plans by ensuring appropriate mechanisms at all levels for responding to actions identified.
- Provide training and support for local people to develop the community leaders of the future.

What actions will be taken?

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Priority 1: Improving employment opportunities

- Encourage specialist business advice for self-employed people at all stages of work to gain skills and develop their business.
- Ensure full allocation of the funding available through the Fens Adventurers Rural Development Programme in order to increase land-based businesses.
- Attract a wider range and larger number of businesses to set up and expand in rural Cambridgeshire.
- Encourage the development of rural workspaces in appropriate locations by ensuring that appropriate references are made in Local Development Frameworks.
- Encourage the growth of home-based businesses.
- Investigate the potential for reduced business rates as a means of encouraging rural business growth.
- Influence decision-makers to draw attention to the consequences of digital exclusion.

Priority 2: Maintaining and enhancing market towns as essential service hubs

- To increase support for tourism in market towns through local farm diversification and business development.
- Produce a master plan for each market town.

Priority 3: Improving skills through education and training

- Support initiatives which increase qualification attainment levels (both higher and basic skills) in sectors where there are emerging employment opportunities.
- Work with rural employers to improve the skills of their workforce, in order to equip them for the business challenges of the future.
- Encourage collaboration between businesses and further education facilities to develop apprenticeships with the intention of encouraging young people to stay in rural Cambridgeshire.

What actions will be taken?

LAND AND ENVIRONMENT

Priority 1: Making the most of Cambridgeshire's unique landscape

- Develop a project where parishes are supported to create green infrastructure plans.
- Support communities to develop projects that increase biodiversity and access.

Priority 2: Mitigating the impact of climate change

- Work with parish councils to increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to allow them to lead communities in making a difference.
- Undertake Cambridgeshire-specific scenario planning on the effects of peak oil and peak water on rural communities, using existing projection models.
- Encourage businesses to take up renewable energy schemes, green technologies and energy efficiency measures.

Priority 3: Ensuring sympathetic development

- Investigate the use of Village Design Statements as a mechanism for influencing decisions on design and development so as to respect the local identity.

Priority 4: Promoting Cambridgeshire's food

- Develop a 'Cambridgeshire Food Policy' to enhance local food supply chains and encourage stronger loyalty to local food production.
- Encourage retailers and local businesses to promote and source local produce.
- Continue support for projects that localise local food and farming such as community orchards, farmers markets and community food projects.

Glossary

Affordable Housing: Housing which is built on rural exception sites with a subsidy from a Housing Association, made available for rent/shared ownership, allocated (in priority) to households with a local connection and is kept affordable for local people.

Biodiversity: The variety of life forms in a given area.

Fuel poverty: Those who spend more than 10% of their annual income on heating their home.

Global Food Insecurity: The result of rising food prices and increased demand for food. Rapidly increasing energy costs, increased global population and lower yields due to volatile weather result in global food insecurity.

Green Spaces: Protected areas of undeveloped landscape and the natural environment.

Local Transport Plan: A Local Authority plan which sets out local transport strategies, policies and an implementation programme.

Material Deprivation: A relative term to describe the inability of individuals /households to afford those goods and activities that are typical in a society at a given point in time.

Notspot: An area where broadband or mobile phone signal is unavailable. (Slowspots refers to those areas where broadband speed is less than 2 Mbps)

Peak Oil: The point at which oil is being extracted at maximum rate is known as the peak, after which oil production decreases as it becomes harder to extract.

Peak Water: The point at which demand for fresh water is greater than the natural rate of replenishment. Peak water will effect some locations more than others.

Rural Exception Sites: Small plots of land, solely for affordable housing developments, within or bordering an existing rural settlement which would not otherwise be available for market housing.

Social Hubs: Places which encourage community activities, inclusion and regeneration.

Well-being Power: Passed in 2000, it allows local authorities in England to do anything they consider likely to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area unless forbidden elsewhere in legislation.

Enjoyed reading this and want to know more?

To read the research and evidence that underpin the Rural Strategy, please visit www.cambsacre.org.uk where you can download :



Evidence Base



Summary of Evidence



Reports on the District-based Consultation Workshops



Summary Report on the Countywide Consultation undertaken in September and October 2009



Full Cambridgeshire Rural Strategy Action Plan

The Cambridgeshire Together Rural Strategy was produced by the partners of Cambridgeshire Together, in conjunction with local stakeholders throughout the County .

Strategy production was led and facilitated by Cambridgeshire ACRE

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To: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership
Date: 17 January 2010
From: Val Thomas, Assistant Director of Public Health (Health Improvement)
Dale Robinson, Corporate Manager Health and Environmental Services, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Report: Draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire to the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership for comment and discussion following a presentation at the meeting.

An electric copy of the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire was sent to members of the LSP late last year, if you would like a paper copy for the meeting please contact Gemma Barron.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Tackling Health Inequalities has been a national and local priority for several years. Inequalities in health within the County have been demonstrated through research undertaken for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as presented to the LSP previously. The priority assigned to this issue is reflected through the inclusion in Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement of a target to improve all age all cause mortality in the most deprived 20% of small areas in the county.
- 2.2 In 2007, the Audit Commission carried out a review of health inequalities in Cambridgeshire, and the processes being used to address them. The Review made a number of recommendations, including the need for a county-wide strategic approach to health inequalities to complement the good work going on at local level through a variety of agencies and individual projects. Health inequalities in the context of wider inequalities, has been an area of focus in this year's Comprehensive Area Assessment Process.
- 2.3 This Strategy has been developed by the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Officer Group (HWBG), which sits within Cambridgeshire Together structures as a supporting group for the Community Wellbeing Thematic Partnership. The HWBG has senior representation from NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, all District/City Councils, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the voluntary sector. It links closely with district level health partnerships (in this district - the joint Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Improving Health Partnership), which report into the relevant LSPs. The HWBG has played a lead role in responding at county level to the Audit Commission's recommendations.
- 2.4 The Strategy has built on two underlying exercises:
- a mapping of existing plans and strategies of partner LSPs and agencies which already include actions to address health inequalities
 - a gap analysis of this mapping against health needs and inequalities demonstrated in the JSNA.

- 2.5 Drafts of the Strategy have been discussed at the July and September 2009 meetings of the Health and Well Being Officer Group, and district health partnerships have made a full contribution to identifying priorities for the Strategy.

3. CONTENT OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy document is laid out as follows:

3.1 Section One – Context and Evidence

- A description of the policy and wider strategic context of the Cambridgeshire Health Inequalities Strategy. It details the key national and local drivers to reduce health inequalities.
- Includes intelligence from Cambridgeshire's Joint Needs Assessment produced in 2008 and later studies that have addressed the needs of particular population groups. This rich information and evidence is not fully reported here but links can be found to the full documents.

3.2 Section Two – The Core Health Inequalities Strategy

3.21 Strategic Aims

Describes the strategic direction through the identification of four strategic aims:

- To decrease the health inequalities found in the most socio-economically deprived areas in Cambridgeshire
- To decrease access inequalities that impact on health and well being
- To decrease the health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups that exist within the Cambridgeshire population
- To prevent the creation of new health inequalities

3.22 Framework for Action

This sets out strategic objectives to take forward the strategic aims in 2009 -2011. It identifies key actions/interventions, partners and timelines for implementation. It represents a countywide collaborative approach to reducing health inequalities.

The key actions/interventions are divided into three categories to reflect their varying stages of development:

- Proposed new collaborative interventions that are at early stage of discussion and development have an **orange** timeline.
- Priority interventions that have been agreed and implementation has commenced have a **yellow** timeline.
- Agreed priority interventions that are well established have a **green** timeline.

This is essentially a framework and beneath the aims and objectives there are (or are in development) more detailed progress indicators and measurable outcomes.

3.23 Section Three – Existing Partner Strategies and Plans

This section has been compiled using existing plans and strategies that support and provide a rich context to take forward the overarching Health Inequalities Strategy and Framework for Action. It is recognised that these are currently being updated in some areas and this section will be amended to reflect this when the refreshed plans are available. As some of the data may not now be current, the plans should be viewed for illustrative purposes only.

4. RECOMMENDATION

South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership is asked to consider and comment on the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire.

Key areas for comment include the following:

- The overall direction of the Strategy reflected in the key strategic aims
- The strategic objectives and actions found in the Framework for Action
- The colour coded stages of development of the actions
- Any omissions

The feedback from your comments and subsequent discussions will then be used to help shape the final version of the Strategy.

Contact Officers: Iain Green – Environmental Health Officer (Public Health Specialist),
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Telephone: (01954) 713209

Inger O’Meara – Health Improvement Specialist
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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership 17th February 2010

AUTHOR/S: Gemma Barron, South Cambridgeshire District Council

**LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT REWARD GRANT UPDATE
(OCTOBER 2009 – DECEMBER 2009)**

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the status of projects at Quarter 3 (1st October 2009 to 31st December 2009) that are being supported by South Cambridgeshire LSP, to allow members to assess their progress and give direction where appropriate.

