

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March, 2024.

Contact Officer: Tel No: (01480) 388169
Email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda item. See Notes below.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169
Email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

3. SUPPORTING RESIDENTS - DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY (Pages 13 - 26)

To consider a report by the Housing Needs and Resources Manager on the Council's Supporting Residents – Domestic Abuse Policy.

Executive Councillor: S Ferguson

Contact Officer: Tel 01480 388220 or
Email: jon.collen@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

4. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING UPDATE (Pages 27 - 42)

To consider a report by the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager providing an update on the programme of activity funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in Huntingdonshire.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford

**Contact Officer: Tel: (01480) 388486 or
Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

5. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME SPRING UPDATE (Pages 43 - 64)

To consider a report by the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager on an update of activity across all strands of the Market Towns Programme.

Executive Councillor: Cllr Sam Wakeford

**Contact Officer: Tel: (01480) 388486 or
Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

6. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING ALLOCATION (Pages 65 - 104)

To consider a report by the Chief Planning Officer on infrastructure projects seeking funding in whole or in part from an amount of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies received to date.

Executive Councillor: T Sanderson

**Contact Officer: Tel No: (01480) 388274 or
Email: Claire.Burton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

7. LGA GOVERNANCE PEER CHALLENGE FEEDBACK REPORT (TO FOLLOW)

To receive a feedback report from the Chief Executive detailing the LGA Governance Peer Challenge Feedback Report.

Executive Councillor: S Conboy

**Contact Officer: Tel (01480) 388116 or
Email: michelle.sacks@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve: -

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Contact Officer: Tel No: (01480) 388169 or
Email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

9. MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY CONTRACT PROCUREMENT (Pages 105 - 200)

To consider a report by the General Manager Operational on the Material Recovery Facility Contract Procurement

Executive Councillor: S Taylor

**Contact Officer: Tel No: (01480) 388082 or
Email: Andrew.Rogan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

10. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE) - AGENCY AGREEMENT (Pages 201 - 268)

To consider a report by the Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery and Operations Manager on the Civil Parking Enforcement – Agency Agreement Report.

Executive Councillor: S Taylor

**Contact Officer: Tel No: (01480) 388386 or
Email: george.mcdowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.**

8 day of April 2024

Michelle Sacks

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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Please contact Democratic Services, Tel No: (01480) 388169 / e-mail: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 19 March 2024

PRESENT: Councillor S J Conboy – Chair.

Councillors L Davenport-Ray, S W Ferguson,
B A Mickelburgh, B M Pitt, T D Sanderson, S L Taylor and
S Wakeford.

71 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

72 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

73 CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH

With the aid of a report prepared by the Business Intelligence and Performance Manager the Cabinet received a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) that provided an update on the refresh of the Corporate Plan, which included revised lists of key actions and operational performance indicators for 2024/25. The Corporate Plan for 2023-2028 had been adopted in March 2023 and established three priorities for the District Council, with related outcomes set out through detailed outcome statements accompanied by a list of actions and operational performance indicators.

By way of background the Executive Leader, Councillor S J Conboy reported that the actions are reviewed annually and are removed, amended or added to where work has been completed or new approaches have been identified, for example through Community wealth building that as a new people-centred approach to local economic development provides an exciting opportunity for the District Council as it redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Cabinet noted that performance reporting has continued to evolve with new or amended operational performance measures proposed where better indicators have been identified that means the District Council can more easily enable and influence partners and stakeholders. For example, to directly shape emissions and increase resilience within Huntingdonshire to deliver many local benefits including lower energy bills, economic regeneration and creation of local jobs, reductions in fuel poverty and improved health, avoidance of flood damage costs, enhanced green spaces and improved air quality.

Accordingly, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

to recommend to Council the endorsement of the refreshed Corporate Plan for 2023-2028 (as attached at Appendix 1 of the report now submitted).

74 FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24 QUARTER 3

With the aid of a report prepared by the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet received a report that provided details of the Council's projected financial performance for 2023/2024 in regard to the revenue outturn estimated underspend of £1.381m; and the capital outturn estimated underspend/potential rephasing of £15.483m.

By way of background the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources Councillor B A Mickelburgh reported that the budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2023/24 approved in February 2023, assumed a net expenditure budget of £24.113m in addition to this £231k of carry forwards have been added to make a current budget for 2023/24 of £24.344m. Furthermore, a gross capital budget of £29.392m had been approved, increased to £33.150m due to additional re-phasing of schemes at the year-end of £2.444m, and funding for housing grant, Ramsey Public Realm and OLSI Pitch Replacements of £1.314m not included in the original budget. A detailed analysis was also noted of the Q3 forecast outturn as at 31 December 2023 and attached at Appendix 1 for revenue, and Appendix 2 for capital and prudential indicators and Treasury indicators for Q3 are attached as Appendix 3.

As a result of discussions on the report the Cabinet agreed on the crucial role now being played by green finance as a component in realising maintainable growth and that in Q2 green waste had been moved from Corporate Finance to Operations in Q3 as the costs are incurred in this area. Members noted that at the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) on 6 March 2024 following a question from Councillor Harvey about what actions were being taken to recover outstanding historical commercial rents owed to the Council, particularly in relation to commercial rents and that following the meeting, the Panel had been appraised that the most significant cause of these historic debts is tenant insolvencies although whilst the work has been complicated by CVAs/IVAs (Company/Individual Voluntary Arrangements) where tenants wished to, negotiations could be entered into to ensure practical rents were achieved whilst remaining commercially viable. The Cabinet noted that in the Q3 Forecast 2023/24 (appendix 2 refers) – Capital Programme currently showed the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) with a £409,000 overspend and requested an explanation for the current position and noted the Miscellaneous Debt Update in Section 3.5 and requested details on the debt in relation to CIL.

Accordingly, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) to consider and comment upon the revenue financial performance to the end of December 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 and summarised in paragraph 3.2 of the report now submitted;

- (b) to consider and comment upon capital financial performance at the end of December 2023, as detailed in Appendix 2 and summarised in paragraph 3.3 of the report now submitted; and
- (c) to consider and comment upon the prudential and treasury management indicators at the end of December 2023, as detailed in Appendix 3.

75 PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STRATEGY

With the aid of a report prepared by the Assistant Director Strategic Insight and Delivery (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet noted that in recent years there has been a significant growth in the number of electric vehicles (EV) seen on the roads in the UK with over 3,500 now registered in the District. This growth is anticipated to increase in line with restrictions on the sale and manufacture of vehicles.

By way of background the Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment Councillor L Davenport-Ray acknowledged this growth and informed Cabinet that the HDC Climate Action Plan that had been approved February 2023 had set out an action to 'Develop an EV Strategy for Huntingdonshire'. Subsequently the HDC Climate Working Group in collaboration with officers have developed a 'Public EV Charging' strategy that aims to identify and provide clarity on the role of Huntingdonshire District Council in public EV charging. It was noted that recognising EV growth funding opportunities have previously been made available to local authorities and to access to these funds, there is a requirement for the District Council to have an endorsed EV Strategy in place and failure to have an EV strategy in place may limit the ability of the District Council to apply for external funding.

Cabinet welcomed the intention for the District Council to seek partnerships and funding to enhance the District's electric vehicle charging infrastructure, to work with partners to expand the infrastructure for sustainable and low carbon travel; and to promote the health benefits of active travel and alternative travel choices.

Cabinet acknowledged that some residents and businesses will continue to require private transport and especially in those rural areas where there no access to public transport and private off-street parking suitable for charging. For many residents the cost of acquiring an electric vehicle represents a significant challenge and achieving a just transition for these residents, including a transition to the 'substitute' of electric vehicles, may require encouragement and support from local government.

The Cabinet were informed that the assessment of local EV charging provision highlighted that 70 additional charge points would be required in the District to reach the national average. It was highlighted that a significant lack of publicly accessible EV charge points existed outside of Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives, the use of public charge points by EV Owners is primarily for top up or partial charging as opposed to fully charge a vehicle and both EV and Non-EV owners agreed it is fair for EV users to pay to use public charge points.

Members attention was drawn to the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in particular Councillor Alban who had stated that he was pleased with the reassurance that rural villages would be supported with this strategy. The Cabinet acknowledged that outside of Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives there are different needs and expectations in regard to the installation at non-HDC locations. Also, should a Parish Council wish to operate EV Charge Points, they must have in place a General Power of Competence (GPC) (i.e., a Parish with GPC in place may operate and charge for EV charge points). However, if a Parish Council does not have GPC, the District Council are able to act as enabler and to assist them in accordance with the relevant legislation to help them explore the operation of EV Charge Points on their land.

Accordingly, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the proposed 'Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy' as outlined in the report now submitted be approved.

76 ONE LEISURE LONG TERM OPERATING MODEL

With the aid of a report prepared by the Head of Leisure and Health (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet received a report that provided a briefing and sought endorsement from Members on the work undertaken by independent advisors on the Long-Term Operating Model for One Leisure.

By way of background the Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene Councillor S L Taylor reported that following a tender exercise, the District Council had commissioned the First Point Management and Consultancy Limited in September 2023 to undertake an independent review of the in-house leisure function, to consider initial transformation work undertaken, and to determine the most appropriate future operating model for One Leisure.

The Cabinet noted that since the COVID-19 pandemic there has been an acute rise in utility costs and cost of living crisis have resulted in a more cautious market and operators becoming risk adverse, changing, and suppressing the appetite of private operators to take commercial risks. Therefore, it could be argued that the required service specification, and performance framework for the Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) model would provide the Council with direct control and influence.

Members attention was then drawn to the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, in particular the question from Councillor Alban who had requested an update on the Sawtry Centre on behalf of Councillor Bywater, in response to which, the Cabinet understood that the Centre had been transferred to another owner in 2019 and whilst the Team have endeavoured to provide support and positive outcomes in the best interests of the local community, the onus to do so rested with the private operator.

Finally, Members noted that the review had highlighted the wider contribution that Active Health can make with partners across the wider health landscape, and it remains a key delivery component of the local service operating model

proposed and as part of this is a key opportunity for One Leisure. The Cabinet agreed that the service should seek to develop this function across a wider partnership landscape and exploit the opportunity that currently exists within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System. The leverage of additional funds to support longer term health conditions across communities covering the district will require close collaboration and work at a senior executive level. It was agreed that this could help One Leisure to develop into a more coherent community focused service by moving away from leisure centre facility management into a greater integrated leisure service delivering tangible outcomes across communities.

