

REVISIONS TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

To: **Cabinet**

Date: **7th July 2009**

From: **Corporate Director: People, Policy and Law**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** *Key decision:* **Council Decision**

Purpose: **This report outlines the Policy Framework for the County Council and proposes further refinement and refresh of the Framework.**

The Policy Framework has previously been presented and agreed at Full Council as part of the Integrated Plan. However, following the County Council elections, it is necessary to review and confirm the Framework with the Full Council.

Recommendation: **Cabinet are recommended to consider the revised Policy Framework and endorse the contents of the Framework for onward consideration and final confirmation by the County Council.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contact</i>	
Name:	Keith Bowman	Name:	Councillor John Reynolds
Post:	Corporate Policy Manager	Portfolio:	Resources and Performance
Email:	Keith.bowman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	Email:	John.Reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 699155	Tel:	01223 699173

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000: Guidance to English Local Authorities sets out the requirements of the Act including the obligation for the adoption or approval of specified plans and strategies of the local authority. The regulations require that key plans and strategies be approved or adopted by Full Council.
- 1.2 The Regulations also allow local authorities to choose other plans or strategies (statutory or non-statutory), in addition to those listed, to be adopted or approved by the full council.
- 1.3 The Local Authorities' Plans and Strategies (Disapplication) Order came into effect on 2009. The documents listed under 4.01, the Policy Framework, in article 4 of the Council's Constitution will have to change as some of these documents have been replaced with updated documents and/or their name has changed and work by Democratic and Member Services has already been undertaken to make a number of these adjustments to the Constitution for the County Council meeting in July.
- 1.4 The revised Policy Framework, attached at Appendix A includes statutory plans and strategies that have to be adopted by Full Council, as per regulations, as well as other plans that this Council has chosen to include as they form an integral part of the decision making process. The implications of the Local Authorities' Plans and Strategies (Disapplication) Order 2009 have also been taken into account.

2.0 WHY REVISE THE POLICY FRAMEWORK?

- 2.1 The policies and strategies to be included in the Policy Framework can change from year to year and a review of the documents listed in the framework is carried out annually.
- 2.2 A review of the Framework provides an opportunity to set it within the context of the Council's overall approach to Integrated Planning, prioritisation, resource and performance issues. The framework for 2008/09 contained policy statements on every policy listed within it. These policy statements served as an outline of each policy and the key actions contained within it. In the revised version of the framework such statements have been reduced further to make the document shorter and easier to read and more useful for members, officers and the public. The statements in the revised version now list the vision, the dates, the strategy covers, the date a refresh is due and a hyperlink to the specific strategy or plan so that the reader can view the specific policy or strategy in full, should they wish to.

3.0 CONTINUING REVIEW

- 3.1 The Policy Framework has been reviewed in order to make it "fit for purpose" following the County Council elections. During the rest of 2009/10 the Corporate Policy Team, within People, Policy and Law, will continue to review the Framework and develop a guidance toolkit that will support the consistent and integrated development of all Council policies. This will inform and

regularise the Policy Framework, which is reviewed and adopted each year as the decision-making framework for the Council.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

Statutory Duties and Partnership Working

- 4.1 There is a potential risk of failing to meet a statutory requirement if the Policy Framework is not regularly reviewed and considered by Members.

Resources and Performance, Climate Change, Access and Inclusion, Engagement and Consultation.

- 4.2 There are no other significant implications for any of the other main implications headings set out above.

Source Documents	Location
The list of documents in the Policy Framework is listed within the Council's Integrated Plan 2009, available on the Council's internet pages or from the Corporate Policy team on 01223 699155.	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/policies/integratedplanandpolicyframework.htm