

Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2022

I am now able to enclose for consideration at the above meeting the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda Item
No.**

- 4. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME - SUMMER UPDATE**(Pages 3 - 4)
To receive a report from the Corporate Director (Place) providing an update on activity across the strands of the Market Towns Programme.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

- 5. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2021/22 QUARTER 4**(Pages 5 - 6)
To receive a report presenting details of the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2018/22 and project delivery.

Executive Councillor: S Ferguson.

- 10. MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITY (MRF) CONTRACT EXTENSION**(Pages 7 - 8)
To receive a report from the General Operations Manager seeking approval to the extension of the Council's Material Recycling Contract.

Executive Councillor: S Taylor

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME SUMMER UPDATE

- 6.1 The Panel discussed the Market Towns Programme Summer Update at its meeting on 8th June 2022.
- 6.2 Councillors Cawley and Gardener queried the involvement of residents living in rural areas surrounding Huntingdonshire's market towns as they did not appear to have been consulted during the process so far. It was noted that these residents are users of the market towns and important in their continued growth. The Panel heard that the new administration would be taking a proactive approach and welcome input and feedback on the process so far and would take this point into consideration and assess the feasibility of including this.
- 6.3 Following a further enquiry from Councillor Gardener, the Panel were assured that the new administration would be assessing the progress to date and would communicate with members and residents as this develops and moves forward.
- 6.4 Following a question from Councillor Cawley, the Panel heard that there were recognised deadlines surrounding funding that had been secured to date but that forward momentum was being maintained to ensure the effectiveness of and maximise these opportunities for residents. The Panel were further assured that there would be a planned stepping up of stakeholder engagement to ensure residents be included rather than excluded.
- 6.5 Having heard further concerns be expressed over the timescales involved, the Panel heard that despite having inherited an ambitious timescale, the administration planned to continue to work towards deadlines already set and maximise funding opportunities for the benefit of the district and its residents.
- 6.6 Councillor Corney observed that stakeholders within communities are constantly changing and the Panel were advised that officers monitored this regularly. The Panel heard that a summer of engagement was planned to further increase engagement with stakeholders and that further detail on this would be brought to the Panel at a future meeting. The Panel were encouraged to share feedback with officers on identified stakeholders within the communities they represent.
- 6.7 Councillor Cawley questioned why point 11.1 of the report stated that the recently approved Environmental Principles were to be reviewed as these had been agreed to be very robust when agreed by the Council only six months prior. The Panel were assured that the administration wished to ensure that the points were as ambitious and practical as possible and any updates on this matter would flow through the democratic cycle of meetings.
- 6.8 Councillor Gray enquired on the thoughts and priorities of the newly appointed Executive Councillor in moving this body of work forward. The Panel heard that a balance would be struck between delivering new opportunities which aligned with the current administrations principles and maximising advantages and funding of the work already obtained. It was noted that the new Cabinet were grateful to the

previous administration for the positive position achieved to date and would build upon this good work.

- 6.9 The Panel welcomed the report and thanked the officers for their diligence and hard work in bringing these opportunities forward for the district. The Panel encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations within the report.

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2021/22 QUARTER 4

- 4.1 The Panel discussed the Corporate Performance Report 2021/22 Quarter 4 Report at its meeting on 8th June 2022.
- 4.2 Councillor Gray enquired on the initial thoughts of the new Executive Councillor on this report and whether there were any additional areas of focus identified. The Panel heard that the new administration would be building on a great foundation but that as the district progresses post pandemic, new challenges will be faced. The proposed refresh of the Corporate Plan which is due to come through the democratic cycle in the coming months will help to identify revised indicators to ensure that the Council is best serving the needs of its residents.
- 4.3 Following a question from Councillor Cawley on the challenges faced by the Planning service over recent years, the Panel heard that steps had been put in place to remedy this. These are challenges faced by the Planning sector nationally but revised working practices and adapted proactive recruitment processes, including the potential development of a Graduate pathway, are helping to attract new members to the team.
- 4.4 Councillor Wells enquired on how a green indicator for new homes could be achieved and the Panel heard that the pandemic and supply issues faced by the construction industry had greatly affected this over the past few years, however it was hoped that this should be achievable over the coming year.
- 4.5 Councillor Cawley enquired around the administration involved within the service which took up valuable officer time, this point was noted for further investigation and would be communicated back to the Panel at a future date.
- 4.6 The Panel praised the hard work of the officers around the Council for a fantastic report and achievement in the position left by the previous administration.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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