

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **18 October 2005**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **Age Well Project**

Purpose of report: (i) **To provide a progress update on and reconfirm scope of Age Well;**  
(ii) **Introduce the concept of a new Programme Board (to include representation from Health and Housing) which will consider the future major capital investment requirements of the County in respect of services delivered by Adult Social Care; and**  
(iii) **To provide criteria for the selection of future projects within the Programme.**

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

1. **note the background and reasons for the inclusion of the elements of the Age Well Project;**
  2. **delegate responsibility for key decisions in respect of the Age Well Project jointly to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Adult Social Care up to and including submission of the Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Department of Health (DoH);**
  3. **consider and agree the introduction of a new Major Capital Investment (MCI) Programme Board with governance and management as set out in the attached Programme Initiation Document; and**
  4. **agree the criteria for potential projects to be included in a MCI Programme.**
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### 1 Financial Appraisal

1.1 To date the costs of developing the Age Well's Expression of Interest (EoI) have been limited to the two project managers and some ancillary costs. If the EoI is successful, further one-off resources will be required to engage advisers in order to advance the bid.

1.2 It is envisaged that the Council will need to acquire new land for the developments at Uckfield, Hastings and Rother. £10m has been included within the bid for PFI Credits for these acquisitions. However, it is likely that the Council will have to pre-fund the acquisitions (e.g. by acquiring options on suitable land either in financial year 05/06 or 06/07). At Financial Close (currently expected Q4 07) any funds advanced by the Council in respect of land acquisition will be refunded by the PFI Provider.

1.3 As part of the one-off bids outlined at Cabinet in February 2005, £200k was earmarked for Adult Social Care. Currently £160k has been allocated to fund Age Well up to OBC if the EoI is successful.

1.4 A full financial appraisal of the budget impact of the PFI is underway.

1.5 There are no new financial commitments in respect of the specific recommendations of this report.

### 2 Supporting Information

2.1 Age Well has been successful at the Expression of Interest stage. We are now invited to submit an outline Business Case and work is underway to develop this the Key Milestones described in the attached (Appendix 1).

#### 2.2 Background and reasons for inclusion of the elements contained within the Age Well Project

2.2.1 The outcome of the Review of the County Council's 14 Residential homes for Older People was reported to the Lead Member for Social Services and Health on 23 March 2004.

2.2.2 The review led to four main categories of recommendations:

- 1) Close the residential home and transfer residents to independent sector provision
- 2) Convert to use as an intermediate care/respice facility
- 3) Continue to run as a specialist provision with Health partners if appropriate
- 4) Continue to run until alternative provision is available or could be developed by the independent sector and/or the County Council.

2.2.3 Appropriate action was undertaken in respect of the first three categories (above) of the Homes Review.

2.2.4 The fourth category of recommendations relates to reports to Cabinet (dated 16 July 2003) in respect of Harvard Road and Ridgewood Rise indicating the need to develop new services and capacity in the Ringmer, Uckfield and rural

Rother areas, potentially utilising a PFI funding bid, before the County Council could consider the management options for the homes.

2.2.5 The fourth category also applied to the report to Cabinet on 30 July 2002 in respect of the Mount Denys Residential Services for Older People with Mental Health Problems in Hastings and Rother. This indicated the need to commence negotiations to secure re-provision of the services as part of a wider integrated service which included the Pinehill day care services, in partnership with the Mental Health Trust and Primary Care Trusts. A Project Board ("Age Well – East Sussex") was then established in respect of 2.2.4 with the scope extended to address the outstanding issues relating to Mount Denys.

2.2.6 A report was presented to the Lead Member on 21 February 2005. This secured agreement on the outline scope of the project and the submission of an EoI in March 2005 seeking Private Finance Initiative Credits to support the proposals.

### 2.3 Delegation of responsibility for key decisions in respect of the Age Well Project up to OBC

2.3.1 The process of compiling an OBC to the strict deadlines imposed by the Department of Health is complex and fast moving and does not lend itself to the regular reporting cycles of COMT. Therefore joint delegation of key decisions to the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Adult Social Care (ASC) is seen as crucial to the timely delivery of the submission.

### 2.4 Introduction of a Major Capital Investment (MCI) Programme Board and Criteria for Inclusion of Future Projects

2.4.1 In May 2005 the Director ASC invited an external Gateway Review to be conducted in accordance with the 4ps review programme. Key areas for consideration were (i) the need to mainstream Age Well into the Council's existing systems (eg CAPS); (ii) to formalise Age Well's project management and governance arrangements; and (iii) to control potential project expansion via the introduction of a Programme whereby East Sussex as a whole economy and including our partners in Health and Housing should consider Age Well as the first phase in a Programme of developments to meet the significant demographic challenges ahead in the population of older people

2.4.2 A Draft Programme Initiation Document (Appendix 2) is attached for consideration and approval in principle. This establishes an MCI Programme Board with responsibilities and arrangements which address the review requirements. The objectives are twofold: to ensure project management, governance and delivery and to consider forward-looking proposals. It should be noted that recommendations from the MCI Programme Board for future investment by the County Council will report directly into and inform contributions to the CAPS process with member involvement. The MCI Programme Board will consider the full range of funding routes relevant to each proposal.

2.4.3 Another complementary recommendation was to confirm whether or not the scope of the programme could in future include the remaining residential directly provided care services and to identify criteria to be applied when considering future options for advancing the county's strategic objectives in relation to buildings and services within Adult Social Care and across other Health and Housing needs.

2.4.4 A Project Inclusion Criteria table (Appendix 3) is proposed in response to this review requirement.

## 3. **Conclusion and reason for recommendation**

3.1 The reasons for the recommendation are as follows:

- The Age Well Project has been carefully considered and is based on and addresses the residual outcomes of the homes review.
- Delegation of decision making in respect of the Age Well OBC will assist the department in timely delivery of the OBC which will enhance our profile and secure a good working relationship with the DoH.
- The introduction of a MCI Programme Board will enable East Sussex CC to work with its partners in planning for the future requirements of its vast and growing elderly population.
- The Project Inclusion Criteria Table will enable transparent and clear decision making for inclusion of future projects under the MCI Programme.

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#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Report to Lead Member for Social Services & Health – review of the County Council's Residential Homes for Older People – 23 March 2004

Report to Lead Member for Social Services and Health – Age Well – East Sussex – 21 February 2005

Report to COMT - Age Well – East Sussex – 21 February 2005