Following the completion of the independent review it has concluded that One Leisure should pursue a “Transformed In-House” operating model over the short-medium term.

Accordingly, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- a) that the Independent Review and its key recommendations be approved;
- b) that the continuation of One Leisure with the recommended “Transformed In-House” operating model be approved;
- c) that commencement of the development of Outline Business Case’s (OBC’s) and feasibility studies on capital investment, subject to final Cabinet approval on any investment proposals that the feasibility studies recommend, be approved;
- d) that the proposed medium to long term operating model for One Leisure and agreed it will be reviewed in 3 years in line with recommendations by the independent consultant within this report be approved;
- e) that an annual update be scheduled on actions against all the recommendations made by the independent consultant be approved;
- f) that the Interim Head of Leisure Service has discharged his original remit by proposing and seeking endorsement for a proposed long-term operating model for One Leisure; and
- g) that the current leadership arrangements for One Leisure be formalised to ensure continuity and consistency.

77 ONE LEISURE MEMBERSHIP ARCHITECTURE REVIEW

With the aid of a report prepared by the Head of Leisure and Health (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet received a report that set out the One Leisure proposal to re-brand, re-align and modernise the membership architecture and pricing across all its sites. It was noted that this will carry the One Leisure brand through and into the existing membership suite of options available to residents. The associated benefits attached to this proposal are set out within the wider body of this report.

By way of background the Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste and Street Scene Councillor S L Taylor reported that this change is important because it will allow One Leisure to be more competitive in the local health and wellbeing marketplace. It will support the recent change to an improved online joining platform that is aimed at increasing the membership base but most importantly improving the customer journey and experience versus the competition. For example, three new memberships being “One Diamond,” “One Diamond Plus” and “Junior Membership” that will feature additional benefits, and be priced accordingly offering alternatives for customers, and reinforcing the long-term commercial sustainability of One Leisure. In addition, Members noted that any existing pre-paid or annual members will have their terms and conditions protected so that they can continue to enjoy their existing benefits from 1st April 2024.

Members attention was then drawn to the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, in particular the question from Councillor Harvey, it was clarified that the new Junior membership would address a gap in the current memberships by providing a membership for young people aged 11-15, as a membership for 15–18-year-olds was already in place. Whereas a number of One Leisure direct competitors did not particularly cater for young people other than a standard gym membership. Cabinet agreed that by launching the new Junior membership it will potentially allow more young people to use One Leisure facilities and partake in physical activity which helps to support the corporate plan by creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.

The Cabinet observed that introduction of new membership architecture will also provide One Leisure an opportunity to re-align its brand identity and extend its existing membership offer providing greater value for money aimed at increasing annual admissions, improving membership yield, and increasing overall revenue for One Leisure.

Cabinet agreed by re-defining the brand and introducing new membership packages and additional price points with added value, responding to customer feedback will allow One Leisure to respond to commercial and market trends and thus support the wider long term operating model of the leisure services and its move away from a financial subsidy.

Accordingly, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

- (a) that the re-brand of One Leisure’s existing membership architecture to support compatibility with its new online joining platform and to support wider improvements to customer service delivery be approved;
- (b) that One Leisure re-align and modernise the membership architecture and pricing across all One Leisure sites be approved;
- (c) that One Leisure can implement three new membership options to support the sustainable operation of facilities, maximising access and supporting the wider commercial sustainability of One Leisure be approved; and
- (d) that this proposal forms a significant part of the process and journey of returning One Leisure back to its pre-pandemic membership base and

thus strengthening its financial resilience as a non-statutory service, whilst contributing significantly to the council's corporate plan objectives around resident outcomes be noted.

78 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

79 REVOCATION OF THE RISK BASED VERIFICATION POLICY

The Cabinet gave consideration to an exempt report by the Revenue and Benefits Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) which provided a review of the Risk Based Verification Policy.

Having received an update from the Executive Councillor for Customer Services and in noting the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships), the Cabinet

RESOLVED

to endorse the recommendations contained within the exempt report now submitted.

Chair

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Public
Key Decision – Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Supporting Residents - Domestic Abuse Policy

Meeting/Date: O&S (Environment, Communities & Partnerships)
– 4 April 2024
Cabinet – 16 April 2024

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Stephen Ferguson
Executive Councillor for Customer Services

Report by: Jon Collen
Housing Needs & Resources Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The purpose of the policy is to set out how the Council supports residents who are experiencing domestic abuse. It explains how this is aligned with safeguarding responsibilities and how officers work with other relevant agencies, where appropriate, to support and help residents experiencing domestic abuse.

It also aims to improve staff confidence in identifying and dealing with domestic abuse and links to the internal looking Domestic Abuse Staff Support Policy which covers how the Council support staff who may be affected by domestic abuse. The staff policy has recently been adopted through the Employment Committee.

Both policies have been developed following good practice from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), the leading specialist domestic abuse organisation supporting Councils and housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is

RECOMMENDED

to approve the Supporting Residents - Domestic Abuse Policy.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Council's Supporting Residents – Domestic Abuse Policy for consideration and approval.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council already responds to residents experiencing domestic abuse in many types of situations. The most common of these is where a resident requires advice and assistance regarding their housing rights and options when wanting to leave an abusive relationship, although this is not the only type of situation. The Policy explains how the Council will treat all reports of domestic abuse with respect, sympathy and confidentiality and will listen to the needs and wishes of the victim in agreeing an appropriate course of action. The safety and security of those experiencing domestic abuse will always be the paramount consideration.
- 2.2 The Policy also explains how the Council will ensure that residents are linked into specialist support providers where necessary and how we work with a range of other agencies to ensure that victims are fully supported. This multi-agency network also extends to collaborative working to manage certain perpetrators and the risks that they may pose.
- 2.3 The Council has joined the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) which supports Councils and housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse, through a membership model, accreditation framework and training packages. Their framework and model of response to domestic abuse is nationally recognised as best practice, through the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2022, and is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England & Wales. This Policy follows the DAHA good practice model and we will be working towards full DAHA accreditation in 2024.
- 2.4 By embedding best practice and approving policies that demonstrate our response to domestic abuse, the Council is demonstrating a commitment to supporting our residents and staff in the best way possible.
- 2.5 Domestic abuse is one of the forms of abuse that comes under our safeguarding responsibilities, and approving and embedding this Policy demonstrates how we will work towards meeting our safeguarding and statutory duties, as well as enhancing partnership and collaboration to deliver an effective and safe response to anyone experiencing domestic abuse.

3. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 3.1 The Panel discussed the Support Residents, Domestic Abuse Policy at its meeting on 4th April 2024.
- 3.2 Following a question from Councillor Harvey, the Panel were assured that the team undertook work and liaised with multiple partners including charities as appropriate to residents needs.

- 3.3 In response to a question from Councillor Bywater, the Panel heard that the Council had a good relationship with local housing providers and that many social landlords were also working towards the same DAHA accreditation as the Council.
- 3.4 Further to a question from Councillor Hunt, the Panel heard that the team were working hard to meeting the accreditation requirements and were working with the assessor to ensure compliance. It was also observed that training would be rolled out for both staff and Councillors later in the year.
- 3.5 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The completion of this policy links to the Corporate Plan Priority 'Improving quality of life for local people', under the 'Helping people in crisis' outcome.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The policy has been developed in consultation with the DAHA advisor who is assisting as we work towards accreditation. Learning from other Councils that are more advanced in the accreditation process, and development of these types of policies, has also come through our membership of a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse Officer group.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There will be no additional resource implications with implementing this Policy, and activities relating to this are already undertaken by existing teams and partnerships which are already established.

7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 7.1 Approval of this Policy underlines the Council's commitment to helping residents who may be experiencing domestic abuse, and reaffirms our partnership approach to working with other agencies to ensure a safe and appropriate co-ordinated response.
- 7.2 It links strongly to the Corporate Plan Priorities, specifically helping to improve the quality of life for local people, particularly where they are at a point of crisis.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - Supporting Residents - Domestic Abuse Policy

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Guidance](#)

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Jon Collen – Housing Needs & Resources Manager
Tel No: 01480 388220
Email: Jon.Collen@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Supporting Residents - Domestic Abuse Policy

Residents Domestic Abuse Policy

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council (the Council) is committed to ensuring that all residents affected by domestic abuse are supported in a sympathetic and sensitive manner and that staff act in a non-judgemental way.

1.2 The Council is a member of the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) working towards full accreditation. As members we follow good practice in how we address domestic abuse and support victims. This accreditation is the UK benchmark for how housing providers and councils should respond to domestic abuse and is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales.

1.3 This policy sets out the level of service we aim to provide.

1.4 At all times it is the Council's intention to increase the housing security and safety of those experiencing domestic abuse, and for perpetrators to be held accountable for their behaviours.

1.5. For the purposes of this policy, the statutory definition of abuse applies and incorporates behaviours of violence as well as other forms of abuse, including economic abuse and coercive control.

1.6. The Council has signed an agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council to work within their Adult Safeguarding Policy guidelines and procedures. More information is available on the CCC website [here](#).

1.7. The Council has a corporate policy regarding safeguarding. This Safeguarding Policy provides an overarching approach to the Council's response to all safeguarding matters. It is used in conjunction with the inter-agency procedures developed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board. How we respond to domestic abuse is set out within this document.

1.8. The Council recognises that our staff may also be victims of domestic abuse and we have a separate policy relating to how we offer support to our staff members.

2.0 Definition of domestic abuse

2.1 Domestic Abuse refers to abusive behaviours which take place between two people aged over 16 who are personally connected to each other. This includes people who are, or have previously been married, in civil partnerships or in relationships; or have a child together; or are relatives.

2.2 The 2021 Domestic Abuse Act states that abuse can be a single incident, but is often a pattern of behaviours, and it takes many forms:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Sexual
- Financial

The definition also includes honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

2.3 Men, women, and children can all experience domestic abuse although women are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse. The people causing harm can also be of any gender, although the majority of people causing harm are men. It takes place at all levels of society regardless of social class, race, religion, gender identity, sexuality, or disability and those who experience abuse are often affected by it long after they have left their abuser.