Background

2. The LSP Board agreed its recommendations for LPSA Reward Grant allocation at the meeting held on 3rd September 2008.
3. Cambridgeshire Together agreed the LSPs investment plan recommendations, with the exception of the countywide strategic climate change proposal, which was only fully supported by two districts and therefore could not be taken forward (a joint Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire climate change project was established in its place).
4. As the senior accountable body, Cambridgeshire County Council's cabinet considered the recommendations on the 7th October 2008 and agreed the proposed investment.
5. The countywide projects are administered by Cambridgeshire County Council and the projects that are joint with one other LSP are administered by one of the district councils on behalf of the other e.g. South Cambridgeshire District Council administers the joint projects with East Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council administers the Safer Homes project on the behalf of South Cambridgeshire.

Project Updates

6. A summary of the progress made by each of the projects, based on information provided in January 2010, can be found at Appendix A. The following symbols show overall progress and level of risk associated with each:



Indicates that the project has commenced and achieved its activities for the third quarter.



Indicates that the project has had a later than planned start or not completed all the activities forecast for the third quarter.



Indicates that the project (or part of the project) is delayed and/or that the project is significantly off target.

7. Points to note are:

- Two South Cambridgeshire capital only projects are yet to sign conditions of grant and start spending money, however, they have started planning the projects and revenue match funding has been spent (**A1307** and **Cycle Path**).

- One part of one project has been given a red rating (**Energising inclusion through learning**). The Cambridge LSP is closely monitoring this project because one element is significantly off target.

At the January meeting of the Cambridge LSP it was agreed that Young Lives would develop a new proposal for the £90,000 capital set aside for a Learning Bus, which would be presented to an early meeting of the joint LSP. The new project will focus on young people who are not in education, employment or training rather than informal adult learning. It will be up to the LSP to decide if the new project should go ahead or if the Cambridge and/or South Cambridgeshire elements should be diverted to another priority/project.

Community Chest

8. The Community Chest, which was set up by the LSP to provide a small capital community fund to assist voluntary and community groups and Parish Councils to deliver against the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, has recently passed its 12-month anniversary (£30,000 has been spent since January 2009). Eligible groups can apply for up to £1,000 in any financial year.
9. The scheme has proven very popular to date and a total of 37 projects have benefited since January 2009. The priorities covered by the Community Chest are:
 - (a) Providing Opportunities for Disengaged Young People in Your Community
 - (b) Promoting Independence for Older People in Your Community
 - (c) Preventing Obesity in Your Community
 - (d) Promoting Community Cohesion in Your Community
 - (e) Supporting Development and Learning in Your Community
 - (f) Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Your Community
 - (g) Enhancing the Cleanliness of Your Community
 - (h) Promoting Low Carbon Lifestyles
 - (i) Preserving and Enhancing the Countryside
 - (j) Improving Access to Services in Your Community

Projects have generally covered two or more of the priorities listed and some have been agreed under each of the headings. Please see Appendix B for a full list of projects supported to date.



10. The current guidance notes state that these priorities are for 2008-2011, however, there is an opportunity for the LSP to amend the priorities if it so chooses. The scheme is currently closed because all funding has been allocated and will be widely advertised again in March 2010 in advance of the scheme opening again on 1 April 2010 (£20,000 will be available to allocate between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011).




Recommendations

11. The LSP Board is asked
 - (a) To consider the progress being made by the projects (Appendix A) and raise any matters of concern for officers to investigate.
 - (b) To consider the priorities covered by the Community Chest (see paragraph 9) and agree any amendments that they would like implemented for 2010/11.


Contact Officer: Gemma Barron – Partnerships Manager
Telephone: (01954) 713340



Progress Report for use of Reward Grant for Quarter 3 (1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009)




Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Unit The Project will establish a Domestic Abuse Unit, which will co-locate staff on an appropriate site, with a responsibility for delivering integrated services to tackle Domestic Violence. This Unit will be responsible for liaising with local services to ensure both countywide and community focussed service provision.</p>	<p>The majority of targets for Q3 continue to be met, with the Domestic Abuse Unit (DAU) now furnished with new PCs and desk space for additional staff, and additional services to victims of domestic abuse (through IDVAS1) now paid for via grants from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Home Office.</p> <p>The 4 out of 9 targets that are recorded as ongoing result from the restructuring of partner organisations (including Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)), continuing issues around the case management system provided by the MoJ (resolved as of 1st September '09), and the fact that the production of reports for partners regarding Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) outcomes are reinstated each quarter (i.e. are 'ongoing').</p> <p>This project is partially completed with £355,157 revenue expenditure proposed for Q1-9. Whilst this amount currently exceeds funding limits (£310,000 awarded), this forecast does not take into account proposed funding from CCC (via mainstreaming the MARAC Administrator), nor other sources of funding. It should also be noted that the capital forecast of £17,500 is liable to rise once the community services are established.</p>	Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC	£80,000 (South Cambs)
	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Childhood Obesity Support for the training of staff in a variety of settings, including teachers and leisure centre staff, to increase the number of specialist programmes aimed at prevention and obesity management. This project is being</p>	<p>Training in East Cambridgeshire, postponed from Q2 due to poor attendance, has been re-advertised and delivered to an additional 9 members of staff. Combined training figures for Q2-3 therefore total 50+ over the five locality areas.</p> <p>In Q3 an assessment took place of the outcomes from this phase of training sessions (phase 1). Training providers are</p>	Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC	£32,000 (South Cambs)




Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	led by Cambridgeshire PCT and is supported by the City and South Cambs. Improving Health Partnership.	being identified and service specifications developed. Training will be commissioned over Q4.		
	Countywide Smoking Cessation Project to coordinate activities around Smoking in Young people, including change in age of sale of tobacco products, smoking cessation and prevention of uptake of smoking. This project is being led by Cambridgeshire NHS and is supported by the City and South Cambs. Improving Health Partnership.	Over Q3 good progress has been made towards researching and developing project prior to rolling out front line services in Q4: performance measures have been established, benchmarking is being developed, and a communication strategy has been put in place. In addition, a project coordinator has been successfully appointed, with whom a working notice is currently being negotiated. No costs incurred as of Q3 due to work delivered in-kind by Personal Social & Health Education (PSHE), NHS Cambridgeshire, and Trading Standards.	Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC	£39,534 (South Cambs)
	Countywide Community Speed Watch Provision of equipment for monitoring road speed and support for a local scheme in each district. Led at a local level by Police.	To date, more than 4,200 letters have been sent by Police Inspectors to those who have been observed speeding, and over 350 volunteers have been recruited and trained. A meeting of Speedwatch volunteers and coordinators was held on 14th October '09, at which it was agreed that the Road Safety Partnership would be approached to fund a publicity campaign promoting Speedwatch to develop awareness of the scheme further and to attract a new wave of volunteers. At the same meeting minor amendments to operating procedures were suggested by volunteers and agreed by coordinating officers.	Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC	£5,600 (South Cambs)
	Countywide Older People Series of projects to improve the quality of life for elderly people	1. <u>Active Aging (£75k) – on target</u> In Q3 Active Aging estimated that £84,600 was gained in benefits by older people as a result of this project.	Unknown – countywide spend	£48,000 (South Cambs)




Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	<p>including the extension of the books on prescription service, exercise programmes, Tele-Care and keeping warm initiatives. This project is being led by the County Council.</p>	<p>This project has significantly surpassed all of its targets, the most notable being the forecast number of 50 people referred to other agencies versus the actual referral number of 502. In addition, two Q1 targets – promoting talks in East Cambridgeshire, and promoting information services through a mail-shot and article – were achieved this quarter, though another Q1 target – completing database and case study form – needs some ongoing amendments.</p> <p>2. <u>Security Project (£10k) – on target</u> In a survey of those who have benefited directly from this project, there was a 100% positive response to the question "Do you feel more safe & secure in your home?".</p> <p>Q3 has seen more distraction burglary victims needing support but the scheme continues to work well with users of the service reporting high levels of satisfaction and feeling safer in their homes.</p> <p>3. <u>Books on Prescription (£30k) – on target</u> The majority of this project's Q3 spend was on books for the Central Stock Unit (nearly £7k). In addition, 9 new volunteers were recruited who contribute to the training of 42 IT students every month.</p> <p>Over Q3 Books on Prescription (BoP) has undertaken and completed research into health reports for long-term conditions and looked at other BoP schemes around the country for booklist suggestions.</p> <p>4. <u>Community Alarms Project (£90k) – on target</u> Officer groups met in September (and will continue to do so quarterly) and formulated criteria for the dispersal of alarms, as well as agreeing that the launch and publicising of this project should take place via Council publications.</p> <p>As forecast, this project began in Q3 with much of the</p>	<p>amalgamated and claimed via CCC</p>	



Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
		<p>preparatory work taking place over this period. Going forward this project requires some clarification on the split between capital and revenue expenditure, and some assessment of joint versus individual procurement (project lead to send an update on these next quarter).</p> <p>5. <u>Calendar Project (£15k) – on target</u> This project is now going ahead (as of October '09), delivered by Age Concern due to the original organisation renegeing on its successful contract bid.</p> <p>Given the short timescales involved in delivering the project it is envisaged that calendars will be designed, printed, and distributed in time for the Christmas period.</p> <p>6. <u>Falls Prevention project (£20k) – behind target</u> The new project lead has made a good start identifying the project's objectives, has already organised courses for 12 carers, and has designed, printed and dispatched manuals and paperwork associated with the project.</p> <p>This project submitted its business case later than expected due to a change in project lead from the original submission. An assessment of the impact of this project will be forthcoming in Q4.</p>		
	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Alcohol Related Harm Co-ordinator post to implement the Cambridgeshire Alcohol Strategy over a three-year period. This project is being led by Cambridgeshire DAAT and is supported by the City and South Cambs. Improving Health Partnership.</p>	<p>1. <u>Trading Standards (£60k) – on target</u> Trading Standards will shortly be announcing a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) roll out schedule that will take the service up to the end of March 2012 to implement.</p> <p>The next CAP area will be established by the end of March 2010. Parts of the project costing are yet to be ascertained for future years, as this is variable expenditure that cannot currently be identified.</p>	<p>Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC</p>	<p>£40,000 (South Cambs)</p>



Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
		<p>2. <u>Cambridgeshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) (60k) – on target</u></p> <p>Over Q3, targets achieved include a full analysis of data relating to CAP project. Ongoing work includes the Commissioning Group to monitor the implementation of the Harm Reduction strategy, working with migrant groups, promoting safer socialising in Cambridge and coordinating Alcohol Awareness Week.</p> <p>The funding for this project contributes towards the salary of the DAAT Alcohol Coordinator post for two years with the shortfalls in funding being met from other sources.</p>		
	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Third Sector Strategy A joint approach to the development of the “Third Sector” in Cambridgeshire, led by Cambs. ACRE. This project is being supported by CCVS.</p>	<p>In Q3 research into current 3rd sector contribution to the well being of Cambridgeshire Communities, as well as research into 3rd sector representation models, was completed and draft reports produced.</p> <p>Recommendations for a 3rd sector assembly in Cambridgeshire have also been completed and approved by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Consortium (CVSIC) – the next steps and delivery plan are now being developed.</p> <p>Currently a review is being undertaken of existing representation arrangements within Cambridgeshire, with particular focus on the representation responsibilities of CVSIC. A copy of the draft report, recommendations, and action plan will soon be available.</p>	Unknown – countywide spend amalgamated and claimed via CCC	£8,393 (South Cambs)
	<p>Joint with East Cambs</p> <p>Community Led Plans To allow communities to undertake and commit to the process of a Community Led Plan, confident that if they adhere to the Quality</p>	Meetings with Orwell, Fulbourn and Isleham. Review of action delivery carried out in Sutton and Haddenham. Advice and guidance offered to: Bourn, Cottenham, Horningsea, Little Shelford, Melbourn, Orchard Park, Stapleford, Steeple Morden, Willingham, Ashley, Cheveley, Lode. On-going Community Led	£44,935	£89,887


Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	Standards in the development of their Plan that it will then be adopted by their Local Authority and action will result.	Planning Toolkit developments taken place. Database of Community Led Planning actions maintained and kept up to date to ensure accurate reporting.		
	Joint with East Cambs Quality Parish Councils Increase the number of Quality Parish/Town Councils in South and East Cambs.	Contacts made in South Cambs with Linton, Girton, Barton, Orwell, Meldreth. Contact made in East Cambs with Mepal, Woodditton, Burwell, Soham. 1 day per week dedicated to Quality Parish/Town Council development. Commitments to become Quality Councils from Mepal, Barton, Burwell. 1 South Cambs Councils awarded Quality Status – Barton Parish Council. 1 East Cambs Councils awarded Quality Status – Mepal Parish Council. South Cambs target of 2 Quality Parish Councils per year not met in year one. East Cambs target of 1 Quality Parish Council per year met in year one.	£8,430	£25,291
	Community Chest To provide a small capital community fund to assist voluntary and community groups and Parish Councils to deliver against the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.	Funding provided to 5 community projects fulfilling Sustainable Community Strategy priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Shelford Bowls Club (wheelchair access) • Swavesey Festival (marquee) • Cambourne Army Cadets Detachment (field equipment) • RSPB (wildlife through a lense project) • Landbeach Village Hall (security camera) 	£29,000	£50,000
	Joint with Cambridge Connexions Bus Project To provide a safe and flexible meeting space for young people in areas where opportunities, services	Bus received on 23 November 2009 and used successfully for 3 weeks in current venues. 4 part-time workers and 3 volunteers recruited and currently being inducted.	£151,478	£298,558

Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	and facilities are lacking, including Cambridge city centre, villages in South Cambs and in new and developing communities.	Cambridge City Council – draft joint working agreement being discussed. SCDC – bulletin sent to all Parish Councils announcing availability.		
	Joint with Cambridge Travellers Health Project To establish a peer education programme to complement the Travellers Health Project. The project will engage with Traveller families on the roadside, sites and housing and will recruit and train 2-4 community members from the Travelling community in health issues (part time peer educators) in the South Cambs district each year, with an additional two coming from the City district.	Community Development Worker post advertised but no applicants interviewed, even though two candidates were shortlisted for interview. Advertising and recruitment costs were incurred. A secondment opportunity for the post has been offered and accepted by a suitably qualified member of Cambridgeshire Community Services public health team, with a start date of 01/01/2010. Two potential Health Trainers have been identified by the Gypsy Traveller Health Team. The project is behind target due to issues with recruitment.	£1,000	£65,000
	Joint with Cambridge Extension of the Safer Homes scheme run by Cambridgeshire Age Concern, which will provide practical help with small household jobs to elderly people, across tenures, to help make their homes more safe and secure. This project is being lead by Cambridge City Council and will be over a two-year period.	33 visits (source: referred by Safer Homes or self referrals by persons responding to advertising). 31 people directly assisted, 2 signposted to other services/resolutions. 100% clients contacted after work carried out and before invoice paid. All express complete satisfaction which reflects positively on all involved in the service. Clients also express surprise and delight that such a service exists.		£70,000 (both LSPs)
	Road Safety (A1307) To identify and construct appropriate physical engineering work to	Quarterly Project Monitoring Form and conditions of grant drafted in Q3 along with submission of detailed project plan. Spend unlikely to occur until Jan-March 2011, however, revenue	£0	£200,000

Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	reinforce speed limit reductions on the A1307.	element of project (funded by CCC) started in August 2009.		
	Street Cleansing Priority Areas To maintain and extend the successful LPSA pump-priming street cleansing project from five priority villages to ten villages with a financial contribution from SCDC General Fund. Cleansing frequencies will be increased, as will more detailed manual and mechanical sweeping, which is not part of the Council's standard street cleansing service.	Service maintained - carried out dust-free sweeping of footways in main shopping areas of the 10 villages on a fortnightly basis. NI 195 scores being analysed (improved street and environmental cleanliness). The ten villages are: Gamlingay, Linton, Sawston, Fubourn, Histon, Milton, Waterbeach, Melbourn, Willingham and Cottenham.	£29,025	£70,000
	Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership Establishment of two clearly defined parish-level exemplars that will tangibly demonstrate how significant steps in the transition towards a sustainable low-carbon energy future within semi-rural local communities can be achieved.	Successful 2nd workshop; Village Energy Show; Energy monitor loan scheme rolled out; SPEP website development; 3 parishes completed training in Carbon Conversations course; Insulation referrals generated via Eastern Carbon Reduction Initiative; Graphic design work for energy booklet out to tender. The project had an underspend in Q3 due to SCDC match funding some revenue costs that were previously hoped to be considered as capital costs. The LPSA project funding is 100% capital. Ongoing spend has not been profiled for the complete project due to the developing nature of the work.	£8,113	£200,000
	Good Neighbour Schemes and Welcome Home from Hospital To continue to enable local	Handled 100 Welcome Home from Hospital (WHfH) referrals (South Cambs & Cambridge figure). Recruited and trained two new WHfH volunteers.	£15,618	£82,420

Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
	<p>communities throughout the district to develop and sustain grassroots 'good neighbour schemes' and to deliver a Welcome Home from Hospital Service to residents of South Cambs.</p>	<p>Continued to support new car schemes. Met SCDC to explore needs/gaps and agreed to work on the parishes identified as without any community transport.</p> <p>Held third Mobile Wardens' Support Group training. Visited Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme for exploratory visit, partly at request of SCDC.</p>		
	<p>Dial-a-Ride Minibus To purchase a medium Wheelbase Renault Master for use in South Cambridgeshire and publicise Cambridge Dial-a-Ride in the district. The bus will be able to carry 8 passengers or up to 2 wheel chairs, which is ideal for picking up passengers from scattered, isolated communities with often difficult road access. Also, to publicise the Dial-a-Ride service in South Cambridgeshire to increase membership and usage.</p>	<p>The minibus is now in use in the district. The funding for advertising is yet to be fully allocated, however, Dial-a-Ride has stated that this work is in hand. The funding is due to be fully spent by end Q4 2009/10.</p>	<p>£30,763</p>	<p>£32,500</p>
	<p>Cycle Path Contribution towards a scheme to build a safe and convenient cycling route from South Cambridgeshire to Cambridge.</p>	<p>Project (Fen Ditton to Horningsea) to start in Q4 or 2010/11 depending on other related cycleways projects e.g. Cycling Demonstration Town initiatives.</p> <p>The scheme seeks to provide a link between the two villages, which is likely to be a well used school, commuting and leisure route.</p> <p>The design is being finalized in close consultation with the parish councils. The scheme will generally comprise a 2.5 metre wide shared use path on the west side which crosses to the east side outside Fen Ditton primary school by use of a new</p>	<p>£0</p>	<p>£210,000</p>

Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
		<p>toucan crossing.</p> <p>Some land is needed in Horningsea and negotiations are underway to secure this as soon as possible.</p> <p>The project lead is yet to complete the Quarterly Project Monitoring Form and therefore conditions of grant are yet to be signed.</p>		
	<p>Joint with Cambridge</p> <p>Energising inclusion through learning This area is being progressed by Cambridge and South Cambs. Informal Adult Learning Partnership. It will involve developing projects across 3 three strands: Entry/Pre-entry Skills for Life; Qualifications for Life, and; a Learning Bus.</p>	<p>Entry/Pre-entry Skills for Life (Literacy and Numeracy). Sum assigned to this strand: £60,000. Sum allocated to projects £48,000.</p> <p>1. Cambridge Housing Society has started to deliver “New Horizons” to help give tenants in disadvantaged areas confidence to engage with ICT and to assist them in getting online at home. The project’s value is £24,000. During Q4 delivery to 13 learners was achieved.</p> <p>2. Projects have also been developed in this strand for pre-entry/entry learners and include delivery packages prepared by: Cottenham Village College at £5,100; Parkside Federation and Cambridge Housing Society for £10,000. During Q4 delivery to 7 learners by Parkside Federation took place.</p> <p>The above identified projects amount to £39,100 leaving £8,900 to be committed in this strand.</p> <p>Learning Bus. Sum allocated: £90,000 </p> <p>The lead officer for the project reported that the original project was not sustainable and agreed to work-up alternative proposals for the use of the £90,000 capital sum that had been allocated by the LSP Boards to support informal adult learning work with adults. These alternatives are due to be considered by the</p>	<p>£6,368</p>	<p>£180,000 (both LSPs)</p>

Status	Project	Progress for Quarter	Total Claims*	Total Project Costs
		<p>Cambridge LSP Board on 22 January 2010.</p> <p>Qualifications for Work. Sum allocated: £29,500</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to provide training for front-line staff in Adult & Community Learning, to increase their expertise in both customer service and ability to signpost to further educational opportunities. This provision is usually referred to as Information, Advice & Guidance (IAG).</p> <p>The programme will be delivered in two stages; the first stage will lead to the achievement of the Matrix standard, the second stage will be on further training for NVQ awards. The programme will be co-ordinated by the nextstep Adult Guidance service working with ENTO and EAPDC (the East Anglian Professional Development Centre www.eapdc.co.uk).</p> <p>This leaves a balance of £7,500 still to be committed for this strand.</p>		
	<p>Joint with Cambridge</p> <p>Delivery of Climate Change Charter Project that aims to develop a framework of practical support to assist workplaces in the City and South Cambs to help deliver the commitments contained in the Cambridge Climate Change Charter.</p>	<p>23 Oct 09 – EXPO 09 launch event held at SmartLIFE in Cambridge attracted 36 delegates and substantial local media coverage. South Cambs District Council formally signed the Cambridge Climate Change Charter at the event.</p> <p>Online network – now has 54 members, and was used for registration for the EXPO 09 event.</p> <p>Directory of local expertise and resources – first draft distributed at the EXPO 09 event and updated version available on the website.</p>	£16,203	£60,000 (both LSPs)

*Amount spent by project and rather than the amount that has been paid to them. Voluntary and community sector organisations are sometimes paid in advance of spend.

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APPENDIX B

COMMUNITY

QUEST



working
together
for a better
South Cambridgeshire

Successful projects in 2008/09:

	£
Bulk CD printer and copier for Gamlingay Records (Forward Gamlingay)	1,000
Baits Bite Lock Micro-Hydro Scheme Feasibility Study for Milton Parish Council	602.50
Upgrade of bowling green at Melbourn Bowls Club	1,000
Equipment for Sawston Cinema Project (Sawston Village College)	1,000
Equipment for Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth	825
A wheelchair for Papworth V.J. Over 60s Club	150
A wireless amplifier for Papworth & District Day Centre	400
Energy Saving Home Monitors for Histon & Impington Parish Council	1,000
	£5,977.50

Successful projects in 2009/10:

	£
Large litter bin at Four Went Ways (Little Abington Parish Council)	500
Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Histon & Impington Recreation Ground	500
Improvements to indoor bowls facilities for youth section at Steeple Morden Bowls Club	982
Towards new bowls club fitting out and green improvements at Papworth Bowls Club	1000
A light-weight wheelchair for Holiday at Home, Histon	450
Thriplow village shop (association) security upgrade	1,000
Renovation of Cottenham Community Centre	1,000
Village Sign for Fen Drayton Parish Council	1,000
Equipment for the Meals-2-You project in Sawston (Opportunities Without Limits)	284
Pavilion refurbishment and training nets at Fen Drayton Football Club	990
Upgrading of the Barn community rooms at Cottenham Salvation Army	1,000
Recycled plastic seating for the county's girl guides activity centre	966
Castle Camps Village Hall floor refurbishment	1,000
A teen shelter and goal wall on Balsham recreation ground	1,000
Repair of a Grade 1 Listed brick/flint wall in Hauxton	1,000
Footpath improvements and a water tank for Ickleton Allotment	900
Equipment for Coton Football Club	388

Successful projects in 2009/10 (cont'd):	£
Security camera for Landbeach Parish Council	1,000
Youth practice nets at Willingham Cricket Club	1,000
Equipment for Big Outdoor Adventure at Guilden Morden Pre-School	600
Whittlesford Memorial Hall floor refurbishment	1,000
Refurbishment project at Linton Action for Youth	1,000
Pavilion frontage scheme at Willingham	1,000
Equipment for the Wildlife through a Lense Project at Fowlmere Nature Reserve (RSPB)	512.50
Security fencing at Bassingbourn Bowls Club	1,000
Wheelchair access at Little Shelford Bowls Club	600
Restoration of Listed Animal Pound at West Wrattling	1,000
A marquee for Swavesey Festival	900
Equipment for the Cambourne Detachment of the Army Cadets Force	450
	£24,022.5
	0

For further information about any of these projects please contact Gemma Barron, Partnerships Manager on 01954 713340.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership 17th February 2010
AUTHOR/S: Richard Hales (South Cambridgeshire District Council)

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SUSTAINABLE PARISH ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS UPDATE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Partnership Members with an activity and progress update on the LPSA Reward Grant funded project to establish and develop the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership.

Background

2. As agreed in February 2009 the establishment, delivery and maintenance of the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) is a three year programme funded from a £200k capital LPSA reward grant.
3. The focus is upon actively supporting local communities across South Cambridgeshire in positively engaging with the issues of reducing energy bills, tackling climate change and building a more sustainable future.
4. The implementation over the three years comprises two distinct phases – Phase 1 running across all three years of the project and Phase 2 running over years two and three:

Phase 1: Energy Conservation and Efficiency (years 1,2 and 3)

This phase is designed to be fully inclusive and encourage as many parish councils as possible to take advantage of SCDC's flexible support framework for delivering local energy conservation and efficiency measures (budget allocation: £50k).

Phase 2: Renewable energy (years 2 and 3)

This will involve taking two or more of the first year Phase 1 parishes into high impact local renewable energy installation projects – tailored to parish needs as realised through the Phase 1 work (budget allocation: £150k).

