



# ELY • LITTLEPORT • SOHAM

## *Growth Delivery in East Cambridgeshire*

**East Cambridgeshire District Council believes that a proactive approach is essential to ensure future growth in our District is managed for the benefit of us all. We need to work with our communities and developers to recognise local aspirations, sustainable development opportunities and identify infrastructure needs to support growth.**

**This newsletter provides an update on the work that the Council is doing to achieve these aims. This includes how residents are being given the chance to participate in the review of the district's statutory planning document, the Core Strategy (see centre pages), as well as the work to take forward delivery of projects identified in the Ely, Soham and Littleport Masterplans.**

**We hope that you find this newsletter informative and would welcome any comments that you may have.**

### **North Ely Public Exhibition**

In March this year a public exhibition was held to gather views on how growth in the proposed North Ely's development area should look. The area has been identified as a site for up to 3,000 dwellings over the next 20 years.

The exhibition displayed various ideas and concepts and invited people to comment on issues such as the type of housing they would like to see, the shops which would be needed and what community facilities this development would need.

Over 250 people attended the exhibition and a wide range of comments and constructive feedback was received. These results will now be incorporated into a Development Framework for the site, setting out the broad guidelines for developing the area, and further consultation on this will take place in 2012 as part of the Council's Core Strategy review work.

To see a summary of the consultation feedback, please see the masterplan pages of the Planning section on the District Council's website, [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk).



## Core Strategy Review

The District Council is undertaking a review of its Core Strategy. This is the statutory planning document that sets out the Council's broad strategy for the future development of the district, together with the formal policies for determining planning applications and planning associated infrastructure and facilities.

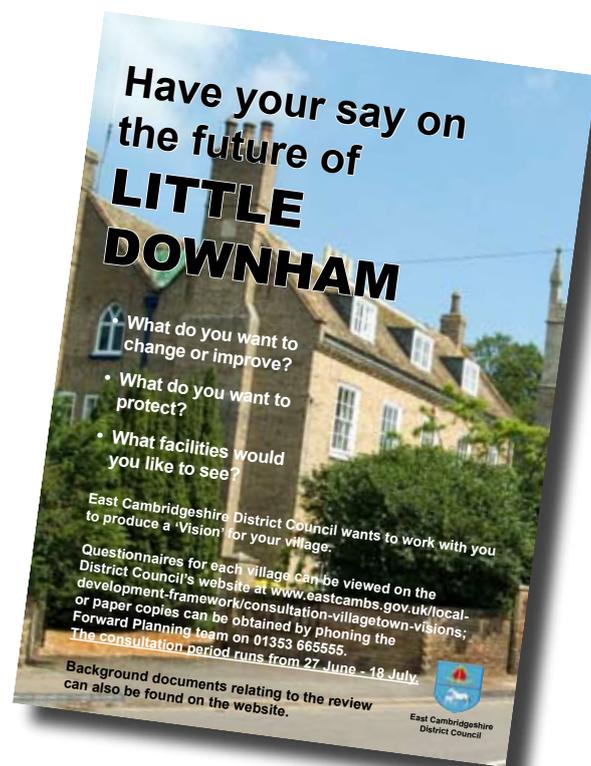
### Why is the Core Strategy being reviewed?

The Core Strategy was originally adopted by the Council in 2009 and it included a target for housing growth set by the last Government (in the Regional Spatial Strategy). This top-down system is due to be removed by the Coalition Government through the Localism Act. In the future, local authorities will have much greater freedom to set their own growth levels.

The District Council wishes to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure that our Core Strategy reflects local aspirations. Over the last two years the District Council has prepared masterplans for Ely, Soham and Littleport, and this review will enable the long-term growth aspirations set out in these masterplans to be incorporated into the Core Strategy.

## A chance to develop local community 'visions'

We need to work closely with Parish Councils and local communities to draw up future plans for the settlements in East Cambridgeshire. The Core Strategy Review will allow us to work in partnership with communities to produce a 'Vision' for every settlement in the district. Through this work we will ensure that all aspects of growth, including housing, transport, economic, leisure, together with the physical infrastructure are developed in a co-ordinated way rather than left to grow incrementally.