2.4 There are a wide range of activities and behaviours that amount to domestic abuse which are often dangerous can be life threatening. Some examples are:

2.4.1 Controlling behaviour

This is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolation them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance, and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour.

2.4.2 Coercive behaviour

This is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

2.4.3 Harassment

This is a crime involving behaviour that takes place more than once and the perpetrators actions must have an unwanted effect on the victim.

Under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, it is an offence for a person to pursue a course of conduct that amounts to harassment of another person, and that they know (or ought to know) amounts to harassment.

The Act defines harassment and states: "References to harassing a person include alarming the person or causing the person distress". A 'course of conduct' in the case of harassment of a single person must involve conduct on at least two occasions.

2.4.4 Stalking

There is no specific legal definition of stalking. However, it is helpful to know that in cases of stalking there is a pattern of unwanted, fixated, and obsessive behaviour which is intrusive. It can include harassment that amounts to stalking or stalking that causes fear of violence or serious alarm or distress.

2.5 The full definition of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act is available at [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

3.0 Support

3.1 We will treat all reports of domestic abuse with respect, sympathy and confidentiality and we will listen to the needs and wishes of the victims in agreeing a course of action.

3.2 We take a victim-centred approach to those experiencing domestic abuse and will always make the safety, dignity and well-being of the person the priority.

3.3 All reports of domestic abuse will be responded to in accordance with inter-agency procedures and guidelines developed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board, the Council's Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy and this document.

3.4 Each case will be different; we will always place an individual's needs at the forefront of any support we provide. This will include needs arising from the survivor possessing one or more of the 9 protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 in addition to any other additional needs for example, physical, emotional and or mental health needs they may have.

3.5 We will refer the person to other agencies that provide specialist support and guidance, with their agreement.

3.6 Domestic abuse is a criminal offence, and we will encourage people to report it to the Police, whether they are the victim of or a witness of abuse. You do not need to report incidents to the Police to receive ongoing support from the Council. In an emergency situation the Police should always be called by phoning 999.

3.7 We can also refer domestic abuse victims to courses, such as the Freedom Programme, which examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive perpetrators and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them.

3.8 We are part of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership, which consists of other key agencies in the area which offer support, services, and information to survivors of domestic abuse. You can find more information about the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Home \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Home (cambsdasv.org.uk))

4.0 Multi-agency working

4.1 We recognise that no single organisation will have a complete picture of the life of a family or individual living with domestic abuse but may have insights that are crucial to their support and safety.

4.2 We recognise the importance of working collaboratively with other agencies to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and to contribute to an effective Co-ordinated Community Response.

4.3 Examples of other partners include (but are not limited to):

- Specialist domestic abuse support agencies
- Independent Domestic-Based Violence Advocates (IDVAs)
- Legal advisory services
- Victim support services
- Education
- Social Care
- Learning Disabilities Partnership (LDP)
- Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officers (Where required)
- The Police

- Other housing partners

(Further information about information sharing and consent is provided in Section 5).

4.4 Appropriate members of staff will receive enhanced domestic abuse training, for example our Lead Officer for Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation, our Housing Advice and Options Officers and our Domestic Abuse Support Champions who support our staff.

4.5 Appropriate members of staff attend multi agency working groups and panels on a regular basis, in order to support residents and address where domestic abuse is taking place. This includes sharing information internally between teams where appropriate.

4.6 Partnership groups which help address domestic abuse include:

- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership
- Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Senior Management Board
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Panels
- Cambridgeshire Perpetrator Panel (DAPP)
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Huntingdonshire Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Huntingdonshire Multi Agency Problem Solving Group (PSG)

4.7 In addition, we take advantage of opportunities to participate in regional and national discussion forums, such as Regional Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) events.

5.0 Information sharing and consent

5.1 We will only share information with other agencies with the consent of the person experiencing any domestic abuse, or if:

- The information is required for the protection of children.
- We are required by law to share the information.
- There are legal reasons to protect a person without capacity.

5.2 As stated in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy, any decisions made by professionals that affect the person experiencing domestic abuse should be proportionate and take into account their wishes (where known) as closely as possible. However, any wishes of the individual cannot undermine any of the Council's legal duties to act towards safeguard individuals.

6.0 Housing Options

6.1 We recognise the importance of the 'Whole Housing Approach' and to ensuring access to a range of housing options and initiatives which give choice to people experiencing domestic abuse in relation to relocation or remaining in their existing accommodation.

6.2 Housing Advice and Options staff receive enhanced domestic abuse training and are also trained in completing DASH risk assessments.

6.3 Housing Advice and Options staff will offer advice and support to assist those experiencing domestic abuse to identify possible ways of resolving their housing situation.

6.4 Within our Lettings Policy, victims of harassment, violence or abuse may get preferential priority banding for housing. In addition, the Lettings Policy recognises the impact that economic control can have on an individual's finances and does not take a blanket approach to debt incurred because of domestic abuse or harassment.

6.5 The Lettings Policy can be accessed online at [Lettings Policy \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/lettings-policy)

6.6 Help can be provided to access to Refuge services and emergency accommodation where required.

6.7 The Housing Advice and Options team hold a homeless prevention budget, which may be available to provide funds for additional home security to those wishing to remain in their own home. There are also other schemes that we are able to work with that provide security measures for victims, such as [the Bobby Scheme](#).

6.8 In addition, we are able help with financial support such as the Rent in Advance and Rent Deposit Scheme that may be available to people wishing to relocate.

6.9 We do not generally encourage victims of domestic abuse to carry out a mutual exchange as it can be easier for a perpetrator to find out a new address. Our priority is ensuring people access a safe and secure environment and we do not consider that a mutual exchange meets this need.

6.10 Each case will be assessed on an individual basis, including consideration of the risks. Where appropriate, specialist advice, for example from the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service will be sought.

7.0 Joint tenancies

7.1 In situations of domestic abuse between joint tenants, the landlord is unable to remove a person's name from the tenancy without their consent. This means that the tenancy is unable to be assigned to either party, although we can offer advice.

7.2 In these circumstances the victim can apply for an occupation order or for a court order to transfer the tenancy into their sole name. We encourage the victim to obtain independent legal advice on how best to proceed.

7.3 If a victim has a secure tenancy (not a fixed-term tenancy, as both tenants are required to give notice on this type); they will also have the option to serve a notice to quit on the property, which will end the tenancy for both parties.

7.4 If the perpetrator does not vacate the property, the landlord could decide to begin possession proceedings. This decision is normally made on a case-by-case basis based on the level of risk involved and will be made in consultation with the victim and other professionals (such as the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisory Service).

7.5 The landlord may consider using discretion to grant the victim a sole tenancy at an alternative property or the original property. However, granting a sole tenancy to the original

property will depend on the person's housing needs and whether it would be considered safe for them to remain there.

7.6 Where a victim loses their secure tenancy because of domestic abuse, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to grant another secure tenancy to the victim if they rehouse them.

7.7 Decisions will be made in consultation with the victim and other professionals such as the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisory Service, with risk and the client's wishes in mind.

7.8 The victim should always seek advice and support to be fully informed of their options and to avoid losing their tenancy. It is important to let the Housing Advice and Options Team know about this, especially in situations where the victim wishes to remain in the area.

8.0 Taking action

8.1 The Council has an agreement with Cambridgeshire County Council to work within their Adult Safeguarding Policy guidelines and procedures.

8.2 We can refer victims to access advice on their options and may be able to provide support when they are taking legal action against the person committing the domestic abuse.

9.0 Repairs and security

9.1 As mentioned in the Housing Options section above (6), in some circumstances we may be able to offer financial assistance towards extra security measures at the property through our Homeless Prevention Fund.

9.2 We can also refer people to other initiatives, such as the Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme, who can also provide advice, assistance and security measures.

10.0 Perpetrator Management

10.1 When supporting someone experiencing abuse, we will take account of their wishes and not assume that they wish the matter to be reported to the police or that they want a shared living arrangement to end.

10.2 If the victim wishes to remain with the perpetrator, any decisions around support will be based on the specific risks associated with the situation. Housing Advice and Options staff, where appropriate complete a risk assessment (for which they have received training) to determine what risk the perpetrator poses to the victim, to ensure that the appropriate safety plan is in place. They will also refer to specialist domestic abuse services where the victim agrees with this.

10.3 Where it is appropriate for enforcement action to be taken (for example, reporting to the Police or action involving a tenancy), Council staff will do so.

10.4 It is also recognised that Housing Advice and Options staff may be expected to support a perpetrator with their housing options.

10.5 There is no blanket policy to prevent perpetrators from accessing social housing via the Home-Link allocation system, although the policy does allow exclusions based on behaviour where this is not being addressed.

10.6 Any decisions to exclude someone will be on a case by cases basis and informed by the level of risk to associated parties if an exclusion was to exist.

10.7 Where counter allegations of harm exist, the Council will work with specialist domestic abuse and partner agencies to identify the primary perpetrator and to ensure support is provided to the victim.

10.8 The Council will also ensure that information and support is available to perpetrators who wish to address their behaviour. This can include signposting to Respect and other specialist services for further advice.

10.9 The Council will work to rehouse perpetrators through a variety of housing options, if this is considered an appropriate response, to allow victims and children to stay in their property.

11.0 Prevention and awareness

11.1 The Council are committed to learning from good practice and providing appropriate training for staff. This will include domestic abuse awareness for all staff, specialist training for key roles and the introduction of Domestic Abuse Support Champions throughout the organisation.

11.2 We will actively seek to raise awareness of domestic abuse and encourage anyone that is experiencing it to engage with support services.

11.3 We are committed to working towards and building on the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation and seek to learn and improve services through the accreditation process.

11.4 We will also raise awareness of domestic abuse through information shared on our website, our social media platforms and relevant partners and agencies.

12.0 Related legislation and regulations

- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014)
- Care Act (2014)
- Civil Partnership Act (2004)
- Crime and Security Act (2010)

- Data Protection Act (2018)
- Domestic Abuse Crime and Victims Act (2004)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Family Law Act (1996)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act (2003)
- Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act (2007)
- Homelessness Act (2002)
- Housing Act (1996)
- Protection from Harassment Act (1997)
- Serious Crime Act (2015)
- Clare's Law (2017)

13.0 Related documents

- Internal Domestic Abuse Support Policy for Staff
- Lettings Policy
- Safeguarding Children, young People and Adults at Risk of Harm Policy
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board Multiagency Safeguarding Policy

13.0 Equality and diversity

14.1 As a Council, we are committed to delivering services that narrow the gap in outcomes between disadvantaged groups and the wider community, and to ensuring that protected groups are included and have their voices heard (see our [Equality webpages](#) for more information).

