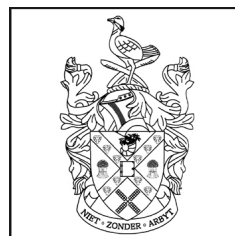


## New Expenditure Proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

1. <b>Service: Community Services</b>	2. <b>Submitted by: Simon McIntosh</b>
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**3. Brief Description of the proposal: Plan for and establish the appropriate governance for Northstowe.** This includes the development of sustainable governance structures and mechanisms for community involvement in decisions, management of community facilities and also further work to explore the establishment of a development trust.

4. <b>Costs (£000s)</b>				
Detail	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
1 FTE anticipated @ Scale point 30	-	32.7	32.7	32.7
<b>Total Costs:</b>		32.7	32.7	32.7

**5. Reason for bid:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Inescapable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to one or more of the three priorities

**6. Policy Justification:**  
 This proposal helps implement one of the Council's three key priorities and also the Community Strategy Priority relating to new settlements. Cabinet has endorsed the need for a feasibility study into the establishment of a Development Trust for Northstowe and has also supported the need to explore and establish arrangements for the management of community facilities and assets at Northstowe.

It is proposed that the Development Trust feasibility work will be required in early 2005 and may initially involve a consultant but that the role will develop into a full time position.

**7. Benefit for service users/public:**  
 Northstowe presents many new challenges to the Council as it will be the first "urban" development in South Cambs with a population of approximately 20,000 people. It is also likely to have the district's first town council which will operate in a similar way to a parish council. Due to the scale of the development and the range of community facilities and services required, the new town council will not be able to manage all community facilities. In other towns of this size such as St Neots or Huntingdon, larger facilities are generally managed directly by the district council.

In order to ensure that the town's facilities are properly managed to the benefit of the whole community and that residents feel ownership of their amenities and the local decision making process, the Council must develop a strategy for sustainable governance at Northstowe.

Lessons have been learned from Cambourne where the new and very inexperienced Parish Council is struggling to find its feet. It is clear that in order for the new Northstowe Community to be satisfied by the governance structures, community involvement and management of facilities a considerable amount of preparation work is required at this stage of the planning process.

<b>8. Impact on Performance Indicators:</b>			
<b>Performance Indicator</b>		<b>Estimated performance in 2004/2005</b>	<b>Estimated improved performance in 2005/2006</b>
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>		
	Corporate pi's relating to new developments are being considered in light of the CPA Improvement Plan		

**9. Implications if not approved:**

A considerable amount of time and resources are being dedicated to planning and preparation of the physical environment of Northstowe. It is vital that this work is also complemented by planning and preparation for the social environment and management of assets.

Resources must be allocated "up front" to this important process of establishing the foundation on which Northstowe will develop as a sustainable, vibrant and active community. This is as much part of the Council's responsibilities towards future Northstowe citizens as the planning of houses, roads and facilities.

We must learn lessons from Cambourne but also address the greater needs of the district's first urban development which will not function as a large village, but rather as a town.

Without proper planning and the early establishment of an appropriate community infrastructure and governance systems, Northstowe cannot be a success.