

## New Expenditure Proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

1. <b>Service: Community Services</b>	2. <b>Submitted by: Simon McIntosh</b>
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<p><b>3. Brief Description of the proposal: Community Facilities Construction Expert</b> Appointment of a construction expert to oversee and monitor the provision of community facilities at Cambourne, Arbury Camp and other existing developments and to develop this post into a Facilities Project Manager/Clerk of Works role for Northstowe from 2007/8</p> <p>It is proposed that the community facilities at Northstowe will be constructed directly by the Council, rather than as at Cambourne where community facilities have been provided directly by the Developers which has resulted in a number of problems relating to timing and quality.</p> <p>This will give the Council and the local community much greater control over what is provided and help ensure that local needs are properly met.</p>
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<b>4. Costs (£000s)</b>				
Detail	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
1 FTE anticipated @ scale point 42		48	48	48
<b>Total Costs:</b>		48	48	48

<p><b>5. Reason for bid:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inescapable</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Related to one or more of the three priorities</p>
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<p><b>6. Policy Justification:</b> This proposal helps implement one the Council's three key priorities and also the Community Strategy priority relating to new settlements. Cabinet has identified the need for improvements in the way community facilities are delivered to new communities and has endorsed the principle of the Council taking more of a lead in this process, rather than relying on developers.</p> <p>This is proposed to overcome the difficulties experienced at Cambourne and other villages such as Caldecote where the provision of community facilities through Section 106 Agreements has not been successful and has led to considerable frustration by officers and local communities.</p>
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<p><b>7. Benefit for service users/public:</b> The difficulties seen at Cambourne arising from the developers directly providing community facilities has been well documented and considered by both Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee. This proposal is designed to bring direct benefit to new communities and also residents living in existing villages where new housing developments are also occurring.</p> <p>The proposal ensures that the Council, and residents, have much greater influence on the provision of community facilities in relation to both timing and design. The post holder will also help plan for and identify the capital funds required in Section 106 negotiations in order to ensure that sufficient</p>
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funds exist to construct the facilities required.

**8. Impact on Performance Indicators:**

Performance Indicator		Estimated performance in 2004/2005	Estimated improved performance in 2005/2006
#	Description		
	Corporate pi's relating to new developments are currently under consideration in light of the CPA Improvement Plan		

**9. Implications if not approved:**

The Community Services Section is currently not adequately resourced to monitor and ensure the successful implementation of community facilities through section 106 agreements in major new developments.

The Council does not have the necessary technical expertise to oversee the delivery of all community facilities in Cambourne and has bought in a number of consultants to provide expert advice over the past 2 years. The facilities at Cambourne are none-the-less far from satisfactory and this position must improve for Cambourne, Arbury Camp and Northstowe otherwise the Council loses credibility in its ability to manage the provision of community facilities in large-scale developments.

There are considerable implications regarding public satisfaction within new communities and that is why Cabinet has endorsed the change of policy to ensure that the Council has greater control over provision of these important community facilities. This technical expertise now needs to be resourced.