1 **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update Members on the progress of the Urban footpath/cycleway system and to enable a decision to be made on the completion of the works.

2 **Background**

2.1 At the meeting on 15th June 1998, the Environment Committee of the Council approved a Cycling Strategy for Wellingborough, which included a number of routes through open spaces owned by the Borough including Stanwell Way Open Space, Castle Fields and Bassetts Close.

2.2 At the meeting on 9th June 2004, the Committee recommended that the construction of the Stanwell Way footpath/cycleway should proceed with a temporary access into Stanwell Way, with the remainder being completed upon the acquisition of the land from Sainsbury’s. The construction of additional barriers to help reduce the existing problem of motor-cycle use within the open space area was also approved.

2.3 At the same Meeting the Committee also requested that the Head of Legal Services write again to the solicitors acting for Sainsbury’s expressing the Council’s concern and dismay at the lack of action and requesting a response within 14 days and that officers should consider what other action could be pursued to bring about the completion of the Stanwell Way footpath/cycleway to Northampton Road.

2.4 Planning permission for the lighting on the Stanwell footpath/cycleway was granted at the Regulatory Committee on November 10th. Permission was sought for lighting to cover all of the proposed footpath/cycleway including that section through Sainsbury’s land.

2.5 The footpath/cycleway through the Stanwell Way Open Space was completed last year.

2.6 At the Economic and Environment Committee on 8th June 2005, the decision was taken to proceed with the route through Bassetts Close.

3 **Discussion**

3.1 **Stanwell Way**

3.1.1 The land in the ownership of Sainsbury’s required to extend the footpath/cycleway through to Northampton Road was acquired by the Council in
May of this year.

3.1.2 Following the construction of the footpath/cycleway through the open space at the rear of Stanwell Way, it has become apparent that the area is still affected by the unauthorised use of motorcycles. The additional barriers around the Stanwell Way Open Space have been installed to make it more difficult for motorcycles and other unauthorised vehicles to access the open space. These measures cannot be totally effective, however, as access has still to be maintained for other legitimate users.

3.1.3 The creation of a lit footpath/cycleway route, to improve access to the open space, particularly for the disabled, parents with prams etc, is in line with access proposals contained in the consultation draft Public Open Space Strategy approved by Council.

3.1.4 It is proposed to extend the existing footpath/cycleway through the land recently acquired from Sainsbury’s to Northampton Road. Planning permission for the lighting on this route was obtained last year as part of the original route.

3.1.5 Completion of the footpath/cycleway to Northampton Road will connect it to the existing route from Moreton Avenue and the Croyland cycleway. A section 106 requirement for a recent planning approval for a development off Bourton Way includes finance for the construction of a light controlled crossing on Northampton Road outside the Sainsbury Store. A timescale for this work has not yet been agreed.

3.1.6 The estimated cost of the scheme is £54,000

3.2 Bassetts Close

3.2.1 Planning approval for the lighting on this scheme was given at Regulatory Committee on 19th July.

3.2.2 Northamptonshire County Council completed works in Brickhill Road to create a segregated footpath/cycleway between Ryeburn Way and Westfield Road to connect the existing footpath/cycleway network with the proposed Bassetts Close footpath/cycleway.

3.2.3 Works to create a cycle friendly route between Oxford Street and the Croyland Cycleway are to be implemented by the County Council later this year as part of the works funded by the Section 106 monies from the Morrisons supermarket development. These works will be part of a scheme to reduce through traffic using Abbots Way.

3.2.4 The estimated cost of the Bassetts Close footpath/cycleway is £43,000

3.3 Castle Footway/Cycleway

3.3.1 Planning approval for the lighting on this scheme was given at Regulatory Committee on 19th July

3.3.2 The initial phase of this proposal is to widen the existing footpath to create a footpath/cycleway link from Castle Street through Castle Fields to Chester Road. The continuation of this footpath/cycleway is dependent upon the acquisition of land between Castle Fields and Senwick Road

3.3.3 Consideration of this scheme was deferred due to the work required to the trees. Now that the trees have been replanted it is considered the right time to
implement the scheme reducing a risk of damage to the trees. and in furtherance of this planning permission for the lighting was sought.

3.3.3 The estimated cost of the scheme is £41,000

3.4 **Rural Footpaths/Cycleways**

3.4.1 Match funding is still being sought from Northamptonshire County Council to enable the Footpath/Cycleway from Irchester to Wollaston to be built.

3.4.2 In April 2006 a bid was submitted as part of the Growth Area Funding through the River Nene Regional Park green infrastructure pot to develop a green link (Footpath/cycleway) from the Embankment (Little Irchester) to Summer Leys and Wollaston. While the result of the bid is still awaited there are indications that it is successful.

4 **Legal Powers**

Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984:
Highways Act, 1980:

5 **Financial Implications**

5.1 The estimated total cost of implementing the schemes is £138,000, which is made up as follows:

- Stanwell footpath/cycleway £54,000
- Bassetts Close £43,000
- Castle Fields £41,000

5.2 The allocation remaining for footpath/cycleways for the current financial year is £61,000 subject to approval to carry-forward from last year.

5.3 This leads to an estimated shortfall of £77,000. Accordingly for all three schemes to proceed additional funding is required.

5.4 In the event that additional funding is not available in this financial year only one scheme could proceed. It is considered that in this eventuality, the choice is between Bassetts Close and Castle Fields, with the Stanwell extension being delayed until the construction can coincide with the provision of a controlled crossing over Northampton Road. Officers believe that approved Bassetts Close scheme should be implemented as it provides better links to the existing Footpath/cycleway network.

6 **Risk Analysis and Implications**

6.1 **Implications for Staffing**

There are no implications arising from this report.

6.2 **Implications for Sustainable Development**

Footpath/Cycleways help the delivery of Wellingborough’s Sustainable Community Plan and Northamptonshire County Councils Local Transport Plan.

