CAMBRIDGESHIRE TOGETHER UPDATE

To: East Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership
Date: 11 October 2010
From: John Hill, Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is to feedback on the key items discussed at the Cambridgeshire Together Board. The last full meeting of the board was held on 24 September 2010.

2. NEW MODELS OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING

2.1 The Cambridgeshire Together Board has agreed to move ahead with a transformation of how the public sector, the business sector and the third sector work together. The new model of partnership working is defined by a set of principles agreed by the Cambridgeshire Together Board in May and is driven by an analysis of the evidence base of key community priorities.

2.2 The new approach will improve the way our organisations work in partnership to focus only on the issues that matter most to communities in Cambridgeshire. The model will mean we will have fewer countywide ‘static’ partnerships, with officers from partner organisations working closely together, practically as one team on the ground.

2.3 Where there is a need to improve a service or the potential to reduce costs by changing services it was agreed that Officers and Teams would be commissioned on a task/finish basis to resolve a problem and then be redirected elsewhere once their task was complete.

2.4 These proposals are designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Rebalancing our activity and services on local priorities defined by a plan for Cambridgeshire not those prescribed by Central Government.
- Creating flexible and dynamic structures that can respond to changing local priorities or external issues.
- Moving away from static partnerships to supporting officers to work together in communities, practically as 'one team' on the ground.
- Reducing costs by cutting the number of partnerships, meetings and bureaucracy.

2.5 The Cambridgeshire Together Board recognised that much progress has been made in a short period of time and the Board praised the work done so far. It is clear however that there still remains much detail to be worked through and the Public Service Board has been commissioned to develop a transition plan that sets out in more detail ‘what’ the new
model will look like and ‘how’ we will move from our current arrangements to the new model. Recommendations will be made to Cambridgeshire Together Board at their next meeting in November.

3. **LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT (LPSA) REWARD GRANT**

3.1 On Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} September Ministers announced their decision regarding outstanding LPSA reward grant for all current and remaining waves.

3.2 The Ministerial decision is to halve the amount of LPSA reward grant payments due to be made and this was initially interpreted as meaning, halving all remaining cash payments due.

3.3 However on the 17\textsuperscript{th} September a letter was received from the Department for Communities and Local Government that indicates that the Ministerial decision was to halve the total reward due which in Cambridgeshire’s case means no more funding will be received from Government.

3.4 Continued funding of projects will need to be the choice of individual LSPs and authorities using whatever resources are available to them.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership is asked to note the key items discussed at the Cambridgeshire Together Board.

4.2 The Board is also asked to identify any areas of good performance or best practice that could be fed back to the Cambridgeshire Together Board. Conversely, the Board is also asked to highlight areas of concern that merit further discussion or action by the Cambridgeshire Together Board.