14.2 We are also obliged to comply with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. More information about the act can be found at [Public sector equality duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

14.3 We believe that all people are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and we are determined to ensure that everyone entitled to use services receives fair and equitable treatment.

14.4 One way that we can achieve this is by ensuring that those who do not use English as a first language (including users of British Sign Language) still have equal access to our services through the provision of interpretation and translation services.

14.5 We are committed to working with our partners and communities to promote good relations and to combat prejudice, discrimination, and harassment.

14.6 An equality impact assessment has been carried out for this policy.

14.0 Complaints

15.1 We want to know if you are dissatisfied with our service and in the first instance would encourage any victim who has a concern to contact the relevant service area, who will try to resolve the issue with you.

15.2 However if the problem cannot be resolved you may wish to raise a formal complaint which will be addressed in line with the Council's complaints procedure. The responding officer may discuss the complaint with the Lead Officer for Domestic Abuse or one of the Councils Domestic Abuse Support Champions to ensure that matter is viewed through an informed domestic abuse lens.

15.3 More information on the Council's complaints procedure and how you can register a formal complaint can be found on the Council's website at [Customer Feedback - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

16.0 Review

16.1 This policy and its procedures will be reviewed every three years. However, earlier reassessment may be required if there are changes in operations and/or legislation.

Public
Key Decision – Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth)
April 3rd 2024

Cabinet – 16th April 2024

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Sam Wakeford Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy, and Housing

Report by: Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the programme of activity funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in Huntingdonshire

Recommendation(s):

Note progress on the projects within the UKSPF and REPF programme that support the delivery of the best outcomes for our residents, businesses, and the district.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress of the activities within the UKSPF and REPF programme in Huntingdonshire that supports the delivery of the Council's priorities and alignment with other external funding streams to maximise opportunities to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, businesses, and district.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The UKSPF and REPF is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and provides a total of £2.71 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. All areas of the UK received an allocation from the fund via a formula. The UKSPF fund enables areas to target funding where it is needed most; building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment, and productivity growth, and achieving improved life chances, this is structured into three pillars:
- Communities and Place,
 - Supporting Local Businesses, and
 - People and Skills.
- 2.2 The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) aims to improve productivity, strengthen the rural economy and rural communities.
- 2.3 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) oversee the fund at UK level; the lead authority for Cambridgeshire is the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).
- 2.4 Huntingdonshire received an allocation of £1,878,645.43 UKSPF after a fixed 4% programme administration was removed, this 4% was shared equally between the Council and the CPCA. In addition, a further £304,749.89 was set aside to support Cambridgeshire wide activity.
- 2.5 REPF funding is again administered through the CPCA with Huntingdonshire's allocation totalling £957,788.00, this is capital funding only. The REPF is different to the UKSPF allocation in that match funding is required via an intervention rate for each business or organisation in receipt of REPF.

Table 1. Total funding breakdown for both programmes

Fund	Amount
UKSPF Allocation (minus fixed 4% admin fee)	£1,878,645.43
Contribution to Cambridgeshire wide priorities	£ 304,749.89
TOTAL UKSPF	£1,573,895.54
REPF Allocation	£ 957,788.00
TOTAL UKSPF & REPF Allocation	£2,531,683.54

UKSPF Project Activity

- 2.6 A total of eight projects are scheduled to be delivered through the UKSPF investment in Huntingdonshire:

- **Green Business Impact Programme** – Support for SME's to move towards net zero by reducing carbon emissions and energy costs
- **Huntingdonshire Business Accelerator** – 12 month dedicated programme taking cohorts of pre-start and early stage ventures to help entrepreneurs gain skills and knowledge needed to apply for funding and launch their business idea
- **Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC)** – Jumpstart competition and support to provide free access to resources, intelligence, databases and services to early-stage, start-ups, new start-ups, and SME's
- **Huntingdonshire Digital Manufacturing Growth Programme** Continuation of a dedicated support programme for our heritage and foundation sector of manufacturing, supporting local SME's in the sector to improve productivity and efficiencies.
- **Active Travel Feasibility Studies** – To produce up to five route feasibility studies to support external funding bids for new active and sustainable travel routes in Huntingdonshire.
- **Ramsey Great Whyte Improvements** – Delivery and promotion of proposed new market/agricultural hub and surrounding public realm improvements, community development events and activities alongside capital funding secured separately from the CPCA.
- **Vibrant Communities** – To support events (arts, culture, skills, seasonal and environmental events) in town centres and large villages as part of a wider package of activity to increase footfall and build on the success from the Welcome Back Fund.
- **Community based Employment and Skills** – Engaging the economically inactive via key community nodes providing tailored and targeted support, including a focus on mental health and wellbeing, volunteering as a route to employment and progression pathways to further develop skills and employment through existing mainstream provision.

REPF Project Activity

- **Rural Businesses** – Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas to boost jobs, community cohesion and private sector investment; supporting farm diversification and introduction of new products, technologies and services.
- **Rural Communities** – Capital grants for investment and support for digital infrastructure for community facilities to strengthen social fabric and fostering pride in place
- **Rural Communities** – Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups, including community energy schemes, ev charging points and nature based solutions.

The projects are listed in Appendix 1 where more detail is provided on activities since the last report to Cabinet in March 2023, most projects are ongoing throughout the next financial year 24/25, where greater levels of spend are expected in line with the budget assigned. The programme will conclude in 24.25. The only exception to this is the Vibrant Communities project where the project has mainly concluded although a few events will take place in 24/25.

3. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 3.1 The Panel discussed the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update Report at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 3.2 Following an enquiry from Councillor Gardener on the progress and implementation of the Electrical Vehicle Charging Scheme, the Panel heard that whilst there were updates on project deliveries within the Appendix to the report, the Electrical Vehicle Strategy was still in the implementation process but that progress would be reported back to the Panel in due course.
- 3.3 Councillor Jennings enquired how the team would be managing the success of projects where the measure was stated to improve perception. Following which the Panel were assured that work was underway on how to better demonstrate and articulate project success and that this measure would be developed into a more tangible measure and that this would be further elaborated in a future report.
- 3.4 Following a question from Councillor Gleadow, the Panel were assured that the budget risks relating to the programme for staff had been assessed and that were felt to be sufficient.
- 3.5 In response to an enquiry from Councillor Cawley, the Panel heard that details on the Huntingdon Business Accelerator were available and would be distributed to Members following the meeting to allow further communication with interested parishes and businesses.
- 3.6 Following questions from Councillor Blackwell and Councillor Gardener, the Panel heard that it was hoped that active travel could be developed in rural areas to connect and improve routes between villages, towns and points of interest. It was also stated that the funding mentioned within the report was designed to develop feasibility studies for up to five areas which in turn would allow those applicants to mobilise and bid for funding to fulfil the project as it becomes available.
- 3.7 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 **Budget Management Risk:** At a time of increased costs, it is important to ensure spend is within budget, in line with the agreed funding profile and that financial regulations are complied with including Value for Money. Mitigation measure include individual project funding profiles which have been agreed within the overall programme funding profile. Ongoing monitoring of actual spend versus profile, procurement of individual schemes where necessary and oversight by the Regeneration Programme Manager and Programme Board.
- 4.2 **Programme Timescale Risk:** This is an ambitious programme of delivery, with tight timescales for delivery. Mitigation measures include individual project plans which will inform an overall programme plan incorporating design to delivery. This is continually reviewed and monitored through Programme Board and reported against key delivery and funding milestones.
- 4.3 **Programme Resources Risk:** The programme has multiple projects which must be managed simultaneously and via different delivery mechanisms. Mitigation

measures include an established programme management through Programme Board, individual projects managed by officers who have clear roles and responsibilities.

5. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

[*\(See Corporate Plan\)*](#)

5.1 The delivery of both programmes aligns to Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's objectives, key actions, and performance measures. The Council's key objectives are:

- **Tackling Climate Change and caring for the Environment** with UKSPF investment looking at future active sustainable travel routes and supporting businesses to reduce their carbon emissions through business advice and grants to deliver physical improvements to buildings.
- **Enhancing employment opportunities and supporting businesses** with UKSPF activity supporting residents who want to start a business through entrepreneurship programmes and SME's in the manufacturing sector being assisted to improve productivity and digital technologies.
- **Supporting needs of residents** through a programme of engagement and support focussed on Employment and Skills engaging economically inactive through community based groups and community locations
- **Strengthening our communities** by investing UKSPF to support vibrant communities. Text.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Council have entered into Grant Funding agreements with the CPCA which were reviewed by the Council's legal team, senior officers, and members.

6.2 Individual contracts with delivery partners have also been reviewed as and when necessary, with the Council's legal team, senior officers, and members as per the recommended delegation.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are a number of delivery mechanisms for the individual projects. In the main, projects will be managed by existing staff resource or via additional resource built into project costs. The Council will receive £39,138.44 to support overall programme management over three years. This is the maximum amount available and staff time spent on programme management will be claimed from this.

7.2 The Programmes is managed by the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Team alongside the Market Towns Programme, this brings together expertise in the delivery of externally funded schemes. Individual project managers lead projects from different teams within the Council with clear reporting lines to Programme Board.

8. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting residents through a positive and ongoing working relationship with local communities. Delivery of the Community and Skills employment based project will support economically inactive residents by providing tailored and targeted support. This includes focussing on mental health and wellbeing, volunteering as a route to employment

and progression pathways to further develop skills and employment through mainstream provision. Support in these areas will directly contribute to positive health outcomes.

9. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Council has a duty to ensure that we continue to promote an environmentally positive recovery following the pandemic, we also have a duty to deliver sustainable place-making. The Council has direct control over a tiny proportion of all the carbon emissions within Huntingdonshire. We can however adopt a key role in influencing the district demonstrating good practice, whilst setting policies and strategies to influence business and communities to tackle climate change at the same time as enabling sustainable living and growth. These principles are embedded in these programmes.
- 9.2 In October 2022, the Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion that recognises that the current cost of living and climate crisis require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. Linked to this motion and the Climate Strategy, which was adopted by the Council in February 2023, the Council committed to seek wherever possible positive environmental and social benefits.