6.3 **Implications for Equal Opportunities.**

There are no implications arising from this report.
6.4 **Implications for Community Safety**
Delivery of the footpath/cycleway networks will improve the safety of both cyclists and pedestrians.

6.4 **Implications for Health Improvement**
Footpath/cycleways encourage people to take more physical exercise improving their well-being.

6.5 **Implications for Property**
The Footpath/cycleways pass through amenity land owned by the Council.

7 **Recommendations.**
The Committee are invited to:
7.1 resolve to proceed with the Bassetts Close scheme and recommend to Resources that additional funding is made available for the remaining schemes.

8 **Author and Contact Officer**

9 **Consultees**
9.1 David Leveridge – Senior Management Accountant

10 **Background Papers**
10.1 Report of the Environment Committee: 15.6.99:
Report of the Economic & Environment Committee: Minute 6, 29.06.04: Minute 6, 12.01.05, Minute 5, 8.06.05
Report of Regulatory Committee: 10.11.04 & 19.07.06

PDT/HY/9/21A 18.07.06
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
AGENDA ITEM 7
Environment Committee  
6 September 06

Report of the Corporate Manager Environmental Protection

Waste Collection From Charities

1. **Purpose of Report**
   To recommend the updating of the criteria for the free collection of waste and recycling from Charities.

2. **Background**
   2.1 Under the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 waste from a premises occupied by a charity and wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes is classed as household waste for which a charge can be made.
   2.2 At the Economic and Environment Committee of 6th April 05 it was decided that properties which were a registered charity and in receipt of 100% rate relief as listed in the report’s Appendix B would be entitled to a free collection of waste and recycling under the three bin scheme.

3. **Discussion**
   3.1 Since the report of 6th April 05 a possible twenty-eight additional charities have been awarded 100% rate relief and therefore are requesting a collection of their waste. In order to better manage the collection of waste from charitable premises it is suggested that those properties registered as charities, receiving 100% rate relief and falling under Schedule 1, paragraph 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 as defined in para 2.1 be awarded a household and recycling collection, on request, in line with current service provision under the three bin scheme.
   3.2 It should be noted that the following premises / organisations would not be covered in this category.
      - Places of worship (receive a household collection under different arrangements)
      - Village / Public Halls (receive a household collection if used wholly for public meetings)
      - Schools or educational establishments
      - Local Authority properties unless residential.
      - Waste from a premises occupied by a club or society in which activities are carried out for the benefit of members (This is classed as commercial waste)

4. **Legal Powers**
   4.1 As outlined above under the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 waste from premises occupied by a charity and wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes is to be treated as household waste.

5. **Financial Implications**
   5.1 Any additional properties will be absorbed into the current service.
6. Risk analysis and Implications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of risk</th>
<th>Consequences if realised</th>
<th>Likelihood of occurrence</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide access to the service</td>
<td>Claims of inequality or unfair treatment</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Ensure list of charities is regularly updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive quantities of waste presented for collection</td>
<td>Overburdening of specific routes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Updating route listing on regular basis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Implications for Staffing
There are no specific implications for staffing.

b. Implications for Sustainable Development
Charities, especially charity shops, play a considerable role in the recycling of unwanted clothing and objects. The residual waste is often items that cannot be sold.

c. Implications for Equal Opportunities
The recommendation will ensure equality of opportunities for the charities within the Borough

d. Implications for Community Safety
There are no specific implications for community safety

Implications for Health Improvement
There are no specific implications for health improvement

Implications for Property
There are no specific implications for property

7. Recommendations
The Committee is invited to RESOLVE that registered charities in receipt of 100% rate relief falling under Schedule 1 paragraph 2 of The Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 be provided with a waste and recycling service under the three bin scheme.

8. Author and Contact Officer
Toni Ainley

9. Consultees

10. Background Papers
Environment and Economy Committee report 6 April 05
Purpose of Report
To request the approval of the committee to use the surnames of two retired councillors to name new roads within the Wellingborough district.

Background
2.1 The policy adopted by the Council, in April 2005, for the naming and numbering of new roads required that any names of living persons proposed for use as road names be submitted to the Committee for consideration, together with a brief resume of their contribution to the area.

Discussion
3.1 A request has been made to name roads after, Mr Donald Loakes and Mr Maurice Brockman, both retired Borough Councillors for their respective areas.
Mr. Loakes was a Borough Councillor for approximately 20 years around 1977 until 1997 and a Parish Councillor for some 40 years.
Mr. Brockman served as a Borough Councillor for approximately 19 years, from 1983 until 2001.
After consultation with the individuals it was established that Mr Loakes would prefer that the road named after him would be in the Wollaston area.

Legal Powers
The legislation for street naming covering England and Wales (excluding London) is contained in:-

- Section 64 and 65 of the Town Improvement Clauses Act 1847;
- Section 160 of the Public Health Act 1875;
- Section 21 of the Public Health Act 1907;
- Section 17, 18 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925;
- The Local Government Act 1972;

Financial Implications
There are no financial implications as a result of this report.
6 Risk analysis and Implications

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<th>Control measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of reputation of individual after road has been named</td>
<td>Poor publicity for the Council</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>Ensure nominees are suitable for consideration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1 Implications for Staffing
There are no Staffing implications as a result of this report.

6.2 Implications for Sustainable Development
There are no implications for Sustainable Development as a result of this report.