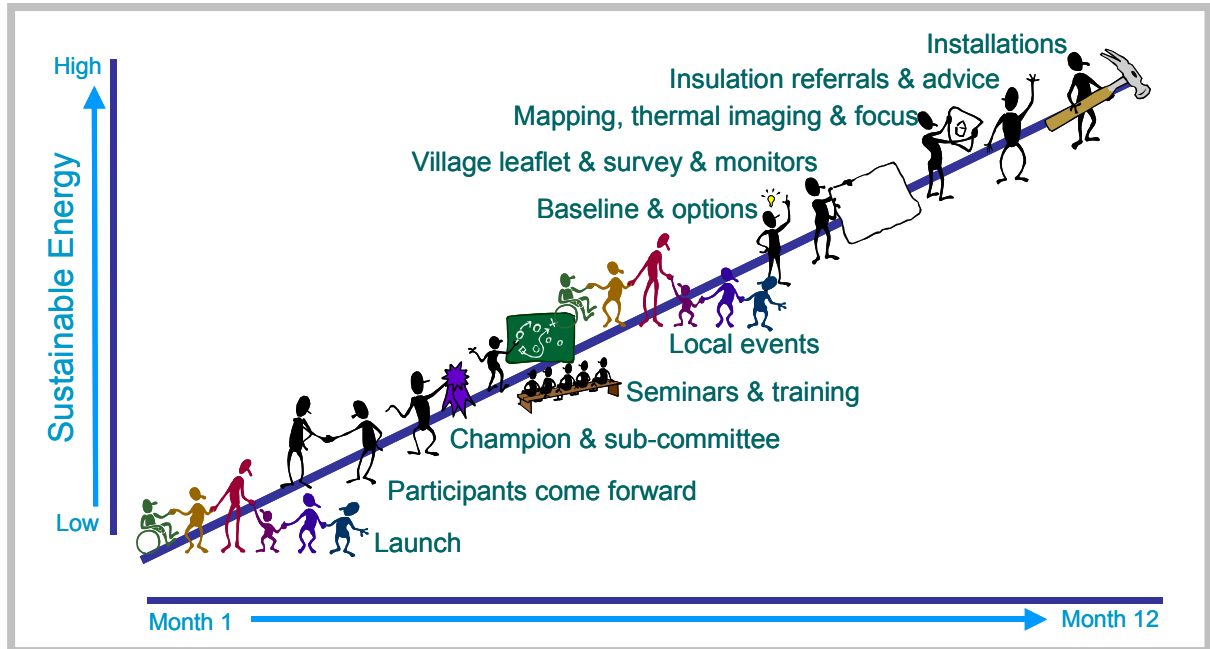
5. The partnership development approach is founded upon engaging both parish councils and local volunteer support groups within South Cambridgeshire's parishes. The parish council support, including the establishment of a parish council 'sustainable energy champion', is designed to provide a semi-formal base, longevity and local support infrastructure for volunteer groups keen to work on improving community and individual options for managing local energy use more sustainably.



6. The attached leaflet (Appendix 1) was used to introduce the Partnership to potential parish partners. It outlines the nature of the offer and commitment.

Year 1 delivery

7. At launch in March 2009, eight parishes showed a keen interest in being a part of the project and, in essence, creating the foundation of the partnership. The membership is now twelve (Barton, Bassingbourn, Comberton, Coton, Cottenham, Dry Drayton, Gamlingay, Girton, Haslingfield, Histon, Impington and Milton).
8. The illustration below shows the basic Phase 1 journey that each parish has participated in.



9. The parish partners are all very different in terms of capacity and volunteer personnel but are united under the shared objective of promoting more sustainable energy use within their communities. The levels of expertise, knowledge and commitment across the whole partnership are very high.
10. In August the Council successfully recruited to the part-time Parish Energy Project Officer post (Alexandra Day). Alexandra has provided excellent and essential dedicated support for the partnership.
11. An SPEP activity listing is attached to this report (Appendix 2).
12. The take-up of the partnership offer has exceeded expectations. It was initially thought that six Year 1 partners would be a good start for a partnership of this nature starting from scratch. To have reached twelve within 10 months is an indication of the levels of concern, interest and appetite for support at the parish/village level across the district. We have also received indications of interest from another six parishes.
13. Key SPEP support elements (provided essentially free of charge) for each parish partner include:
 - Use and access to the bespoke South Cambs Parish Energy Calculator software.
 - Very large scale village maps to permit effective energy mapping and facilitate planning.
 - Access to Cambridge Carbon Footprint's renowned *Carbon Conversations* courses – including facilitator training so that local village based courses can be established.
 - Availability of 15 domestic energy monitors for the groups to use within loan schemes in their communities. These schemes have become very well developed

and include household questionnaires and follow-up visits. Sharing of experience between parishes has proved especially useful with these very valuable engagement tools.

- Introduction of the new regional Carbon Reduction Initiative to provide a direct, trustworthy and standardised route to obtaining subsidised quotes for cavity and loft insulation (Government/energy supplier Carbon Emissions Reduction Target subsidy). This has been offered to SPEP members with a referral fee element, whereby a small income to the parish council and local volunteer group is generated from any subsequent installations arising within each partnered parish.
 - Availability of thermal image camera training and subsequent loan of camera for two nights.
14. The above have been supplemented with numerous attendances at individual village/parish meetings, 3 well attended workshops, our first Village Energy Show (Impington Village College last October), a range of newsletters, fact sheets and SPEP dedicated web pages hosted on the SCDC website.
 15. We are presently working on the development of a Sustainable Parish Energy magazine – this will take the form of an illustrated template that the parishes can tailor to suit the character and image of their villages. These can then be distributed as individual booklets or the pages could be included within an existing parish magazine.
 16. Looking more broadly in terms of sustainable energy we are also in process of setting up trial village car-sharing schemes within the partnership.
 17. In summary the past 10 months have seen the creation of a very active and enthusiastic partnership, working to make local energy use more sustainable across 12 parishes in South Cambridgeshire. Some parishes have known what support they need and others have asked what they can do. The approach has been to work with the level of capacity that each parish can initially bring and to help them develop this and engage more and more on energy matters with their fellow residents. The underlying principle being that we take our cues from the people around us.
 18. Via the tailored support that the SCDC team offers, the LSP funds and their own determination, many partners are now starting to see the fruits of their efforts in their communities - in terms of actual carbon savings and gentle waves towards lower carbon living within the resident population. This will never be an overnight transformation. It will take several years of continued progress to create a lasting change as fossil fuel energy is so engrained in our current lifestyles.
 19. The SPEP is proving itself to be an invaluable and relatively unique channel of engagement. With continued support and attention it stands to make a real contribution to the transition to low carbon living in a low carbon economy across South Cambridgeshire (and may also provide a useful model for other local authorities to consider).
 20. The second year (2010/11) of the SPEP will be a crucial one as we: i.) seek to maintain momentum in further strengthening and developing the partnership, and; ii.) move into the principal capital spend phase of boosting the take-up of renewable energy technologies.

Contact Officer: Richard Hales (Strategic Sustainability Officer, SCDC)
Telephone: 01954-713135

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Supporting Parish Councils across South Cambridgeshire to take the lead in helping their communities and residents to really understand their energy use and the options they have to manage it better. In order to ...

Reduce energy bills

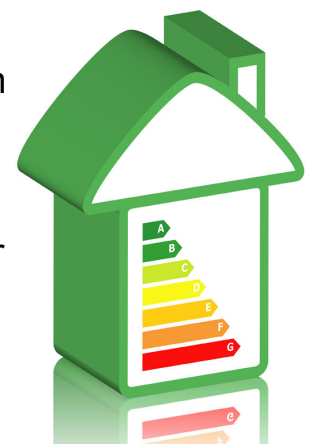
Tackle climate change

Build a more sustainable future

Introducing the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

- With home energy costs at worryingly high levels and growing concerns about climate change, South Cambridgeshire District Council has secured funding for a three year programme to directly support parish councils and their communities in taking steps to tackle both of these very important issues.
- The objective is to develop a partnership of commitment, experience and confidence that can really help to deliver what parishes feel will work locally to cut fuel bills and reduce the carbon emissions that are increasingly contributing to anxiety over climate change.
- The District Council is able to offer a comprehensive programme of assistance to approximately 10 parish councils for each of the three years of the programme. This support takes the form of a 'menu' of support measures from which parishes can select according to their local circumstances and capacity.
- The Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership is open to all parish councils who...
 - ...are concerned about the implications of local energy issues and climate change, and
 - ...feel that there is sufficient community interest to work-up and co-ordinate local activities and projects that will directly contribute to reducing energy bills and tackling climate change.
- There are no direct costs to the parish councils taking part. Likewise there are no application forms, contracts or binding targets. What is required however is a formal commitment (via Parish Council meeting minutes) to work closely with the District Council, and recognised related interests within the parish, on bringing forward and delivering energy conservation and efficiency measures.

It is anticipated that this would probably work best through the use of an existing, or newly established, sub-committee which would report directly to the parish council and could readily look to co-opt appropriate members from the local community. In the case of smaller parishes a direct support link could be made between the full council and a committed environmental group within the parish.







Sustainable energy is energy that we consume with the confidence that it is...

- ...not being used unnecessarily
- ...not unnecessarily expensive
- ...not being wasted
- ...tackling climate change

Why do we need it?

- Parish councils across the district are always working towards improving their community well-being and providing better services at a local level.
- How we manage our energy needs and energy use is a well-being issue of tremendous local relevance. The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act of 2006 specifically gave parish councils room to manoeuvre in creating more sustainable energy futures for their residents and local communities. A 'sustainable energy' future where we benefit from...
 - ...being more in control of our energy demands and use;
 - ...making sure energy is not unnecessarily wasted;
 - ...moving away from fossil fuels to renewable and low-carbon supplies;
- Across the district's parishes there are already environmental groups and committed residents who are taking, or are keen to take, action locally to cut energy costs and tackle climate change. The Energy Partnership is able, via respective parish councils, to offer invaluable and funded direct support.