10. EQUALITIES

- 10.1 The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 10.2 Good planning and effective regeneration can improve environments and opportunities for communities experiencing disadvantage. Planning which does not adequately engage with or consider the needs of local communities is unlikely to improve their life chances and may further entrench area based disadvantage.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 11.1 To provide an update from members on the projects within the UKSPF and REPF programmes since the last update in March 2023.

12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Overview of Huntingdonshire District Council UKSPF and REPF Project Delivery

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet Paper March 2023: [Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

Cabinet Paper, December 2022: [Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

UK Government guidance on UKSPF is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

CPCA UKSPF Investment Plan is available at: [Agenda Item No \(cmis.uk.com\)](#),
[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#) and [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Rural England Prosperity Fund: [Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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Appendix 1: Overview of Huntingdonshire District Council UKSPF Project Activity

Project Title	Funding	Lead Officer	Brief Description	Outcomes to be delivered	Delivery Method	Progress Update Q4 23/24
Green Business Impact Programme UKSPF Priority: Supporting Local Business	£320,000	Nykki Rogers	To help SMEs reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.	100 businesses receiving non-financial support Min. 34 businesses receiving grant funding	Commissioned (led by Cambridge City)	This project has increased in activity since Jan 24. A total of 16 new businesses were accepted to the programme. 10 more organisations registered interest in joining the programme and 5 others were declined for not being eligible. Several promotional activities and outreach drives were conducted in February following engagement with LA. Participants have shown considerable progress, with 11 out of the total 32 participants completing the diagnostic stage (the most time-consuming stage). The first two Net Zero plans are under development.
Huntingdonshire Business Accelerator	£100,000	Nykki Rogers	12 month dedicated programme of support for pre-start and early-stage ventures to help	Jobs created (numerical value) (20)	Commissioned (HDC)	Launched 29 th February 2024

UKSPF Priority: Supporting Local Business			entrepreneurs gain the skills and knowledge they need to apply for funding and launch their new business idea.	Number of new businesses created (numerical value) (10) Increased number of businesses supported (% increase) (25%)		
Business & Intellectual Property Centre UKSPF Priority: Supporting Local Business	£75,000	Nykki Rogers	Jumpstart competition and free access to resources, intelligence, databases at BIPC Huntingdon with support services to early-stage start-ups, new start-ups and SMEs.	10 jobs created 10 new businesses created	Direct Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 businesses have received 1:1 business support to date • 32 entrepreneurs have been assisted to date • £25,000 Jumpstart competition has concluded • 8 new business funded and created with 12 jobs
Huntingdonshire Digital Manufacturing Growth Programme UKSPF Priority: Supporting Local Business	£280,000	Nykki Rogers	Continuing a dedicated support programme for our heritage and foundation sector of manufacturing by supporting local SMEs in the sector to improve productivity and efficiencies. Programme launched September 2023	10 jobs created 20 jobs safeguarded 40 businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	Commissioned (HDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 businesses have received non-financial support to date. • 8 people to date attended training sessions. • 5 jobs created to date and 6 safeguarded • 14 businesses adopted new technologies to date

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 capital grant awards to deploy digital technology
<p>Active Travel Feasibility Studies</p> <p>UKSPF Priority: Place & Communities</p>	£150,000	Neil Sloper	To produce up to five route feasibility studies to support future external funding bids for new active and sustainable travel routes in Huntingdonshire.	<p>Greenhouse gas reductions</p> <p>Improved perceived/ experienced accessibility</p> <p>Improved perception of facility or infrastructure project</p> <p>Increased use of cycleways or paths</p>	Commissioned (HDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline plan to deliver project has now been scoped Member workshop took place in Jan 24 with CPCA Sustrains to manage project in 24/25 Active Travel Strategy will identify and agree prioritised feasibility studies. Meeting planned with CCC Active Travel team Q4, contacts obtained from the CPCA.
<p>Ramsey Great Whyte Improvements</p> <p>UKSPF Priority: Place & Communities</p>	£220,835	Sam Caldbeck	To provide funding to promote the proposed new Market/ Agriculture Hub and surrounding public realm improvement, to support community development and events and activities.	<p>8 jobs created</p> <p>5 jobs safeguarded</p> <p>Increased visitor numbers</p> <p>Improved perceived experienced / accessibility</p> <p>Improved perception of facilities/ amenities</p>	To be agreed	<p>Project work is progressing and a final feasibility report is due in March 2024.</p> <p>This is expected to confirm the design approach. It was necessary to adjust the approach as the original concept scheme of one large Produce Hall has been found to be undeliverable due to engineering concerns.</p>

				<p>New Market Produce Hub and enhanced 600m² of Public Realm</p> <p>Improved perception of facility and infrastructure project</p> <p>Increased affordability of events/entry</p> <p>Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support</p>		
<p>Vibrant Communities</p> <p>UKSPF Priority: Place & Communities</p>	£155,000	Jasellia Williams	To support events (arts, culture, skills, seasonal & environmental events) in town centres and large villages as part of a wider package of activity to increase footfall and build on the success from the Welcome Back Fund	<p>0.5 Jobs created</p> <p>2 Jobs safeguarded</p> <p>Increased footfall</p> <p>Increased visitor numbers</p> <p>Improved perceived or experienced accessibility</p>	<p>Allocations to towns & villages (see MTP paper, item 5 at Cabinet 12 Dec 2022)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Local Events have been supported with funding • 1 Volunteering opportunity has been supported

				<p>Improved perception of facilities/ amenities</p> <p>Increased affordability of events/entry</p> <p>Improved engagement numbers Improved perception of events</p> <p>Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support</p>		
<p>Community Based Employment & Skills</p> <p>UKSPF Priority: Place & Communities</p>	£273,061	Paul Fox	<p>There is a wide range of skills, training and support available to those who may benefit from it, yet for many it can prove difficult to identify or access.</p> <p>Furthermore those seeking employment experience practical barriers such as the costs or transport, childcare,</p>	<p>Organisations receiving financial and non-financial support</p> <p>Individuals supported into volunteering, skills training, employability training and volunteering (where volunteering is</p>	<p>Skills and employment advisors to link demand and need to existing capacity</p> <p>Issue-specific financial or non-financial support to organisations or individuals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 organisations have received financial support • 5 organisations have received non-financial support • 1 facility supported /created • 44 people attending training sessions • Creation of of 2 whole time equivalent skills and employment worker

			This portfolio of projects seeks to match skills training and support with the capacity available and also remove the practical barriers set out above.	undertaken as a pathway to employment)	to remove barriers to skills, employment or volunteering (as an employment pathway)	posts (in partnership with Cambridgeshire Skills)
	£1,573,895.54					

Overview of Huntingdonshire District Council REPF Project Activity

Project Title	Funding	Lead Officer	Brief Description	Outcomes to be delivered	Delivery Method	Progress Update Q4 23/24
Capacity building & infrastructure (HDC) REPF Priority: Rural Communities	£350,000	Neil Sloper	To deliver up to 3 schemes which will deliver 6 new EV charging points to support sustainable travel options and carbon reduction in rural communities. To work to support up to three energy efficiency projects in terms of feasibility and further development towards delivery.	6 EV Charging Points 3 energy efficiency projects	HDC will work with local organisations and partners	An EV Charging Policy has been developed by the Council and will be taken to Cabinet in March 24. This will enable the Council to have a strategy on EV charging and inform delivery.
REPF Priority: Rural Communities			This programme will deliver initiatives designed to enhance and support digital connectivity in rural areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4G/5G enhanced connectivity – targeted at residents/businesses in 			This project will commence in 24/25. Early discussion has taken place with Connecting Cambridgeshire to see if this projects aligns with other activity being

			<p>rural areas without any current or potential for fibre connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart poles – infrastructure which will provide host sensors / small cells to support wider connectivity. • Digital community spaces: Local facilities in rural locations enhanced for digital connectivity, ultra fast broadband and providing resources such as devices for residents via a grant scheme. • Expansion of the Cambridgeshire public wifi access scheme into rural areas. Potential for partnership and added value by combining with other Cambridgeshire districts such as east and south Cambridgeshire, 			<p>undertaken in the Cambridgeshire Region and could be delivered by them.</p> <p>Initial meeting to be set up at the beginning of April 24.</p>
REPF Priority: Rural Businesses	£350,000	Nykki Rogers	<p>This is a capital grant award programme with 50% match-funding for projects values up to £150,000.</p> <p>It will support priority areas of funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas; farm diversification enterprises and utilisation of</p>	10 new jobs 2 farm diversification projects	Delivered in-house with resource in Economic Development and with supporting services in the Council	Appointment of additional resource secured on 29 th February 2024 to deliver the Business Grants. Programme to be delivered in 24/25

			redundant buildings; diversification of farm businesses outside of agriculture to encourage start up, expansion or scale up of these businesses; to develop and expand sustainable rural tourism and visitor economy through experiences.			
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Public
Key Decision – Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Market Town's Programme Update (MTPU)

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Growth)
3rd April 2024
Cabinet – 16th April 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing

Report by: Regeneration & Housing Delivery Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report provides the 2023/2024 Q4 update on the Market Towns Programme (MTP).

The MTP is an ambitious programme of economic led interventions to renew and reshape our town centres and high streets in a way that promotes growth, improves experiences, and ensures sustainability in the future.

The MTP is funded through a combination of external funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and National Highways. This update particularly highlights:

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is asked to:

- Note the contents of the report updating on progress within the Market Towns Programme.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on activity across all strands of the Market Town Programme.

