



## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**18 JUNE 2008**

### **'ECO-TOWNS' – COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PENNBURY (STOUGHTON)**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report seeks the views of the Commission on:
  - (a) The County Council's response to the Government's first (end of June) consultation deadline for comments on its 'eco-town' proposals;
  - (b) The involvement of Scrutiny in assisting the County Council and its partners to come to a view on the Pennbury 'eco-town' proposals for the Government's second (end of October) deadline.

#### **Report**

2. Cabinet has considered the Government's decision to shortlist the Pennbury proposal as part of its proposed 'eco-town' programme at its meetings on the 8 April, 6 May and 6 June 2008. These reports and various reports and information relevant to the proposal are available on the County Council's website ([www.leics.gov.uk/index/ecotown](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/ecotown))).
3. A report is being prepared for Cabinet on 20 June containing a proposed response to the Government for its first consultation deadline. This report will be circulated to the Scrutiny Commission as soon as it is published. Feedback from the current consultation will be provided at the Commission meeting.
4. The report will set out a range of assessments that need to be undertaken before the County Council and other partners can give a full response to the Pennbury proposal. The Commission may wish to consider what part Scrutiny might play in obtaining information, including from external agencies and experts, that will assist this process.
5. Equal Opportunities and Environmental Implications

These will undertaken as part of the range of assessments that will need to be undertaken by the County Council and other partners in preparing a comprehensive response to the Pennbury proposals.

**Recommendation**

6. The Scrutiny Commission is recommended to:
  - (a) Comment on the proposed initial response to Government on its decision to shortlist Pennbury to be a possible eco-town;
  - (b) Consider what part it wishes Scrutiny to play in assessing the Pennbury proposal in detail.

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