6.3 Implications for Equal Opportunities
There are no Equal Opportunities implications as a result of this report.

6.4 Implications for Community Safety
There are no Community Safety implications as a result of this report.

6.5 Implications for Health Improvement
There are no Health Improvement implications as a result of this report.

6.6 Implications for Property
There are no implications for property as a result of this report.

7. Recommendations

7.1 That the Committee RESOLVE that both proposed names are used, when a suitable location is identified.

8. Author and Contact Officer
Building Control Manager - Steve Wheeler

9. Consultees
B.Smith  Construction and Property Services  
Mr Loakes  
Mr Brockman

10. Background Papers
Adopted policy for Road Naming and Numbering 2005.
NOTTINGHAM DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1 Purpose of Report
1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the progress towards a countywide Climate Change Strategy and to obtain approval for the re-affirmation of the Council’s commitment to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.
1.2 All councils are being encouraged to sign the Nottingham Declaration. Council’s across Northamptonshire are seeking approval to sign the Declaration in order to become one of the first fully committed counties in the United Kingdom and thereby signal our commitment to addressing the causes and effects of climate change for the benefit and wellbeing of our communities.

2 Background
2.1 It is now widely accepted that climate change is occurring and will have far reaching effects on the UK’s economy, society and the environment. Local strategies are seen as presenting an opportunity for local communities to consider the action they might take to support the UK Climate Change Programme.

2.2 In June 2001 the Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration thereby signifying the Council’s commitment to drawing up a local plan to address issues of climate change within the Borough.

2.3 In June 2003 the Council adopted a Climate Change Strategy for the Borough and required officers to draw up an Action Plan in consultation with other authorities in the County. Community strategies are seen as presenting an opportunity for local communities to consider what action they might take to support the UK Climate Change Programme. The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change is widely seen as the vehicle for this commitment and is seen as the first step in delivery countywide action on climate change.

3 Discussion
3.1 Although climate change is creeping in to many statutory functions like planning and building regulations, it is not yet a statutory duty for local government. Hence, local politicians and senior managers who wish to accelerate action on climate change for the benefit of their communities are being encouraged to make a voluntary commitment to address the causes and effects of climate change.

3.2 A county climate change officers’ group has been formed to deliver action on climate change across Northamptonshire. In order to drive this process a joint signing of the Nottingham Declaration is seen as an important first step, signifying commitment to maximise resources to address the effects of climate change.
change in our county. By signing the Declaration as a county the councils of Northamptonshire will be at the vanguard of local action on climate change. To date four of the seven district/borough councils and the County Council, have signed the Declaration. Current Northamptonshire signatories include the councils of Wellingborough, Daventry, Corby and Northampton.

4  **Legal Powers**
4.1  Local Government Act 2000

5  **Financial Implications**
5.1  Chief Executives of the councils of Northamptonshire have recognised the importance of addressing climate change and have agreed to allocate £2,000 each from existing budgets to take forward and publish the strategy.

6  **Risk analysis and Implications**

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate change will impact on all areas of service delivery and on the health and well-being of our communities</td>
<td>Impacts on efficient, cost effective service delivery Potential adverse impacts on: Health Economy Buildings Transport Heritage Biodiversity Finance</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Continue to make service managers and partner organisations aware of the implications of climate change Continue to support the UK’s climate change programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1  **Implications for Staffing**
Staff from all service sectors will be affected by climate change and will address these issues through their usual service planning cycle. Coordination of the response will be overseen by the Energy Efficiency Officer in line with the requirements of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

6.2  **Implications for Sustainable Development**
Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future. Addressing the risks and opportunities that climate change presents is key to ensuring that policies and actions do not compromise the lifestyles of future residents of Wellingborough.
6.3 **Implications for Equal Opportunities**
Climate change and how the council responds to it will impact on all sectors of society.

6.4 **Implications for Community Safety**
Climate change may bring increased risks of extreme weather events and demand for response to emergencies.

6.5 **Implications for Health Improvement**
Climate change will have considerable impact on health. Current research suggests that the negative effects will outweigh the positive. Commitment to tackling it will minimise the risks and maximise health benefits of climate change.

6.6 **Implications for Property**
Climate change may have considerable effect in the built environment. Action will be required to address these impacts and minimise the potential increased costs associated with them.

7 **Recommendations**
7.1 The Committee is invited to recommend that the Leader and Chief Executive sign the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change thereby re-affirming the Council’s commitment to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

8 **Author and Contact Officer**
Denise Marsdon
Energy Efficiency Officer

9 **Consultees**
Lyn Martin-Bennison, Chief Executive
Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers’ Group
East Midlands’ Regional Climate change Steering Group

10 **Background Papers**
10.1 Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change
1 Purpose of Report
1.1 To inform members of the current planning policy situation in respect of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

2 Background
2.1 There are several policies within the current development plan which require consideration of energy efficiency in planning applications. These are:
   • Policy UH5 of the Local Plan, which relates to residential development;
   • Policy UE1 of the Local Plan, which relates to industrial and commercial development;
   • Policy GS5 of the County Structure Plan which relates to all development; and
   • Policy 4 and Policy 40 of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2.2 Renewable Energy policies include:
   • Policy G24 of the Local Plan;
   • Policy EN1 of the County Structure Plan; and
   • Policy 41 of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2.3 For Wellingborough these policies are supplemented by Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on ‘Building Better Places’, which was adopted by the Council in April 2003. This provides guidance on renewable energy and how to achieve energy efficiency, both within the layout and design of sites and buildings. Applicants seeking planning permission for 10 dwellings or more are asked to complete a checklist to demonstrate how they have taken account of the guidance. This form should be submitted with the planning application.

3 Discussion
3.1 Since the adoption of these policies there is perhaps a greater understanding of the importance which planning can have on influencing energy use. This is partly as a result of greater emphasis on the need to tackle climate change and the recent energy reviews which have taken place at a national level. There are therefore a number of reviews and initiatives underway at a national level including:
• Changes to increase the requirements of the Building Regulations;
• Consultation on the introduction of a Code for Sustainable Homes; and
• A forthcoming draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) on climate change

3.2 The Minister for Housing and Planning recently announced a review of local plans to determine whether they fully incorporate the guidance of PPS 22 (Renewable Energy). This review found that many of the emerging new spatial strategies and local development frameworks were seeking to devise policies to secure on-site renewables in new developments. The majority have set a requirement for 10% on-site renewables where viable. A Ministerial Statement has been issued which states that the Government expects all planning authorities to include in their development plans policies which require a percentage of energy to come from on-site renewables. It is noted however that PPS22 does not set a limit on the contribution that on-site renewables should make and the Government urges authorities to consider where feasible, setting a higher more challenging percentage.