Stage	Anticipated timescale
<b>Stage 1</b> - Consultation on issues and options for Village/Town Visions	June to Oct 2011
<b>Stage 2</b> - Consultation on district-wide strategic issues (e.g. overall levels/ distribution of housing and employment growth, strategic infrastructure)	Feb/March 2012
<b>Stage 3</b> - Consultation on a draft Core Strategy (incorporating Village/Town Visions)	April/May 2012
<b>Stage 4</b> - Submission of Core Strategy to Government	July 2012
<b>Stage 5</b> - Examination in Public (with independent Inspector)	Autumn 2012
<b>Stage 6</b> - Adoption by District Council	End of 2012

## What does the review involve?

In most villages we need to start at the beginning, and identify the needs and priorities of local residents, and where required, we will be arranging for public participation workshops and/or questionnaires on 'issues and options' in the villages.

The results from this work will be developed into local community visions for each individual village. The programme will be slightly different for the market towns where a significant amount of consultation has already been carried out via the Ely, Soham and Littleport Masterplans. We will work with the relevant Parish Councils to develop the key ideas in these documents further.

The Council hopes to complete the Core Strategy Review by the end of 2012.

## Masterplan Update

- **Littleport Masterplan approval**
- **A Masterplan for Burwell**

A series of Masterplans have already been developed for Ely, Soham and Littleport, to help manage the rapid population and housing growth that is taking place in these areas. The Littleport Masterplan is the most recent masterplan to be prepared, and it was approved by the District Council as its long term policy for the community in May 2011.

Because of the range of complex issues facing Burwell the District Council will next be working with Burwell Parish Council in order to prepare a Masterplan for this community over the next year. A joint Burwell Parish Council/ East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Working Party will be appointed to guide the production of this Masterplan, a community based approach that has worked well previously in both Soham and Littleport.

## Further information

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Core Strategy Review further, please contact Katie Child, Principal Forward Planning Officer on 01353 665555 or email the Local Development Framework Team [ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@eastcambs.gov.uk)



These masterplans will help to inform the Core Strategy Review (see adjacent panel).

For more information on the Masterplans visit the Masterplan pages in the Planning section of the District Council's website [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## Growth Delivery News

**Business Support Exhibition** – The business development team recently attended The Business Start Up Show in London. Their aim was to publicise the key employment and growth sites, available commercial properties and to sell the district as a business location to companies looking to set up, expand or relocate. The exhibition attracted over 20,000 delegates with a mixture of start ups, SME's, larger companies and agents providing an excellent promotion, networking and follow up opportunities for East Cambridgeshire. Find out more about business in East Cambs [www.360ec.co.uk](http://www.360ec.co.uk)



**Ely Railway Station** – ITP Consultants have concluded their research into accessibility issues at Ely Station and have produced a series of recommendations for short, medium and long term improvements for access to the station. Cambridgeshire County Council will be working with the District Council and

the rail authorities to explore how to raise the funding to implement some of the ideas which have been suggested.



**Reinstatement** – a study into the engineering feasibility of reinstating Soham Station has been concluded, finding that in engineering terms it is feasible to reopen a station halt in Soham. Research into the business case for reopening the station is continuing and the results are expected shortly.

**Ely City Centre** - Following formal approval of the Ely Masterplan, work has been taken forward on two sites; the Paradise and Nutholt Lane/District Council offices sites. Detailed studies have been undertaken examining possible uses for the land, their viability and deliverability, and whether these ideas are commercially viable. The studies have also taken into account the significant heritage, pedestrian and traffic considerations.

**For more information on these and other growth delivery projects, please see the masterplan pages on the Planning Section of the District Council's website** [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## Keep in touch with future developments

If you would like to keep in touch with future growth delivery work in both Ely and the surrounding district,

- Ask to be included on the Masterplan contact database to receive the newsletter updates.
- Look out for updates on the District Council's website under the Masterplan and Local Development Framework sections [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)
- Send in your thoughts and ideas,

Email – [masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:masterplan@eastcambs.gov.uk)  
Write to East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange,  
Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambs CB7 4EE Telephone – 01353 665555



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District Council