

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