2. ST NEOTS PROGRAMME

Town Centre Improvements

- 2.1. Main work on the town centre improvements commenced in January with moveable site hoarding being installed on the Market Square. This was in advance of work beginning to remove the existing surface blocks in preparation for the new materials to be installed.
- 2.2. Almost all the surface area of the Market Square has been worked on with blocks removed, exposing the sub surface. The south side of the square has been laid in temporary tarmac to provide sufficient space for the Thursday and Saturday markets to continue. The hoarding has moved to surround areas of work as required, while blocking off as small a part of the square at any one time as is practicable while work continues. Works also commenced at the Huntingdon Street crossroads, with new kerbs, tactile paving and preparatory works for the new crossing points taking place.
- 2.3. The Contractor (Taylor Woodrow) and the Council's Market Operations team have worked closely with the Market Traders to ensure the Market continues to successfully operate during the works; this also enables the smooth running of the St Neots Town Council Market which takes place twice a month on a Saturday. The location of Market traders will be adjusted at agreed points throughout the works to allow the contractor to access all parts of the Market Square.
- 2.4. Whilst there were some issues reported at the outset of works commencing regarding signage for businesses located and the provision of delivery loading bays on the north side of the Market Square, work has been undertaken to address these. Signage promoting the businesses in this part of the Square has been added to the Market Square hoarding. These arrived later than intended due to a supply issue from a third-party.
- 2.5. Regarding the contractor compound, which is required for the storage of plant and facilities for site workers, from January this was temporarily located at the Riverside Car Park. During February, the location for a larger compound was identified at the site of the proposed Splash Park. The Trust responsible for the Splash Park has agreed a lease with the contractor which will provide income to the scheme as well as improvements to the access of the site. Works have commenced at the Splash Park site and the compound will be fully operational imminently.
- 2.6. The programme for delivery of all works is scheduled to last for up to 60 weeks. No delays have been reported as yet, however with a project of this scale we are anticipating inevitable issues to arise. The new

compound will allow the contractor to take delivery of new materials, therefore the pace of work in the Market Square will increase in the coming weeks and months.

Old Falcon Inn

- 2.7. The Council and the owner of the Old Falcon have now entered into a legal agreement to continue to work in partnership towards enabling this building and site being brought back into active use.
- 2.8. This agreement has enabled the Council to support the owner towards the development and submission of a policy compliant planning application. A specialist team including architects and conservation experts has been appointed by the Council. This team will work with the Council and the owner to develop commercially viable plans for the site that nevertheless respect the heritage value and special setting of the building, which will form the basis of the intended planning application.
- 2.9. Due to the listed nature of the building and the site-specific challenges faced, such as being located within the flood plain, the existing owner has not previously been able to secure a planning consent for redevelopment work.
- 2.10. Consequently, the building and site has been dormant for several years, an issue that has exacerbated the challenge of bringing the building back into use, as parts of the building have deteriorated significantly.
- 2.11. Progress is now being made developing the planning application and this is expected to be submitted by May. Subject to the award of planning consent, the existing owner will then seek to enable the redevelopment of the building according to that application.

Priory Centre refurbishment

- 2.12. The Priory Centre project is based on a major refurbishment and reimagining of the purpose of the building, its function and use to residents of St Neots. The project was fully initiated in July last year with the procurement of a design team, AOC.
- 2.13. Following several stages of concept development and liaison with the building tenant, St Neots Town Council, concept proposals produced by AOC were consulted upon during December 2023.
- 2.14. Several exhibitions and events were held which were attended by over 500 residents, business, and centre users. The response to the proposals were positive with a great deal of support being provided for the preferred scheme, which set out a new vision for an enhanced Great Hall, new Foyer, meeting and community spaces and improved access to the riverside. Full details of this engagement can be viewed in [appendix A](#).
- 2.15. This engagement and the feedback received has helped the Council, working with AOC and St Neots Town Council, to refine and improve the

designs. A planning application for the scheme was subsequently submitted in March.

- 2.16. Subject to the planning application being approved, we will be launching a contractor procurement process during June and July. Works are then proposed to commence in September and will last for a period of 12 months.
- 2.17. In terms of the expected cost of the proposed works, this will only be confirmed once the contractor procurement process has been completed. Therefore, we are currently working based on estimated costs only. Consequently, adjustments to the scheme may be required via value engineering and other measures to reduce cost should it be considered necessary; we continue to liaise with the Town Council who are the tenants of the building.
- 2.18. In parallel, Council Officers are also investigating if the public spaces outside of the Priory Centre could be improved as a separate project. This potential project would re-use up to 1000 sqm of existing surface blocks from the Market Square, which are not required for the town centre improvements. This could be a highly sustainable and carbon efficient re-use of materials.
- 2.19. The Council has engaged the town centre improvement works contractor to provide estimated costs as part of a potential contractual extension. Once costs are established, we will seek to identify external funding options. Discussions to this end have been held with the Combined Authority, who are interested in the project subject to resources being available. If funds are identified and the project is activated, we would aim to deliver the works before the end of 2024 alongside the timescale of the existing town centre works.

Legacy projects (St Neots masterplan phase 1)

Public Art Community project

- 2.20. The Council is working with St Neots Town Council to deliver a public art project. The Town Council is the lead for this project and has, following a tender process, confirmed an artist/supplier to deliver the project to conclusion.
- 2.21. Work to date has included the scoping of potential locations for the public art installation alongside research on the type of installation to be produced. The number and exact nature of the installations is to be confirmed. It is expected that several events will be held over the Summer to encourage community participation and engagement.

Entertainment and staging area (Market Square)

- 2.22. This project will provide for a new performance stage area within the new Market Square. Provision has been made for the stage within the Market Square designs, being located on the western end of the Square. We are

very keen that the stage is multi-use and will investigate options for it to provide other amenities such as café or seating areas when not in use for events.

- 2.23. A designer has been appointed to develop proposals up to RIBA stage 2 (concept). Subject to public engagement a preferred concept design will be selected and developed to detailed stage which will form the basis for a planning application.
- 2.24. We are currently anticipating works on the stage being delivered in parallel to the town centre improvement works during the current calendar year.

Shop front grant scheme / Digital Information Screens

- 2.25. These projects are being delivered as part of an all Market Towns sub programme and are reported on separately in sections 4 and 5, respectively.

3. HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES PROGRAMME

The Broadway, St Ives

- 3.1. This is a highway improvement scheme, which is being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council. HDC's role with the scheme has been limited and is only providing funding via CPCA.
- 3.2. The County Council has undertaken a Traffic Regulation Order consultation to remove 14 car parking spaces and extending double yellow lines as part of the proposed scheme works. This consultation ended on the 31st of January. Some of the feedback received related to the cost of car parking in the vicinity of the works during construction, which is being investigated by the Council.
- 3.3. During February, several meetings with residents and businesses have also been held. There has been some opposition from businesses/residents in the immediate area recorded as part of the early engagement process. Eight respondents were supportive of the scheme, one neutral whilst seven were opposed.
- 3.4. Further site investigation, following development of the initial scheme designs, was undertaken during March. This work will help to indicate if the final design is deliverable within the allocated budget or if any adjustments are required.
- 3.5. Subject to the outcome of both the consultations and site investigations, work on the scheme is expected to be completed late July 2024.

Cromwell Museum expansion

- 3.6. As reported previously the Council has awarded significant funds towards an expansion of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon. The existing premises are too small and constrained to display the full range of

historical material available and the expansion is necessary to truly maximise the benefits of such a prominent and historically important individual.

- 3.7. In partnership with Huntingdon Town Council, the Museum has identified a property located within a reasonable distance of the existing Museum premises that is ideal for their purposes. The Museum is seeking to acquire these premises to provide an expanded Museum offering, whilst retaining the existing Museum as an educational facility. Subject to due diligence, surveys and completion of the negotiation process, the Museum is seeking to complete the acquisition during 2024.
- 3.8. Whilst the purpose of this stage of the project is the acquisition of premises for expansion, it will enable a further stage that will be the basis of a funding application by the Cromwell Museum to the Heritage Lottery Fund, for the purpose of developing the new space to suitably high standard for Museum visitors, from 2026 onwards.

4. SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 4.1. The Shop front grant scheme is now available to businesses within the town centres of St Neots, St Ives, Huntingdon, and Ramsey. The Programme has been received well to date, albeit we are seeking to increase promotion in Ramsey to generate more interest and applications from businesses in this location.
- 4.2. In the brief time that St Neots has been included in the scheme, nine applications have been received, which is a significant achievement and will make a demonstrable impact to the town centre, should these applications proceed to delivery. A full summary of grant position and awards is included below:

	Huntingdon	St Ives	St Neots	Ramsey	Total
Applications	11	11	9	1	32
Award numbers	8	8	0	0	16
Reject numbers	1	0	1	1	3
To be reviewed	2	3	8	0	13
Grant award	£40,188	£19,962	N/A*	N/A	£60,150
Total cost of works	£51,174	£29,497	N/A	N/A	£80,671
Completions	2 (plus 1 to stage 1)	6	N/A	N/A	8 (plus 1 part)
Paid Grants	£14,769	£13,962	N/A	N/A	£28,731

***To note:** applications not yet reviewed, decision due end March 2024.

5. DIGITAL INFORMATION SCREENS – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 5.1. As with Shop front grants, the Digital Information Screen project has now been extended to all Market Towns (Ramsey, St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon).
- 5.2. The Council has completed a procurement process and awarded a contract for delivery to the supplier Trueform. We are now working closely with Town Council partners and others including Huntingdon BID to plan the deployment of the Digital screens. This work will include confirming the information with partners that will be provided via the screens alongside the overall branding and messaging specific to each location.
- 5.3. The digital screens are adaptable and can be used for several purposes, from promoting local events, heritage, tourism, and businesses, as well as locational information and public announcements or safety advice.
- 5.4. Deployment of the screens will begin this year with completion of the project by March 2025. The screens will be in place for a period of three years at which point a review and evaluation will be held with Partners as to continuation of the service beyond this point.

6. SMARTER TOWNS – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 6.1. The original aim of the Smarter towns project was to provide a network of routers and sensor infrastructure which could be used to support local services, information provision and an overarching 'Internet of Things.'
- 6.2. This infrastructure has been successfully delivered and is now providing real time information, for example, on flood levels in St Neots. There are opportunities for other public agencies or service providers to link to and make use of this network and we will continue to investigate opportunities for this with our scheme partner Connecting Cambridgeshire.
- 6.3. Whilst this stage of the project is closed, we are investigating with Connecting Cambridgeshire and the Combined Authority further opportunities to expand and improve the Smarter Town network on a Cambridgeshire wide basis.

7. RAMSEY (GREAT WHYTE PROJECTS)

- 7.1. The Ramsey Great Whyte sub programme consists of two significant projects which are designed to support and enhance the town centre. The first of these is a public realm project which is focused on the design and delivery of improvements to the local town centre environment, within the Great Whyte area and secondly, the 'Shop in a box' scheme, which will potentially provide low cost and flexible space for startup traders or independent traders moving from online only to a physical presence.
- 7.2. The Council has commissioned concept designs which identify how both projects could be delivered. A feasibility study has been produced which was presented to Ramsey Town Council in March 24. The Town Council

is an important partner for the scheme, and we will continue working with them in its delivery.