3.3 Within Wellingborough the overall strategy and overarching policies will be set within the Core Spatial Strategy which is being prepared for the whole of North Northamptonshire by the Joint Planning Unit. It is intended that this document will deal with matters relating to energy use. Building Sustainable Communities is a key theme for the strategy and energy efficiency/use of renewable energy/sustainable design and construction will be fundamental to the overall strategy. In addition (as set out in a separate report to this Committee on the LDS) the Joint Planning Unit will prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) relating to sustainable development. This SPD will include additional guidance on energy matters. It will update and eventually replace this Council’s SPG on ‘Building Better Places’.

4 Legal Powers
4.1 The Planning Acts.

5 Financial Implications
5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6 Risk analysis and Implications
None arising directly from this report.

6.1 Implications for Staffing
None arising directly from this report

6.2 Implications for Sustainable Development
Policies on energy efficiency and renewable energy use will be required to contribute to achieving sustainable development

6.3 Implications for Equal Opportunities
None arising directly from this report

6.4 Implications for Community Safety
None arising directly from this report
6.5 Implications for Health Improvement
None arising directly from this report

6.6 Implications for Property
None arising directly from this report

7. Recommendations
7.1 That Members note the report and support the work being undertaken by the Joint Planning Unit in relation to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

8 Author and Contact Officer
Sue Bateman
Senior Planning Officer

9 Consultees
None

10 Background Papers
None
Report of the Corporate Manager – Sustainable Development

Member Summary of Sustainable Development Service Cluster Plans 2007/08

1. **Purpose of Report**
1.1 To summarise for members the performance of service units within the Sustainable Development service cluster during 2006/07 and the plans of these services for 2007/08.

2. **Background**
2.1 The Sustainable Development service cluster was created in April 2006 as part of the Council restructuring programme. The Sustainable Development service cluster comprises the following service units:
   
   - Planning Policy
   - Housing Strategy
   - Private Sector Renewal
   - Growth Implementation (WEAST/MKSM)
   - Economic Development
   - Sustainable Infrastructure (formerly Engineering Services)
   - Development Control

2.2 Each of these service units is informed by an operational plan that reviews performance against the previous year’s objectives and proposed targets for the coming year. The proposed targets are subject to on-going review and approval of members through the summer budget round at the annual policy seminar, held in the Spring of the following year.

3. **Discussion**
3.1 The overarching Sustainable Development cluster service plan summary contains the following sections:
   
   - Highlights and Headlines
   - Main service objectives
   - Major projects underway
   - Equalities Impacts
   - Efficiency Statement
   - Partnership arrangements
   - Action Plan A – Progress with previous actions?
   - Action Plan B – Future actions
   - Performance Indicators
   - Future developments
   - Aspirations
   - Risk Management
   - Public Consultation Plans

3.2 This report provides a high level summary of each operational plan in the Sustainable Development service cluster, with particular attention to performance.
during 2005/6 and the principle targets proposed for 2007/08.

4        Legal Powers
4.1  The Local Government Act 1999 outlines the Best Value review process and the basis for performance management.

5        Financial Implications
5.1  The financial implications arising from service changes and developments are detailed within the appended service plan summary. These will need to be considered in the context of the current budget round for 2007/08.

6        Risk analysis and Implications
The service plans deal directly with implications for staffing, equalities, sustainable development, community safety, health improvement and property.

7        Recommendation
7.1  Members RECOMMEND that the operational service plans for Sustainable Development service units are developed on the basis of the proposals set out in this report.

8        Author and Contact Officer
James Wilson
Corporate Manager – Sustainable Development

9        Consultees
Service Unit Managers
Executive Director – Sustainable Communities

10       Background Papers
10.1  Individual service unit service plans
Foreword to the Sustainable Development Service Plan Summary

Sustainable Development is: -

"meet[ing] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"¹

The council has a central role to play in bringing about and maintaining Sustainable Development in Wellingborough. The restructuring that has been undertaken clustering the services; Planning Policy, Housing Strategy, Private Sector Renewal, Growth Implementation, Economic Development, Sustainable Infrastructure and Development Control will help to ensure that physical development is planned and implemented in the most sustainable fashion. All of these services have been focusing on the integrated delivery of balanced social, economic and environmental outcomes over the past few year and now they have been bought together in one cluster for greater integration along the continuum of strategic spatial planning to the implementation of development. The granting of planning consents will be possible in order for the Council to influence and manage the built and natural environment.

Sustainable Development will need to continue the cross Council working especially with the newly formed Community Cohesion and Environmental Protection clusters in order to ensure that sustainable development is highlighted in all of the work the Council does and to create the linkages and overlaps that exist. The cluster will also need to maintain and improve the external partnership working that has developed. Sustainable Development is certainly not the sole purpose or responsibility of the Council. It is a multi-part and multi-agency endeavour and this is reflected by the partnerships and relationships between all council service units and public, private and voluntary bodies external to the council.

The Council’s service planning process is an important tool to help achieve the twin aims of improved co-ordination and consistency in the delivery of services. This is because it requires service managers to evaluate their past performance and plan their future use of resources against a common performance framework. This framework reflects the values of the Council: listening and consulting with local people, equality and openness in the delivery of services, providing value for money and delivering innovation.

