

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Overview Committee 4th December 2008
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RESPONSE TO ARBURY PARK TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT

Purpose

1. To present Scrutiny Committee with Cabinet's response and accompanying action plan on the Task and Finish's report for Arbury/Orchard Park.
2. This is not a key decision but Cabinet have endorsed the actions to be taken forward by officers in order to learn lessons and make improvements for the future.

Background

3. Following a Scrutiny meeting on 17th January 2008 at the Meadows Community Centre in Arbury, where many issues were raised about the Arbury development, Scrutiny decided to set up a Task and Finish group, to examine the development of Arbury Park and to recommend learning points for use in the ongoing major developments in the district.
4. The group, consisting originally of five district councillors and the chairman of Impington Parish Council, held their first meeting on 12th February 2008 to agree a scoping document. Over the next six months a further 17 meetings were held which involved interviewing developers, builders, social landlords, health partners, a representative of the residents' association and officers and councillors from the City, County and District councils. They also visited another Gallagher development within Huntingdonshire District Council to compare experiences on new developments.
5. The group identified learning points for future developments, as well as many achievements of which the council should be proud. A final report from the Task and Finish group was approved by the Scrutiny committee on 2nd October and presented to Cabinet on 9th October. EMT were asked to consider the implications of the Task and Finish group's recommendations and presented their views and actions to Cabinet on 13th November. Cabinet endorsed the report with some amendments to the action plan and now present it to Scrutiny Committee for their approval.

Considerations

6. Following publication of the final Task and Finish group report and its approval at Scrutiny committee on 2nd October an action plan was produced to address the recommendations. This can be viewed at Appendix one.
7. The action plan seeks to comment on the recommendations indicating where lessons have already been learnt and issues are being addressed; where there is work ongoing and where further work or resources are required.

Issues

8. The action plan addresses all the Task and Finish Groups recommendations even though some are not the responsibility of the district council to progress alone. In

these cases (recommendations R1d, R5c, R14b, R14d and 15a) officer's will work with the partner organisations to ensure improvements are made and action is progressed.

Implications

9. Financial	To address some of the recommendations financial commitments are required. Some are being addressed through service planning bids and some through S106 negotiations but there may be areas that require additional funding if the recommendations are to be fully met. Any additional financial commitments will need to be considered by this authority in conjunction with other calls upon expenditure. Alternative sources of funding are being explored with partners and any proposals would be the subject of future detailed discussion with members.
Legal	A number of the recommendations require legal input and it is hoped that the newly appointed planning lawyer will be able to assist with this.
Staffing	All the recommendations have an impact on staff resources and these are being addressed where appropriate and possible.
Risk Management	The council must address the recommendations of the task and finish group to reduce the risk of failure at future developments.
Equal Opportunities	The council is committed to providing a fair and equitable service to all its residents and learning the lessons from developments such as Arbury Park helps to achieve this aim.

Consultations

10. Executive Management Team and all the officers listed in the action plan have been consulted prior to the report being endorsed by Cabinet on 13th November. The New Communities Portfolio Holder and relevant officers have been consulted on the amendments made by Cabinet ahead of publication of this report to Scrutiny.

Effect on Corporate Objectives and Service Priorities

11.	Work in partnership to manage growth to benefit everyone in South Cambridgeshire now and in the future
	Officers are working to enable the development of sustainable new communities in South Cambridgeshire, in partnership with Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Horizons, Parish Councils, local communities and others.
	Deliver high quality services that represent best value and are accessible to all our community
	By learning the lessons of past and current developments the council can expand/build on the service it delivers to both existing and new communities, ensuring that the growth of existing communities enhances them and brings benefits to their, and their neighbouring residents.
	Enhance quality of life and build a sustainable South Cambridgeshire where everyone is proud to live and work
	The actions ensure the needs of any new community are met and support other services to deliver growth and to serve a growing population. They promote the cultural, economic and environmental sustainability of communities across the whole district.

Conclusions/Summary

12. The action plan at Appendix one seeks to address the recommendations set by the Scrutiny committee task and finish group to improve existing and new communities for the enhancement of everyone involved.

Recommendations

13. The Committee is recommended to endorse this report and the action plan at appendix one.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Scrutiny Task and Finish group report, 2nd October 2008

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