What exactly is on offer?

- By joining the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership your community will have direct access to a 'menu' of funded support measures that can be shaped to deliver the above benefits whilst fitting in with other local parish circumstances and objectives. The types of measures are outlined below under the categories of information and advice , communication , kit and equipment , and low-carbon thinking .

Specialist energy advice

- starting points, queries, signposting
- reference, information

Training

- visits, workshops, seminars

Grant support

- Government/supplier funds
- grant-finder, form-filling
- match-funding



Energy saving

- Low energy lightbulbs
- Computer powerdowns

Energy awareness

- Energy monitors
- Thermal imaging

Bulk purchase options

- Insulation, draught-proofing
- Renewables

Parish Energy Leaflet

- Community template – village tailoring

Home energy questionnaires

- Residential survey
- Mapping property types

Village events/showcases

- Carbon foot-printing
- Do-it-yourself
- Meet the installers



Community carbon counter

- Parish energy/carbon spreadsheet

Carbon Conversations

- Cambridge Carbon Footprint

On-line network

- Information bank
- Project publicity
- Experience sharing



Who does what?

- **South Cambridgeshire District Council** will...
 - ...allocate a support officer as the main co-ordinating point of contact between participating Parish Councils and the District Council;
 - ...appoint a specialist consultant to offer expert advice on local sustainable energy matters and to assist in running workshops and seminars as required (where requirements are shared such training may take the form of joint sessions involving representatives from more than one parish).
 - ...procure services and equipment as and when necessary to deliver the parish support options as outlined in the boxes on the previous page. Parishes can bring forward other locally appropriate support options that have not been initially included: these will be considered for approval by the District Council subject to available funds and priorities.
- **Parish Councils** wishing to join the partnership will need to...
 - 1...formally agree to participate in the South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (council minute).
 - 2...agree a 'sustainable energy' (or similar) parish councillor 'champion' to take sustainable energy issues forward on behalf of the parish council.
 - 3...establish or identify a sub-committee or working group (to include the parish councillor champion) that can develop, co-ordinate and mobilise members of the local community, local interest groups and residents. This co-ordinating body may wish to seek to co-opt enthusiastic residents from existing organisations and bodies within the parish (e.g. schools, businesses, church, library, surgery, W.I., social clubs etc.) as well as any especially committed individuals.
- Participating Parish Councils (with District Council assistance as requested) will then be in a position to develop, draft and deliver a sustainable energy action plan from the support options outlined on the previous page.
- Some parishes have already begun to plan a way forward and will be clear about the sort of support required. For others, this may be a newer agenda and the District Council can offer advice and discussion on the best first steps – tailored to suit local circumstances and capacities.

How does a Parish Council sign-up to participate?

- Enthusiastic parish councillors or local residents should request to have "*consideration of signing-up to the South Cambs Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership*" put on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.
- The content of this leaflet can be used as the basis for consideration and/or a representative of the District Council can be requested to attend to answer any questions or offer additional information.

If you have any queries or would like any further information on any of the matters raised within this leaflet then please contact Richard Hales at the District Council on 01954-713135 or e-mail at richard.hales@scambs.gov.uk

South Cambridgeshire Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP) Activity/ key events

[N.B. the following does not take into consideration group activity that SPEP officers have not been informed of due to their specificity to a particular parish group. As a result the list is not exhaustive. There is wealth of small local meetings and events taking place amongst the SPEP partners in the district (and other parishes that are showing interest in joining the partnership).]

- 19th March 2009 – Local Launch Event at the SmartLIFE Centre
- April/May 2009 – 8 parish councils agree to sign-up via items on their parish council agendas (in effect establishing the partnership).
- 23rd June 2009 – Low Carbon Living for All event (Cambridge Guildhall)
- 25th June 2009 – First SPEP workshop
- 10th July 2009 – Newsletter 1
- 31st July 2009 – Newsletter 2
- 5th August 2009 – Parish Energy Project Office recruited (part-time)
- 11th September 2009 – Newsletter 3
- 15th September 2009 – Dry Drayton Green Group Meeting
- 16th September 2009 – Gamlingay Environmental Action Group Film Showing: The Age of Stupid
- 19th September 2009 – Bassingbourn Transition Village Harvest Fete
- 19th September 2009 – Gamlingay Environmental Action Group Stand at Gamlingay Village Show
- 29th September 2009 – Dry Drayton Green Group Film Showing: The Age of Stupid
- 6th October 2009 – Barton PC Meeting
- 7th October 2009 – CCF Carbon Conversations Course for SPEP Parishes
- 12th October 2009 – Second SPEP Workshop
- 20th October 2009 – Sustainable Cottenham Film Showing: The Age of Stupid and SPEP presentation
- 24th October 2009 – The Village Energy Show 2009
- 3rd November 2009 - Sustainable Shelford: Solar Thermal Meeting
- 7th November 2009 – eCoton Event
- 27th November 2009 – Barton Working Group Meeting
- 11th December 2009 – Newsletter 4
- 12th December 2009 – Bassingbourn Transition Village Christmas Fair
- 13th December 2009 – Carbon Conversations Facilitator training (Courses to be held in Gamlingay and Histon)
- 6th January 2009 – CCF Thermal Image Camera Training
- 10th January 2010 – Sustainability and Tree Shredding Event – Girton
- 12th January 2010 – Haslingfield – interested in joining SPEP and subsequently signed up as 12th partner.
- 21st January 2010 – Milton Environment Group Action Meeting
- 25th January 2010 – Sustainable Shelford Meeting
- 1st February 2010 – Third SPEP Workshop
- 20th February 2010 – Sustainable Cottenham Film Showing: The Age of Stupid – second showing for a wider audience
- 23rd February 2010 – Dry Drayton Green Group and eCoton Meeting

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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership 17th February 2010

AUTHOR/S: Adam Speed, Cambridgeshire Together
Gemma Barron, South Cambridgeshire District Council

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview to the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) of the impact of the economic downturn on South Cambridgeshire communities, in the context of the national picture and the countywide approach. An increased understanding of the impact of the downturn on communities (residents and organisations etc) and improved information sharing will inform district-wide decision-making and action.

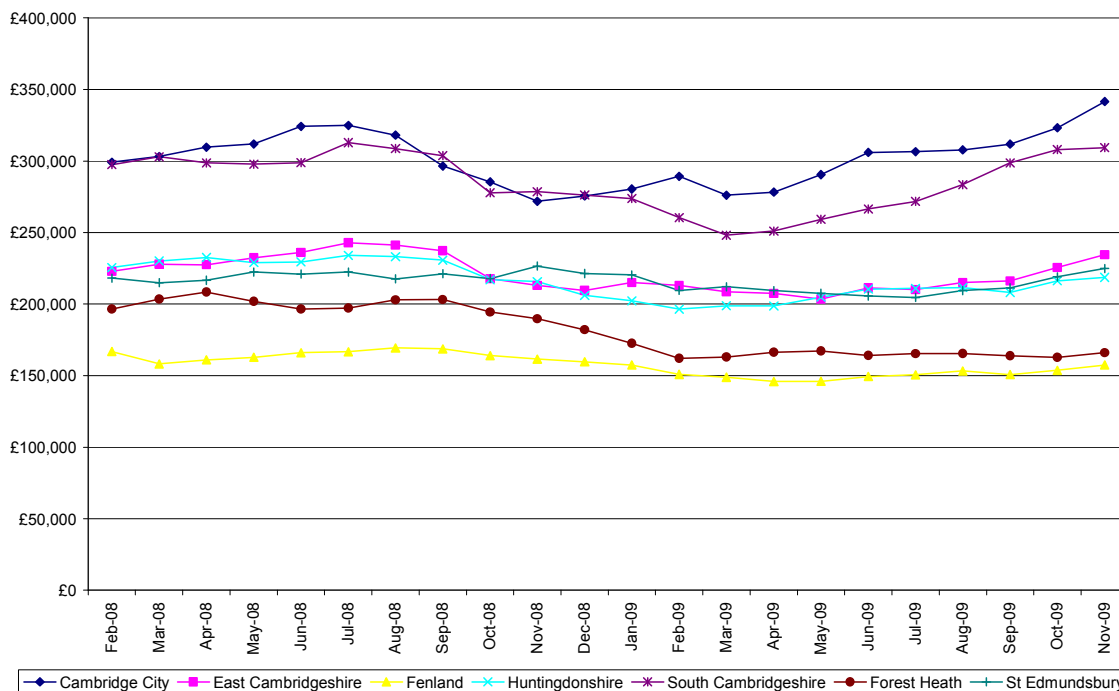
Background

2. At a county level, Cambridgeshire Together has been receiving regular reports and relating to the economic downturn. The content of this report are largely based upon the report that was circulated to the Cambridgeshire Together Board in January 2010 and is informed by regional, county and district-level intelligence. The report is set out by Cambridgeshire Vision themes.