Function of Services in the Sustainable Development Cluster

Planning Policy: To prepare and maintain effective and up to date strategic land use planning policy in order to guide the determination of planning applications and to plan for future sustainable development and the conservation of the built and natural environment in the Borough.

Housing Strategy: To assist and enable the provision of affordable homes for the community of Wellingborough and to advise on the Borough’s housing needs and strategic direction.

¹ Brundtland Commission Report definition 1987
Private Sector Renewal: To ensure decent private sector housing standards, adaptations to allow for vulnerable people to remain at home, through provision of grant assistance and enforcement of statutory housing standards.

Growth Implementation: To ensure the effective regeneration and development of the Borough in conformity with the Sustainable Communities Plan and Milton Keynes and South Midlands Strategy.

Economic Development: To promote and safeguard the economic position of the Borough through partnership working to enhance employment creation, skills development, rural development, infrastructure investment and town centre development.

Sustainable Infrastructure: To promote the delivery of sustainable infrastructure solutions within the Borough leading to sustainable developments and consider the implications of climate change impacts and their potential mitigations.

Development Control: To enable and control development activity in accordance with the local policy framework and statutory requirements.

Planning Policy
Service Manager – Mike Hay Byrne
Includes – Local Development Framework, Tree Preservation Orders, Listed Buildings and review of Conservation Areas
Council Objective – To ensure the Local Development Framework provides a sustainable basis for employment and infrastructure led growth and sustainable development to 2021

Achievement Highlights –
- Publication and consultation on the Issues and Options for site specific proposals and the Town Centre Area Action
- A three day consultation event on the issues and options for the urban extensions proposals.
- Collaborative work with the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit culminating in the publication and consultation of the Preferred Options for North Northamptonshire

Future Challenges and Proposals –
- The delivery of the Local Development Framework within agreed timetables with GOEM with limited staff resources and issues outside the Council’s control at a sub regional level.
- Greater integration and planning at a more strategic sub regional level. For example assisting in the delivery of planning guidance advice for North Northamptonshire on sustainability and planning obligations
- Response to the Government’s growth agenda – potential need to restructure planning function to take account of this pressure and lack of planning professionally nationally
Key Risks
- LDF is significantly delayed due to external influence and barriers
- Loss of key planning personnel with experience and knowledge of the locality
- Lack of resources to progress advice and guidance for second urban extension or
to effectively respond to proposals coming forward
- Central government review of planning system after such a limited time of embedding new system.

Resource Implications of Proposals
- Additional resource maybe required to further fund and support the Joint Planning Unit and fund the work of the Planning Policy service if greater speed of delivery is required or additional barriers are identified.

Local Area Agreement Linkages
- The establishment of a strategic Green Infrastructure.
- An Increase in the percentage of the county that is designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS)
- % of households with access to hospitals within 60 minutes

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Housing Strategy
Service Manager – Vicki Jessop
Includes – Housing Strategy and delivery of affordable homes
Council Objective – To ensure that the local development framework extends quality and choice in the housing market to provide housing that is safe, decent and affordable

Achievement Highlights –
- Produced the first ‘Fit for Purpose’ Housing Strategy for the Council
- Awarded an unprecedented £12.7m and £3.9 m (reserve) allocations from the Housing Corporation towards the delivery of affordable housing in the Borough. The funding allocation for 2004/06 was £5.2m (this is a 244% increase in funding for the Borough)
- Delivered 150 new homes in 2004/06 from a funding programme of 166 new homes (a 90% delivery of new affordable homes against target).

Future Challenges and Proposals –
- A stock retention decision will change the Housing Strategy; emphasis will be placed on utilising funding to bring the Council’s housing stock up to decent homes standards
- The results of the forthcoming Housing Market Assessment and Private Sector Stock Condition Survey will advise and influence the Housing Strategy.

Key Risks
• The availability and continuity of grant from the Housing Corporation to fund new affordable homes and the use of grant to assist in refurbishment of existing housing stock
• High land costs and availability of sites are having an impact on keeping rents affordable
• The uncertainty of funding availability from the Housing Corporation for future long term affordable housing development opportunities, i.e. two year funding allocations for schemes does not allow the flexibility of working up longer term proposals with developers for the delivery of affordable housing. Funding allocations should be over 5 years and be pooled to the development rather than to individual Housing Associations.

Resource Implications of Proposals
• Reduced resources to deliver the Housing Strategy of providing new affordable homes and refurbishment of private sector homes if the decision by tenants is to retain council housing.

Local Area Agreement Linkages
• Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG 3A i:
  To increase the affordability, supply, quality and condition of housing in Northamptonshire.

Performance indicator – EDEG3 A 1% of housing that is social housing - level of affordable housing delivered: Proportion of all housing completed that is social housing.

Growth and Development Services
Service Manager – Victoria Phillipson
Includes – Project co-ordination and support for Stanton Cross application and Growth Area planning policy and applications
Council Objective – To ensure the Local Development Framework provides a sustainable basis for employment and infrastructure led growth and sustainable development to 2021

Achievement Highlights –
• The Stanton Cross outline application has been given a resolution to grant subject to the agreement of a Section 106 legal agreement and discharging of conditions.
• Publishing of the adopted Town Centre Masterplan and the creation and adoption of the High Street Development Brief as the first phase of the Town Centre’s re-development. Funding has also been allocated from DCLG to procure and demolish proprieties within the High Street area.
• Creation of a Town Centre Advisory Group to support and advise Officers and consultants on the regeneration of the Town Centre.
• Adoption of the East of Eastfield Road Development Brief SPD and work with developer to spend the £600,000 grant received from DCLG for demolition and decontamination.
Future Challenges and Proposals –
- Deliver planned growth for Wellingborough & North Northamptonshire with uncertainties regarding funding and barriers for the provision of infrastructure and creation of high quality jobs.
- Develop a Town Centre Area Action Plan with support/input from the Town Centre Advisory Group and NNDC to guide framework for development to permit regeneration and development to commence.
- Work with developers to approve Design Codes for Stanton Cross assess detailed applications some which might be outside the present development framework.
- Greater integration and ‘place making’ within North Northamptonshire to ensure Wellingborough and the rest of the sub regional benefits from the opportunities available through dialogue and engagement with existing residents.

