

**ST NEOTS EASTERN EXPANSION**

Governance arrangements for the master planning process

**(Report by HEAD OF PLANNING SERVICES)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposed governance arrangements to support the master planning process for this large scale urban extension.
- 1.2 Cabinet is asked to consider this arrangement and in particular agree the suggested Member involvement arrangements.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This area of St Neots has been identified in the Core Strategy as a location for strategic growth within the district.
- 2.2 The land is within the ownership of two principal landowners, although there are other smaller landowners as well.
- 2.3 It has been agreed to involve Cambridgeshire Horizons in the proposed delivery board, in the same way that they have been involved with managing the delivery of the 'southern fringe' urban extension to Cambridge, as well as with Northstowe. It is intended that the Director of Environmental and Community Services will represent HDC on the board. The delivery board could have several aims, including:-
- Managing key risks and issues on delivery of St Neots Eastern Expansion (these are likely to be risks requiring member involvement, policy changes or overcoming organisational barriers including between partners)
  - Setting clear aspirations for St Neots Eastern Expansion (either through targets and/or performance indicators)
  - Challenging poor performance and low quality aspirations
  - Identifying and securing future funding opportunities to support the long term delivery of St Neots Eastern Expansion
  - Managing the implementation of the St Neots Eastern Expansion Delivery Plan

Confirmation has been received from Cambridgeshire Horizons that the Chief Executive will lead their inputs into this important development area.

- 2.4 It is also intended that a project steering group will report to the board. This will be chaired by HDC, represented by the Head of Planning Services. This group will consist of representatives from HDC, CCC, and the two major landowners.
- 2.5 Member involvement will take the form of a 'Members' Steering Group', with members from the District Council, the County Council and St Neots Town Council. The development area is currently within the ward of Gransden and The Offords, and within the parishes of Eynesbury Hardwicke and St Neots Rural. However it is the intention that this development area will all fall within St Neots town council's area and will also have its own District Council ward in due course. The intention is to have 4 District Council members (including the HDC Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport), 3 Town Council members and 2 County Council members (9 in total).
- 2.6 Meetings of all these groups will take place as required, but it is envisaged that these will be initially on a bi-monthly basis.
- 2.7 The steering group will receive input from the various stakeholder groups such as the St Neots Town Centre Initiative and its existing working groups.
- 2.8 This type of arrangement is considered to be good practice, and will ensure that a robust governance framework will be put in place to help to deliver this large scale urban extension.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to note the proposed governance arrangement and to nominate 4 Members to sit on the Members' Steering Group in accordance with the suggested arrangements as set out in Paragraph 2.5.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Huntingdonshire Core Strategy 2009  
St Neots Healthcheck 2009

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