Managing Growth

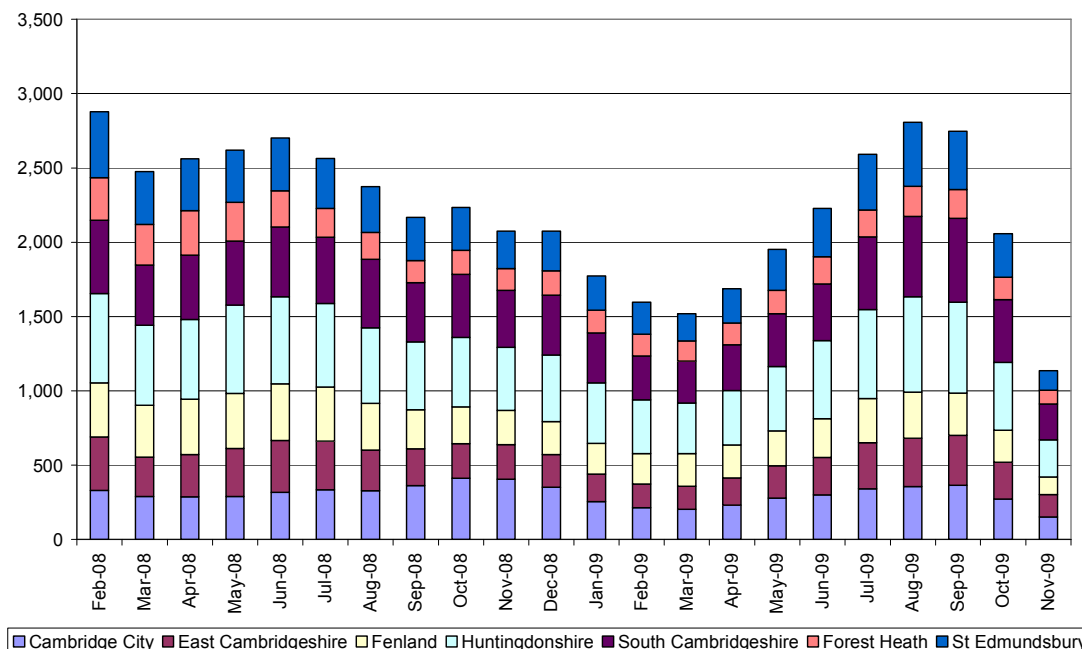
3. The information at Graph 1, provided by Cambridgeshire Horizons from their Hometrack System, shows the change in average house prices by district between February 2008 and November 2009. Average prices have started to increase in most districts since the low point around January / February 2009. The information is based on actual sales achieved (taken from the Land Registry) and valuation data based on Hometrack's automated valuation model.

Graph 1 – Average Price by district



- The overall number of sales drives the average house prices given for the districts and as the following graph shows, the number of sales started to increase from April to August 2009 but has fallen again since. This may be due to seasonal factors as more people buy houses over the summer.

Graph 2 – Number of properties sold per district

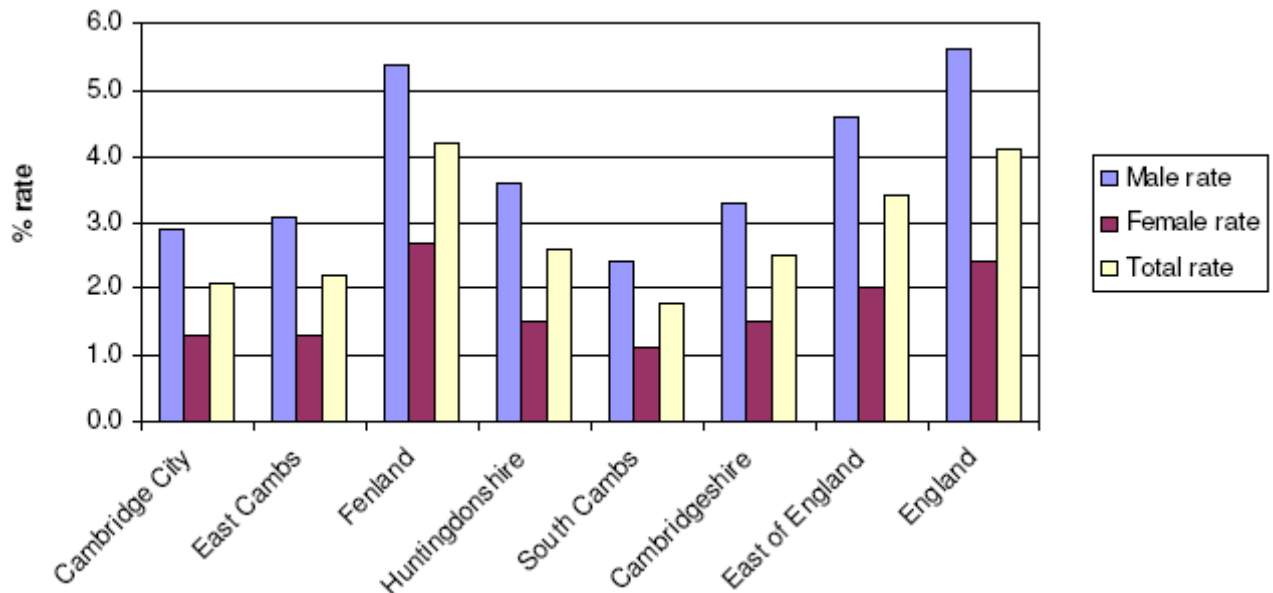


- Although the economic downturn has caused house prices in the county to fall, there are still issues of affordability due to the relatively high cost of homes, a decrease in the availability of mortgages and increasing unemployment causing problems in paying existing mortgages.

Economic Prosperity

6. In November 2009 there were 9,520 Cambridgeshire residents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. This is a total of 190 fewer claimants across the county than in October 2009 following a decrease of 135 claimants from September to October. The claimant count unemployment rate remained at 2.5%, down less than 0.1% on the previous month, up 0.9% on November 2008. This is the third consecutive monthly decrease, which suggests that unemployment has stabilised across all districts and is falling in some areas. This is also in line with recent national trends that show the number of people unemployed nationally fell between September and November for the first time in 18 months.
7. Graph 3 shows the male, female and total claimant count unemployment rates across Cambridgeshire for November 2009 as well as those for the East of England and England. The male unemployment rate is consistently higher than the female rate. South Cambridgeshire has the lowest rates across the county.

Graph 3: Unemployment rates in Cambridgeshire by District – November 2009



8. Table 1 gives the total number unemployed by district and the associated unemployment rates and makes comparisons over the year. Figures for the County, East of England and England are also included.
9. Unemployment rates rose in all five districts over the year to November 2009. South Cambridgeshire had a rate rise of 0.7% (the same percentage as both Cambridge and East Cambridgeshire) representing 549 more claimants across the district.
10. According to a recent report from the “Centre for Cities” the recession has widened the gap between UK city economies. The “Cities Outlook 2010” states that cities that were already suffering before the recession have been hit hardest. Over the past two years, the difference between the two cities with the highest and lowest shares of residents claiming Jobseeker's Allowance¹ - Hull and Cambridge - has nearly doubled.

¹ It should be noted that job seekers allowance data does not capture everyone being made redundant because not everyone is eligible to claim.

11. The report notes that Cambridge has the right ingredients to succeed after the recession has passed due to its strong private sector, high levels of entrepreneurship, highly educated workforce and large share of knowledge-intensive jobs. The report is available at: <http://www.centreforcities.org/> It should be noted that whilst this is the case the recent announcement of a large numbers of job losses (c.350) at Bourn and public spending cuts are yet to impact or be seen in the figures.

Table 1: Unemployment figures for November 2008 and November 2009

	November 2008		November 2009		November 2008 – November 2009	
	Number	Rate %	Number	Rate %	Change in number	Change in rate %
Cambridge City	1,266	1.4	1,920	2.1	654	0.7
East Cambridgeshire	747	1.5	1,111	2.2	364	0.7
Fenland	1,426	2.7	2,214	4.2	788	1.5
Huntingdonshire	1,756	1.7	2,757	2.6	1,001	0.9
South Cambridgeshire	969	1.1	1,518	1.8	549	0.7
Cambridgeshire	6,164	1.6	9,520	2.5	3,356	0.9
East of England	75,252	2.2	116,854	3.4	41,602	1.2
England	878,047	2.7	1,307,139	4.1	429,092	1.4

12. The South Cambridgeshire District Council Hardship Rate Relief Scheme has resulted in a marked increase of applications for assistance. The cost of awarded hardship rate relief to 31st December 2009 was approximately £12,100, which should rise further as more funding is awarded.
13. The Business Support Fund in South Cambridgeshire, with a total value of £50,000, aimed at supporting companies most at risk from the slowing economy was launched in partnership with Business Link. To November 2009, eleven businesses were directly assisted. Businesses were also been given further Business Link support, giving added value. The scheme also referred three new companies to Business Link East.
14. Additional funding, agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet in October 2009, is enabling two local volunteer centres to increase skills through volunteering. This supports the objective of maintaining the skill-base and employability of residents.
15. Further District Council actions agreed over the period to 31st March 2010 (as set out in report to Cabinet on 14th January 2010) are:
- Improving the volume of invoices paid;
 - Continued communication of hardship rate relief;
 - A business competition to support businesses, working with the Chamber of Commerce, Business Link to stimulate innovation and business start-up.