Key Risks
- WBC receives large applications for the Growth Area and does not have the staff and/or resources to assess them.
- Risk of procedural irregularity in the Growth Area proposals or other developments - effect could be to seriously delay the WEAST development and cost a significant amount in legal fees defending a position at appeal or public inquiry.
- Funding being unavailable from WBC or other external sources to enable guidance to be developed.
- Developers unable to agree the Section 106 legal agreement and move forward with Stanton Cross.
- Development of key guidance at a North Northamptonshire level to ensure enforcement of sustainability issues within new developments and development of a Strategic Tariff.

Resource Implications of Proposals
- Continued input from officers and consultants (including legal support) – likely to grow as further applications and proposals are put forward for the Council to consider. Funding required for planning officers and consultancy support.
- Possibility of match funding requirements from Northamptonshire Partnership, DCLG and North Northants Development Company (NNDC).

Local Area Agreement Linkages
- Safer, Stronger Communities SSC4 A i
  % of adults who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local areas (expressed as rural and all areas)
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG2 A ii
  The number of people employed in more knowledge-based occupations (SOC 2000 1-3) in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG3 A i
  Proportion of all housing completed that is social housing

Private Sector Renewal
Service Manager – Clive Culling

Council Objective – To work towards raising awareness and planning adaptation for global climate change

Achievement Highlights –

- Successful bid for Decent Homes funding for vulnerable households in the Borough resulting in a grant of £137,491 from Government Office for the East Midlands.
- Removal of the back-log of enquiries with Social Care & Health for Disabled Facilities Grant.
- The establishment of the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency
- £244,999 funding attracted for improvements to insulation through the British Gas ‘Chillout scheme’ improving the energy efficiency of existing homes

Future Challenges and Proposals –

- Greater emphasis in Grant Policy on addressing the needs of vulnerable households and bringing empty dwellings back into use.
- Meeting government targets for reduction in CO² emissions and reducing the number of vulnerable households in non-decent homes.
- Reducing the number of long-term empty, privately owned houses in the Borough.
- Maintaining an effective service across all fields of activity with reduced personnel.

Key Risks

- Not meeting the requirements of performance indicators or Government targets due to pressure of work.
- Inadequate protection for private tenants in the Borough due to lack of time to spend on statutory enforcement action.
- Reduced time available for administering Disabled Facility Grants resulting in unacceptable delays in meeting the needs of vulnerable households.

Resource Implications of Proposals

- Existing capital resources allocated are sufficient to make a significant impact on the Borough’s private sector housing stock.
- The clearance of a backlog of Disabled Facility Grant enquiries has made a high demand on officer time. It is hoped that when demand returns to normal levels this will enable a greater level of activity in other areas of work. However, it may prove difficult to achieve all that is hoped with the present number of personnel.

Local Area Agreement Linkages

- None directly attributable

Economic Development

Service Manager – Nicola Dennis
Includes – Town Centre Partnership, Inward Investment, Investor Development, Place Marketing, Tourism, Rural Development, Skills & Workforce Development

Council Objective – To promote and support the economic vitality and viability of all localities within the Borough including the town centre
To work with others to improve adult skills, get more of the hardest to reach into employment and to help children and young people achieve economic wellbeing.
To promote Wellingborough and north Northamptonshire as an attractive investment location to business

Achievement Highlights –
- Business Cases / Propositions are being consulted on and finalised - to be implemented Sept 06
- Successful Enterprise Competition which saw a new business installed at the Innovation Centre for a year and helped to raise the profile of the Wellingborough Partnership
- Successful 12 Sheep Street / MSCP funding application which once works are complete will help to introduce a step change in the quality of office supply within the Borough and hopefully attract a quality occupier.
- Town Guide & Information folders now available and will be used to promote the Borough to future members of the community – both commercial and residential.

Future Challenges and Proposals –
- Co-ordinating a BID with the Town Centre Partnership with the aim of making substantive improvements within the Town Centre.
- Continue further discussions regarding the implementation of the Town Centre Masterplan and the Innovation Centre / Tresham relocation
- Working with Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd (NEL) and the new Business Link franchise to ensure that business development and support is maximised in Wellingborough
- Consideration of joint working through LAA’s and further integration with newly formed Northamptonshire Enterprise Ltd
- Wider place marketing and further role of Wellingborough within North Northamptonshire and the County

Key Risks
- Most of the above can only happen with adequate funding and human resources being in place. The key risk is that these resources are inadequate / withdrawn / unavailable.
- Partnership working through NEL is limited or ineffective.
- LAA partnership work does not materialise
- Key higher value added jobs are not created in parallel with the growth in housing.