- 7.3. The focus of the public realm project is on local environmental improvements and the potential pedestrianisation of parts of the Great Whyte. This could provide an improved area for pedestrians, but also an expanded area for the Town Market. In combination with the ‘Shop in a box’ concept, units of which may be in the pedestrianised area, this will provide a new focal point for the town centre which is vibrant and attractive to visitors.
- 7.4. Should parts of the pedestrianisation proceed, this would reduce some of the off-street parking spaces. Consequently, we are also reviewing the potential for resurfacing of the Mew Close off street car park and maximising the available space to increase the number of parking bays provided.
- 7.5. The next stages of the project will involve engagement with the wider community to ascertain local opinions and aspirations, with specific attention being provided to businesses, residents and others located within the Great Whyte itself.

8. BUDGET UPDATE

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
1. St Neots Regeneration			
Future High Street Fund	£3,748,815	£2,123,459	£1,625,355
Community Infrastructure Levy	£4,830,000	£0	£4,830,000
CPCA	£3,100,000	£0	£3,100,000
National Highways	£3,493,218	£1,491,579	£2,001,639
CPCA Masterplan phase 1 (legacy)	£260,000	£50,000	£210,000
Funding totals	£15,432,033	£3,665,038	£11,766,995

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
2. Huntingdon & St Ives			
CPCA Masterplans & Accelerated Funding (*post change control March 2023)	£802,150	£229,764	£567,385
Funding totals	£802,150	£229,764	£567,385

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
3. Ramsey			
Local Growth Fund	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525
UKSP (revenue)	£221,000	£24,265	£196,735
CPCA Accelerated Funding (legacy)	£295,000	£31,185	£267,728
Funding totals	£1,669,525	£55,450	£1,617,988

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
4. Programme total			
All funding sources	£17,903,708	£3,950,252	£13,953,456

Note: All Capital funds unless otherwise stated.

9. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 9.1. The Panel discussed the Market Towns Spring Update Report at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 9.2. In response to an enquiry from Councillor Pickering, the Panel heard that the planning application for the Priory Centre was primarily the same as the application presented during the public engagement events but had some amendments to reflect comments received during the engagement events. The Panel heard that the application had been submitted and a link to the application on the portal would be circulated once the application became live. It was also confirmed that the application allowed for a scope of budget scenarios depending on the funding available once the project was underway.
- 9.3. The Panel were assured, in response to questions from Councillor Corney and Councillor Jennings, that deadlines for funding from both the CPCA and the FHSF had been extended and would allow projects allocated those funding streams to be completed. The Panel were further assured that the team continued to maximise multiple funding sources to allow the fullest flexibility for projects, with timescales for projects being adjusted to reflect this. It was also confirmed that project dates would be included within the next report to allow for transparency and clarity.

- 9.4. Following a request from Councillor Slade for a location plan of the digital screens, the Panel heard that procurement had been completed on the project and the team were working with partners to implement the plans. It was advised that a location plan would be sought and provided as an update to the Panel. In response to a further question on the matter from Councillor Corney, the Panel heard that sessions would be held by the contractors for District Councillors to be fully appraised on the project and that there was an aim for the project to be fully implemented by March 2025.
- 9.5. Councillor Pickering expressed his delight that the Old Falcon development was moving forward, and the Panel heard that it would be a long term project for the final development but that any potential for a short term cosmetic improvement would be updated to the Panel as it was developed.
- 9.6. In response to a further question from Councillor Slade, the Panel heard that a robust communications plan was in place with the County Councillor who are managing the project, the team would assess this plan and liaise with Members directly should it prove necessary.
- 9.7. Following a question from Councillor Cawley, the Panel were advised that funding granted to Huntingdon Town Council would assist them in their purchase for additional space for the Cromwell Museum and that the Town Council would then be looking at further funding opportunities to facilitate refurbishment of the space to be incorporated within the museum's portfolio.
- 9.8. The Panel were advised, in response to a further question from Councillor Cawley, that the Shop Fronts Grant Scheme was currently only available to shops within the four market towns due to restrictions within the funding streams, however alternatives were being investigated to allow a similar scheme to be developed for Key Service Areas within the district. Following a further question from Councillor Corney, the Panel were advised that applications to the scheme thus far had not experienced significant delays where planning permission had been required.
- 9.9. Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.

10. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

BUDGET MANAGEMENT RISK

- 10.1. The projects that sit within the MTP are at various stages and therefore, as work progresses to detailed level, cost reliability and accuracy increases, the level of risk is more certain.
- 10.2. One of the most significant elements of the MTP was the St Neots Town Centre Improvements. The tender process has been completed for this scheme with the tender costs at a significant cost saving compared to previous cost estimates. This has lowered the risk for this project and the programme overall significantly.
- 10.3. The Priory Centre project does present an elevated risk level in cost terms currently. As another construction-based scheme it is likely to be affected

by the significant inflation this sector has experienced in the two years. Whilst inflation has reduced, we will continue to review the state of the market and develop measures to reduce costs should it be necessary such as value engineering.

PROGRAMME RESOURCE RISKS

- 10.4. The MTP requires different skills, expertise, and external technical support at various stages of project delivery. The programme itself has multiple projects which must be managed simultaneously identifying all interdependences across the programme. There is significant internal and external stakeholder management and detailed consultation with partners and resident/ business groups.
- 10.5. This could result in competing priorities across organisations that will require careful consideration. Mitigation: As part of the project, a detailed resources plan and communications strategy with stakeholders has been developed to ensure the management of expectations and information being shared promptly. The HDC's website is regularly updated with the progress across the core programme sites, more time is being invested in engaging stakeholders, a greater presence on social media and revamping of the newsletter.

REPUTATIONAL RISKS

- 10.6. The MTP is a high priority for the Council, so monthly reporting, governance and timely decision-making are critical to ensure the programme is successfully delivered. A further key element is having in place a well-planned Communications Plan. This is monitored weekly and designed to be proactive, looking ahead several months for potential issues for which communications and publicity are important tools for resolving.
- 10.7. Further to this, the programme governance and reporting lines will be continually monitored to ensure that the key programme milestones are managed and achieved. A full MTP programme risk register is in place along with individual project risk registers. Given the size and complexity of the MTP it features on the Council's Strategic Risk register, along with the mitigating actions.

11.LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 11.1. The delivery of the MTP is aligned with the principles and key objectives of the HDC Corporate Plan, specifically it links to:
- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations, through Forward Thinking Economic Growth

12. CONSULTATION

- 12.1. Within the reporting period, a non-statutory consultation has been undertaken concerning the Priory Centre refurbishment project, the details of which are included in paragraph 2.11 and in the report linked here: [appendix A](#).

13. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1. This programme contains multiple projects where legal advice and guidance is required as part of project delivery. Project Staff will liaise with the Legal Services Manager as required to ensure appropriate legal oversight and advice if provided when relevant.

14. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1. The MTP Project team is currently fully resourced in staffing and budget terms to deliver the MTP programme as set out.

15. EQUALITIES

- 15.1. The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 15.2. Good planning and effective regeneration can improve environments and opportunities for communities experiencing disadvantage. Planning which does not engage with or consider the needs of local communities is unlikely to improve their life chances and may further entrench area-based disadvantage.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL

- 16.1. The Council has a duty to ensure we continue to promote an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire following the impacts of COVID 19. We also have a duty to deliver sustainable place making. In December 2021, the Council adopted a core set of environmental principles. In October 2022, the Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion that recognises that the current cost of living, and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In February 2023 Council formally recognised the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency, adopted the Council's Climate Strategy underlining the organisations commitment to:
- setting a positive example through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040
 - an enabler supporting action within our communities and across our partners.
 - an encourager to those that live, work, and visit Huntingdonshire to take climate action and reduce carbon emissions.

16.2. The Council has direct control of only a tiny proportion of all the carbon emissions within Huntingdonshire, but we can adopt a key role to influence the district, demonstrating good practice whilst setting policies and strategies to influence businesses and communities to tackle climate change whilst enabling sustainable living and growth. These principles are embedded within the MTP.

LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix A: statement of engagement](#) – Priory Centre

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report to Cabinet (FHSF (Future High Street Fund)) 13th February 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 28th July 2020 – EXEMPT.
- Report to Cabinet (Market Towns Accelerated Programme) 18th March 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 23rd. February 2021 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2022 Update to Cabinet, 17 March 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Summer 2022 Update to Cabinet June 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Autumn 2022 Update to Cabinet September 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2022 Update to Cabinet December 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2023 Update to Cabinet March 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Autumn 2023 Update to Cabinet October 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2023 Update to Cabinet December 2023 can be found [here](#)

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The Priory Centre, St Neots

Statement of Community Engagement

February 2024

Statement of Community Engagement

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN APPROACH

Throughout the design process, regular workshops have been run with the client stakeholders and the general public. This has enabled a responsive process where many aspects of the proposed designs have been tested and adapted to ensure they are engaging and relevant for the contemporary users.

This collaborative design process is broken down into the following categories:

Workshops

Regular sessions on site with the client exploring designs with drawings, models and in-situ mock-ups.

Public Engagement

Consultation events on site, allowing the public to see the proposals through drawings and models in the space itself. This is supported by online sharing of the display boards and questionnaires to capture feedback which are shared at the next public event and online.

Stakeholder Consultation

Public consultation is supported by early and continual engagement with statutory and advisory bodies, community groups and key user groups.

Building Development Group

A selected group of volunteers, the group meeting throughout the design and delivery of the project to ensure the needs of end users contribute meaningfully to the design.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Stakeholder Interviews

14th-19th September 2023

Individual interviews with Priory Centre staff, HDC and SNTC councillors undertaken to discuss outcomes of the priorities event, a review of the initial GA plans, as well as retrieve feedback on individual priorities for the development, how the building and amenities are currently used and how each individual saw their future use.

Building Development Group Priorities Event

19th October 2023

An initial engagement event with Priory Centre staff, HDC and SNTC councillors to define the role of the Building Development Group, a summary of the brief and a workshop to agree on project priorities.