Environmental Sustainability

16. The economic downturn has presented a number of opportunities and challenges within the theme of Environmental Sustainability. For example, it provides an opportunity to promote pro-environmental behaviours that save households and businesses money but

also the challenge of making sure the focus on climate change and environmental sustainability is not lost during the recession.

17. It is essential that during the economic downturn partners and residents do not lose focus on climate change and environmental sustainability and that they seek to maintain those effects that are beneficial as the recession eases. With this in mind the Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Partnership is focusing its campaigns around positive recycling messages, the header is "Let's keep a good thing going" and also around waste prevention, especially food, with their "Love food hate waste" campaign (details are available at <http://www.recap.co.uk/>).
18. In Cambridgeshire's Area Assessment the Audit Commission recognised that RECAP was key in reducing waste in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and awarded a "Green Flag" recognising exceptional performance or innovation that others can learn from.
19. There may be greater challenges to securing climate resilience, lower carbon and environmental benefits through new development because of increasing pressures on Section 106 funds and developers seeking to reduce obligations where possible. South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently working with Cambridgeshire Horizons to put together a bid for Northstowe to become an eco-town, which would provide a limited amount of additional funding for studies and demonstration projects to bring the scheme inline with the eco-town standards.

Equality & Inclusion

20. The Future Jobs Fund made available around £1 billion across the country to support the creation of 150,000 jobs for long term unemployed young people and others who face significant disadvantage in the labour market.
21. The Cambridgeshire bid was successful and means Cambridgeshire will receive a total of £1,528,322 to create 237 temporary jobs. The spread of jobs across Cambridgeshire is:
 - 80 jobs in Cambridge City
 - 15 jobs in East Cambridgeshire
 - 54 jobs in Fenland
 - 71 jobs in Huntingdonshire
 - **15 jobs in South Cambridgeshire**
 - 2 countywide jobs
22. The jobs created include roles in tourism and leisure, community development, health and administration, with posts including finance and education, sports and fitness and the media.
23. Those qualifying for the scheme will need to apply through Jobcentre Plus, with successful applicants receiving at least the minimum wage as an hourly rate. Each position will last six months. The first jobs will be available from February 2010. The job vacancies will be advertised via Jobcentre Plus over the coming months.

Safer and Stronger Communities

24. During a recession it is expected that the voluntary sector will see an increased demand for services. Figures show that the four Citizens Advice Bureaux in Cambridgeshire

(excluding Peterborough) saw nearly 24,500 clients during 2008-09, more than 1 in 25 people in the county.

25. According to statistics recorded for the four Cambridgeshire Bureaux², key areas of advice between Q1 2008 and Q2 2009 show the following increases:

Number of issues raised by Cambridgeshire CAB Clients from April 08 – June 09						
	Q1 2008/ 2009	Q2 2008/ 2009	Q3 2008/ 2009	Q4 2008/ 2009	Q1 2009/ 2010	% Increase between Q1 2008 and Q1 2009
Job Seekers Allowance	217	318	440	613	617	184%
Redundancy	240	293	449	471	365	52%
Mortgage and Secured Loan Arrears	236	285	219	366	320	36%
Fuel Debts	210	269	259	372	373	78%
Total Benefits Issues	5404	5672	5522	6942	7348	36%
Total Debt Issues	5972	5996	6160	7557	7638	28%

26. In money terms the Cambridge and District CAB alone recorded £878,811 total client debt in Q1 08 against a total of £3,012,824 in Q1 09. The full report from Advicehub is available at: http://www.advicehub.org/ADVICEHUBREPORT_P4P.pdf.

Recommendations

27. The LSP Board is recommended to note the evidence and analysis of the impact of the economic downturn in South Cambridgeshire and the actions being taken by partners to mitigate the impact.
28. The LSP Board is requested to highlight areas for further investigation and/or action.

² South Cambridgeshire residents also benefit from out of county bureaux such as North Hertfordshire and District, Haverhill and District, and Uttlesford.

Agenda Item No.

Comprehensive Area Assessment Results

To: South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership

Date: 17 February 2010

From: Stephen Moir, Corporate Director: People, Policy and Law, CCC

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Comprehensive Area Assessment, or CAA, became the formal inspection methodology for local authorities and other public bodies within defined geographic areas with effect from 1 April 2009, replacing the prior regime of Comprehensive Performance Assessment, or CPA. Consequently, the seven Joint Inspectorates, led by the Audit Commission, formally published the results of the first year of Comprehensive Area Assessment inspection in late 2009.
- 1.2 Comprehensive Area Assessment consists of two separate elements of inspection activity. The first element of the inspection is an Organisational Assessment of the Council's as individual authorities. The second element of the CAA methodology relates to an assessment of Cambridgeshire at a County, or area level, and assesses the collective activity across the key public authorities including local authorities, police, fire and health undertaken on behalf of the communities of Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3 The results for both the organisational and area assessment were published on 9th December 2009. As a part of the publication of CAA results, the Audit Commission established the Oneplace website at <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>. This website enables the public and other interested parties to review the details of the overall Area Assessment and the Organisational Assessment of their principal council(s), fire authority, police authority, and primary care trust. The website also includes links to the specific assessments undertaken in respect of children and young people's services and adult social services.

2. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AREA ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The Area Assessment for Cambridgeshire reviewed how Cambridgeshire Together partners were working together to meet shared priorities for Cambridgeshire, as identified in the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy. Cambridgeshire received one 'green flag', recognising "exceptional performance or innovation that others can learn from". The green flag was awarded for efforts to manage waste and recycling issues and noted that the ReCAP partnership was "key in reducing waste". The county, as an area, did not

receive any red flags and was therefore not considered to have any significant areas of concern to be addressed.

- 2.2 Drawing upon the detailed Area Assessment Report, which provides a greater narrative to underpin these judgements, some summarised commentary is set out as follows:

Managing Growth

- 2.3 The report recognised that organisations are working together well to manage the significant housing and population growth. The report concludes that funding has been secured to help ensure house building continues during the recession, but it is not growth at any cost. It says partners have learned from past experiences and are making sure new housing has the necessary facilities, such as schools, when they are needed. It recognises that congestion is a problem and will get worse and the longer term solutions rely on Government funding. But it says that partners have successfully encouraged local people and visitors to use public transport.

Economic Prosperity

- 2.4 Cambridgeshire's economy is one of the strongest in the country and until the recession many local people benefited from a long period of growth. But people in some areas do not have the same chances as in more wealthy areas as jobs are less well paid or transport links are not as good.
- 2.5 Many young people are well prepared to benefit from prosperity in the area. Education results are generally good and more young people are staying in education to improve their prospects. Action is being taken to improve results for children in poorer families who do less well at school and has been identified as a high priority by partners.

Environmental Sustainability

- 2.6 Successful partnership working means that well over half the waste collected is for recycling and the amount of waste created is also reduced. Good work is being carried out to educate people and encourage businesses to recycle more. The report praises partners for working together to keep the local environment attractive and healthy. It highlights the fact that air quality has improved by using cleaner buses and pollution has reduced because more people are using public transport.

Equality and Inclusion

- 2.7 In terms of equality and inclusion the overall picture of life in Cambridgeshire is positive. Many people are healthy, well educated and have good incomes but there are some big differences within the area. Partners are aware of these differences and services are being put in place to help people to live healthier lives. Local politicians are committed to ensure that available money is directed to help those who need it and have moved funds from more wealthy areas to less well off places.

Safer and Stronger Communities

- 2.8 Although crime in Cambridgeshire is higher than in similar places it did reduce last year. Crimes where people have been injured have increased recently and many were a result of domestic abuse or by people with alcohol problems. Action is being taken collectively and the report praises the creation of the violent crimes task group to tackle excessive drinking in Cambridge. Police and partners are working well to tackle domestic abuse.

Areas for Improvement

- 2.9 Cambridgeshire received no red flags in the Area Assessment, in recognition of the work being done by partners to address priority areas in the County. However, in the following areas, the Partnership will need to show how it has continued to address inequalities and improve outcomes:
- Reducing inequalities across the County, particularly around rural isolation, education and health. Partners are all taking action to address this, and there are a number of projects emerging from Making Cambridgeshire Count that should continue to improve outcomes.
 - Reducing crime in Cambridgeshire to a level at least equivalent to similar areas. Alcohol abuse and domestic abuse are particularly noted. The report recognises that work is being carried out on excessive drinking in Cambridge; and a Making Cambridgeshire Count project is aiming to significantly improve co-ordination of services for victims of domestic abuse.
- 2.10 The Area Self-assessment will note these areas for improvement and identify action that is being taken to address them. They will also need to be recognised as priorities during the development of the Cambridgeshire Plan.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership Board is asked to note the results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

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