Resource Implications of Proposals
- Increased manpower resources, which could go some way to being addressed by increased partnership working
- Some capital funding may be required to match fund with any external funding applied for / achieved especially Fit For Market funding which helps to remove physical barriers preventing employment sites and opportunities occurring.
Local Area Agreement Linkages

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG2 A ii
  The number of people employed in more knowledge-based occupations (SOC 2000 1-3) in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG1 A i
  The number of Northamptonshire-based economically active people with a minimum level 2 qualification
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG1 D i
  No of people on job seekers allowance
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG1 E i
  No. of training places in construction skills
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG2 B i
  The number of businesses receiving business advice
- Children and Young People CYP 8 A i
  Reduction in proportion of 16-18s not in EET – Stretch Target – PRG10

Sustainable Infrastructure

Service Manager – Paul Thompson

Includes – Sustainable infrastructure advice to services and external agencies, procurement and project management of infrastructure construction projects, Council car parks, climate change, resource efficiency

Council Objective – To provide and support infrastructure that increases opportunities and choice of modes of transport for access to facilities and services
To work towards raising awareness and planning adaptation for global climate change
To ensure the Local Development Framework provides a sustainable basis for employment and infrastructure led growth and sustainable development to 2021

Achievement Highlights –

- Production of detailed plans to help support the Housing Stock Transfer process
- Completion of external works in relation to the Council’s industrial property refurbishment programme supported by ‘Fit for Market’ funding.
- Festival lights contract renewal and delivery
- Completion of the first part of Stanwell Way cycleway
- Successful implementation of a previous scheme to refurbish the Multi Storey Car Park through the use of external Fit for Market funding with Economic Development service
- Successful funding bid for Climate Change toolkit from Defra

Future Challenges and Proposals –

- Completion works and adoption of roads and sewers on Redhill Farm and Park Farm
- Completion of the urban cycleway and development of rural ‘greenways’ and linkages to existing rights of way
• Provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems on new major developments and a mechanism to provide for long term maintenance
• Raising the awareness of climate change impacts throughout the Borough and the practical implementation of mitigation measures which will lessen these effects.
• Work with key stakeholders to ensure sustainable transport infrastructure is provide within the Borough to encourage modal shift in transport patterns
• Work with Highways Authority to develop a robust Transport Strategy for North Northamptonshire.

Key Risks
• Increase in the growth of the Borough will accelerate local climate change impacts if sustainable engineering solutions are not promoted and developed.
• Traffic congestion and impacts should the modal shift targets and traffic demand management measure are not achieved

Resource Implications of Proposals
• Increased resilience for CAD mapping system required to ensure that mapping and design facilities for all the Council's services can be provided.
• Requirements for additional funding (c.£100k) for adoption of roads and sewers for potential additional works required by Anglian Water and Highways Authority
• Potential requirement to relocate Sustainable Engineers from Sheep Street to Croyland Hall and refurbishment of this office accommodation.

Local Area Agreement Linkages
Safer and Stronger Communities SSC3 C i:
All Killed or Seriously Injured Casualties

Development Control
Service Manager – Nadine Trotman (Acting)
Includes – Planning Applications, enforcement work, planning advice
Council Objective – To promote quality in the built environment through the negotiation of high standards in new development schemes and protection of the existing historic fabric.

Achievement Highlights –
• Implementation of pre-application charging regime and development of performance improvement programme
• Development of website and online facilities submitting and viewing planning applications through the Planning Portal gaining maximum Pendleton points which increase the amount of PDG grant for the authority
• Assessment of the Stanton Cross Outline Planning Application and resolution to grant through committee subject to s106 and conditions
• Maintenance of performance of minor applications above target and appeals

Future Challenges and Proposals –
• Investigate shared services for Development Control and Planning through a Major Applications teams or other joint services with the JPU or other authorities in North Northamptonshire
• Continued performance within current resources
• Additional complex major applications and negotiating s106 within target timescales – signing off through legal services
• Enforcement and major appeals – resources to fight appeals e.g. Wind Farm application, telecommunications
• Retention and training of existing personnel

Key Risks
• Inability to fill permanent planning posts at all levels but particularly senior posts
• Low morale affecting performance bought on by low salaries and benefits and growing legislative pressure to assess more issues through the planning system. e.g. design and access statements
• Statutory consultees inability or resource to assess planning applications and provide recommendations leading to further work for planning officers and reduction in performance
• Insufficient training leading to lack of understanding of emerging issues and skills to handle more contentious situations.

Resource Implications of Proposals
• Further resources (c. £20k) required to investgate alternative models for service delivery on a shared basis
• Additional resources required if sufficient Planning Delivery Grant is not forthcoming in 2007/08 to maintain performance
• Additional resources needed for appeals and legal fees – unknown quantity.

Local Area Agreement Linkages
• Safer and Stronger Communities: SSC4 A i
  % of adults who feel that they can influence decisions affecting their local areas (expressed as rural and all areas)
• Economic Development, Enterprise and Growth EDEG 3B i:
  The amount of Planning Delivery Grant for Northamptonshire local authorities
REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION
(in accordance with section 6 of Scheme of Delegation to Directors)

**REPORTING COMMITTEE:** ENVIRONMENT

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 6th September 2006

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To update the Borough Council of Wellingborough Local Development Scheme enabling it to be submitted to the Secretary of State as part of a revised Local Development Schemes Compilation Document for North Northamptonshire and to agree that proposed Supplementary Planning Documents relating to sustainable development and developer contributions should be prepared by the Joint Planning Unit and agreed by the Joint Committee.

**REASON FOR URGENCY:** A revised Local Development Scheme for North Northamptonshire will be considered by the Joint Committee on 29th June 2006.

**KEY FACTS:** The Joint Planning Unit will no longer prepare a Development Control Development Plan document and its content will instead be covered by the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Spatial Strategy and, where appropriate, the Development Plan documents being prepared by the Borough Council. The Joint Planning Unit will, however, prepare Supplementary Planning Documents relating to sustainable development and developer contributions to support policies in the core spatial strategy. Slippage in the Borough Council’s Local Development Scheme timetable has occurred since it was last reviewed. The revised timetable (copy attached) indicates adoption of the Town Centre Area Action Plan and site specific proposals development plan documents towards the end of 2008. Site specific policies relating to the urban extensions identified in the core spatial strategy would form part of the site specific proposals development plan document rather than being included in a separate urban extensions area action plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** None anticipated at this stage.

