

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:	<p>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p>Place – Safe and Clean</p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
Consultation:	A draft of the Employment Study was made available to key stakeholders in Buntingford prior to its completion and the consultant responded to comments raised within the Study. This unusual step was taken because of the high level of public and developer interest in the results of the Study.
Legal:	There are no direct legal implications from this report. The Council is required to prepare a local or district plan which is based on up-to date evidence.
Financial:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of preparing a District Plan is significant. The Employment Study forms part of the evidence base of the District Plan which needs to be robust and un-to-date to avoid needing to rework the document.
Human Resource:	None other than existing staff resources.

<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>The preparation of the District Plan is major project for the Council. Full project and risk management procedures are being employed. Not having an up to date Plan in place will make it more difficult for the Council to defend the District against inappropriate development.</p>
<p>Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:</p>	<p>One of the objectives of the Study was to establish whether there were opportunities to increase the amount of available employment land within Buntingford in order to support the growth in residential development being experienced around the town. If opportunities are created which allows residents to work within the town rather than commuting to neighbouring settlements or further afield, this will increase the wellbeing of residents in terms of improving work-life balance and may also enable local residents the opportunity to walk or cycle to work, reducing the number of vehicle movements and their associated air quality impacts.</p>