**SIGNATURES**

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**CHIEF OFFICER:**

**DEPARTMENT:** SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

**SIGNATURES**

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**OR**

**VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE**

**ADDITIONALLY, IF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

**SIGNATURE (AND DATE) OF CHAIRMAN OR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**PRODUCE 3 COPIES FOR SIGNATURE:** Chairman of Committee
Chairman of Resources Committee
File – Committee Services
PRODUCE 3 COPIES FOR SIGNATURE:

Chairman of Committee
Chairman of Resources Committee
File – Committee Services
1 Purpose of Report
1.1 To report on action to approve a revised Local Development Scheme agreed by the Chair under urgent delegated powers

2 Background

2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to submit and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS is a public statement setting out what planning policy and guidance documents will be prepared by a local planning authority over a three year period and a programme for their production.

2.2 Several Supplementary Planning Documents included in the Borough Council’s LDS have been adopted over the last year or so. These documents include development briefs for the High St and Land East of Eastfield Rd and guidance on Public Art. Delays in the preparation of the Town Centre Area Action Plan and Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Documents have, however, occurred due to heavy staff involvement in the preparation of the Core Spatial Strategy during 2005; the need to undertake further consultation on the preparation of options for town centre sites; and a temporary reduction of staff resources within the planning policy section. In addition, several commissioned studies that will form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework will not be received until the autumn. The latter has also resulted in a delay in the submission of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Spatial Strategy.

3 Discussion

3.1 As a consequence of the slippage referred to in the background section of this report, the timetables for both the Joint Committee LDS and the Borough Council’s LDS have been revised and submitted to the Secretary of State. The revised timetable for both schemes, which is appended to this report, indicates adoption of the Town Centre Area Action Plan and Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document towards the end of 2008. The Core Spatial Strategy will now be submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2006 and adopted towards the end of 2007.

3.2 As part of the revised LDS, site-specific policies relating to the proposed urban extensions identified in the Core Spatial Strategy will be included in the Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document rather than in a separate Urban Extensions Area Action Plan as originally intended. In addition, the Supplementary Planning Document that was to be prepared for the site allocated for housing in the Local Plan at Park Farm Way/Shelley Rd is likely to be replaced by a ‘Concept Statement’ for development that could feed into the Site Specific Proposals Development Plan
3.3 The Joint Planning Unit will no longer prepare a Development Control Development Plan Document and its content will instead be covered by policy in the Core Spatial Strategy and, where appropriate, the plans being prepared by the Borough Council. The Joint Planning Unit will, however, now prepare Supplementary Planning Documents relating to sustainable development and developer contributions to support policies in the Core Spatial Strategy.

3.4 The Chair of the Committee approved the revisions under urgent delegated powers in order to enable the changes to the LDS to be submitted to the Secretary of State at the same time as the alterations to the Joint Committee LDS for consideration as part of a revised compilation document for North Northamptonshire. A copy of the ‘request for urgent action’ is attached to this report.

4 Legal Powers

5 Financial Implications
5.1 GoEM has advised that there is some uncertainty over if and when the level of Planning Delivery Grant will be adjusted to take account of the ability of a local planning authority to meet the timetable set out in the LDS. The revised timetable for the Town Centre Area Action Plan and Site Specific Proposals Development Plan Document, however, indicates that the significant cost of holding the Independent Examination into these two documents will now largely be incurred in 2008/09 rather than in 2007/08 as originally envisaged.

6 Risk analysis and Implications
6.1 This table needs to be completed for any report setting out a proposed course of action that entails risks at the outset of the project or if the risks change along the way.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nature of risk</th>
<th>Consequences if realised</th>
<th>Likelihood of occurrence</th>
<th>Control measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Failure to amend the LDS</td>
<td>Targets within the LDS will not be met. This may also impact on the future value of Planning Delivery Grant.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Amend the LDS and monitor its implementation</td>
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6.1 Implications for Staffing
Pressure to prepare the LDF in order to accommodate the requirements set out in the Core Spatial Strategy is exerting considerable pressure on staff resources. Whilst the timetable has been reviewed it remains challenging and will continue to exert considerable pressure on staff resources, which will need to be supplemented by commissioned work undertaken by consultants.
6.2 **Implications for Sustainable Development**

Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Development Documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. All Local Development Documents must be the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal that will assess the social, economic and environmental effects of plan strategies and proposals from the outset of the preparation process so that decisions can be made that accord with the objectives of sustainable development.

6.3 **Implications for Equal Opportunities**

There are no implications for equal opportunities arising directly from this report. Strengthening community and stakeholder involvement in planning is, however, a main aim of the new planning system and the Statement of Community Involvement will indicate how the community will be involved in the preparation of Local Development Documents and the determination of planning applications.

6.4 **Implications for Community Safety**

There are no implications for community safety arising directly from this report. The Local Development Framework will, however, include appropriate policy and guidance that will contribute to a wider, strategic approach to tackling crime and the fear of crime.

6.5 **Implications for Health Improvement**

There are no implications for health improvement arising directly from this report. The Local Development Framework will, however, need to contribute to a wider, strategic approach to improving health.

6.6 **Implications for Property**

The Local Development Framework will, together with the Regional Spatial Strategy, replace the Local Plan and the County Structure Plan. The various Local Development Documents that make up the Local Development Framework will contain policies and proposals that will relate to development including, where appropriate, land and property owned by the Borough Council.

### 7 Recommendations

#### 7.1 That the action taken under urgent delegated powers be noted.

### 8 Author and Contact Officer

Mike Haybye, Planning Policy Manager

### 9 Consultees

Chair and Executive Director.

### 10 Background Papers

None unpublished
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH

REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION
(in accordance with section 6 of Scheme of Delegation to Directors)

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<td>REASON FOR URGENCY</td>
<td>URGENT ACTION IS REQUIRED TO ENABLE THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY FOR THE GAMBLING ACT 2005 TO BE PUBLISHED IN DRAFT FORM TO ENABLE ITS CIRCULATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSULTATION.</td>
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