Building Development Group Workshop

15th November 2023

Discussion of approach towards low to high level intervention in response to developing business plan. Physical model and drawings reviewed alongside MEA costing.

In person feedback was received. With a decision to proceed with high level interventions to maximise budget.

Public Engagement Event

13th-16th December 2023

Invited stakeholders, councillors, building users and members of public.

Presentation boards shared the proposed designs with closer detail on each of the key areas of development; the Great Hall, Guest Hall, Foyer and North End.

Feedback received via online survey, paper questionnaire and written comment cards.



BDG Group Workshop, 15th November 2023

VIABLE BUSINESS PLAN
More often busy, with capacity to flex, supporting a range of businesses and services and covering costs

CHANGE PERCEPTIONS
Just off the market square, enjoying the river, for special occasions and everyday

ENHANCING EXISTING PERFORMANCE
Making better halls for better quality events

EXPANDING THEATRE CAPACITY
A step change in cultural and community events delivery

BECOME SUSTAINABLE
Enhance building performance to reduce operational energy demands through smart operation and prioritise the use of 'low carbon' materials

BECOME INCLUSIVE
Supporting generous use for all

BDG Group Priorities Event, 19th October 2023



Public Engagement Event, 13th-16th December 2023

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: BRIEFING

Collaborative Design Development

AOC share the belief that the participation of local people in the briefing process is critical to deliver an inclusive and viable building. The Priory Centre held consultation events to explore the needs of the local community.

The consultation boards, overleaf, were positioned around the foyer inviting attendees to explore the building and complete questionnaires to provide further input on local needs and ambitions.

Stakeholder Outreach (including harder to reach groups)

Further engagement with building users (Am Dham theatre groups, theatre technicians, U3A et al) achieved via public engagement and email.

The questionnaire/survey shared via Priory Centre social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook, to engage with those unable to attend the in-person events.

Attendance and Quantum of Feedback

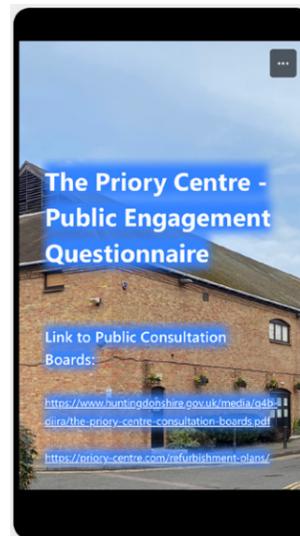
Public Engagement events saw the attendance of over 500 people, held over the weekend of a pantomime as well as regular community bookings ensuring a wide spread of opinion.

Stakeholders shared consultation materials across social networks that spread outreach further. We received approximately 50 responses across paper and digital submissions.

Feedback from user groups has been useful for developing the design of the three key venue

spaces; the manner in which events take place and visitors use the building in the intervals, as well as staff and technician requirements for running the events and the shortfalls of the current centre.

Individual interviews proved useful in understanding how members of the public use the foyer and terrace area day-to-day, as well as what could be done to improve the marketing of the Priory Centre as a cultural venue.



The Priory Centre - Public Engagement Questionnaire

1. Have you visited The Priory Centre before

Yes

No

2. How long have you known about The Priory Centre and our activities?

Under 1 year

1-4 years

5-10 years

10+ years

3. Are you an artist or performer yourself, or do you work in the arts?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

4. The proposal considers the key priorities agreed with the Building Development Group (refer to boards 2 & 3). How would you prioritise these key aims?

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Quite
1. Viable Business Plan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Changing Perceptions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Making Flexible Public Rooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Bigger and Better Range of Performances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Enhancing the Existing Look and Feel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Sustainable and Inclusive Refurbishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Have we missed any key priorities in your opinion? If so, please state below

Enter your answer

6. Which of the following planned improvements (refer to board 3), are you keen to see implemented? Drag to reorder high to low priority (top to bottom)

- A New Great Hall
- Improved Guest Hall
- Generous Foyer
- New Town Council Spaces
- Connection to Riverside
- Changing Perceptions
- A Sustainable Building

7. Improved Great Hall (refer to Board 4)

Both the accessibility of the auditorium and the sightlines to the stage will be improved by updating the rake and layout of the seating. A new balcony will provide additional capacity for various events and performances.

Have you visited the existing Great Hall?

Yes

No

8. Would the proposals improve your experience of the Great Hall?

Yes, it would improve my experience

No, it would not affect my experience

It would adversely impact my experience

9. Please tell us why?

Enter your answer

10. Improved Guest Hall (refer to Board 5)

Capacity of the venue will be increased through enabling flexible access directly to the existing Moot room adjacent. New technical equipment will improve the venue for performance and events with mechanical ventilation. Visibility to the Riverside will be improved through new doors onto an external terrace balcony.

Would the proposed changes to the Guest Hall improve your experience of The Priory Centre?

Main Conclusions

The public engagement event and Building Development Group workshops were held concurrent to the design process throughout RIBA Stages 1, 2 and 3.

This process has enabled the design to respond to feedback as received, noting a desire to enhance external look and feel of the building, with changes focused on changing perceptions of the centre via the key approaches from Priory Lane and St Anselm Car Park. Proposed improvements to the building exterior respond to the existing built context.

Proposed interventions work with the developed business plan to support social and financial sustainability, whilst the production of new materials look to be chosen for their low-carbon and environmental value.

Improvements throughout the building look to improve the access and inclusivity for example proposals to provide level access into the Great Hall auditorium from street level.

As 80% of respondents felt that the café and WC were the most important facilities of the community venue, the WCs have been rearranged to better suit proposed capacities for the venue and the café reorganised to support the business case.



Illustration of the new Priory Centre from St Anselm Car Park



Illustration of the new Priory Centre Great Hall

Impact upon the Design

Internally, the most significant changes are to the public foyer. The provision of a new reception and improved café bar have been driven through public and BDG engagement.

Feedback has driven the change with the relocation and refurbishment of the existing WCs to allow for a better visual connection to the Riverside from the Foyer.

These two key changes provide an improved connection to the auditorium, highlighting a direct route from the building entrance.

Direct access onto the riverside terrace is provided and made clear from the building entrance.



Illustration of The Priory Centre from Regatta Meadow



Illustration of the new Priory Centre Foyer and Cafe Bistro

Next Steps

Engagement with the wider community and Building Development Group (BDG) will continue in order to ensure that proposals are still reflective of feedback.

The next steps, supporting continued public engagement, will include:

- A BDG Workshop to develop the look & feel of the interior, discussing materials, colours, textures and environmental impact.
- Process of material sampling
- Approval of Conditions



Illustration of The Priory Centre from St Anselm Car Park



Image of Existing Approach from St Anselm Car Park

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Allocation

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Performance and Growth)
– 3rd April 2024
Cabinet – 16th April 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Planning (TS)

Report by: Chief Planning Officer (CK)

Ward(s) affected: All Ward(s)

Executive Summary:

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of the area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Huntingdonshire District Council became a CIL charging authority in May 2012.

Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area. This helps to deliver across the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028 specifically Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations by:

- Improved housing - 27. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, which meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).
- Forward-thinking economic growth - 39. Influence delivery of infrastructure including East West Rail, A428, A141 Strategic Outline Business Case and future Transport Strategies.

The latest funding round was launched on 27th November 2023 with a closing date of 22nd January 2024. Bids received within that round for CIL funding towards infrastructure projects have been assessed by officers to reach the recommendations within this report. The outcomes of this round do not preclude applicants from submitting future applications to future rounds, and they will be considered against the adopted criteria at the time of determination.

A review of CIL governance is underway and anticipated to be presented to Cabinet in the summer of 2024. Following adoption a communication strategy will

be developed, ensuring all Partners, Towns/Parish Councils are aware of the new process.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is

RECOMMENDED

- a) Note the updates on delivery in relation to the projects previously allocated or in receipt of CIL funding commitments (see Appendix 1).
- b) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.2 to **DECLINE** funding for Hilton Pavilion
- c) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.3 to **APPROVE** funding for Sawtry Pavilion
- d) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.4 to **DECLINE** funding for The Guardroom community hub, Bury.
- e) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.5 to **DECLINE** funding for St Neots Community Fire Station Modernisation and Extension Project
- f) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.6 to **DECLINE** funding for Sports Provision, Abbey College, Ramsey
- g) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.7 to **DECLINE** funding for Folksworth Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).
- h) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.8 to **DECLINE** funding for a new workshop with storage for Warboys New Parish Centre
- i) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.9 to **DECLINE** funding for King George V Pavilion works, Huntingdon.
- j) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.10 to **DECLINE** funding for an extension to a footpath in Colne.
- k) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.11 to **APPROVE** funding for a Community Centre Extension, Ramsey
- l) Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 4.12 to **DECLINE** funding for MAGPAS internal re-fit and purchase of an aviation tank.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to invite the Cabinet to consider recommendations relating to infrastructure projects seeking funding in whole or in part from an amount of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies received to date.

WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The requirement for infrastructure to support new development is a high priority and CIL continues to be implemented across the country with government enabling and directing local authorities to obtain contributions by charging a Community Infrastructure Levy on new development, in addition to negotiating Section 106 planning obligations with a developer where applicable.
- 2.2 Up to 5% of CIL receipts each financial year may be retained for administration costs. 15% - 25% of CIL receipts – the ‘meaningful proportion’ – are passed to parish/town councils in line with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Localism Act 2011 and the total amount transferred to parish/town councils has increased each year in line with receipt increases. The remaining 70-80%, the strategic proportion, is available for Huntingdonshire District Council as the charging authority to spend on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure to support the growth/development of its area.
- 2.3 To date CIL has allocated funding to 52 projects throughout the district. CIL funding allocated to date totals £27,403,445.80, whilst the total cost of the projects funding was allocated to is circa £102 million. This has contributed to delivering infrastructure across the priorities in the Council’s Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 to meet Local Plan growth.
- 2.4 An update on the projects allocated CIL funding previously can be found at Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Under Cabinet approved governance arrangements, the Cabinet is to consider applications for CIL funding over £50,000. Any requests of £50,000 or less have been considered and approved in line with delegated authority and are detailed for information at Appendix 2. The total amount of funding to be considered for allocation in a financial year will not exceed £500,000 for allocations of £50,000 or less, including those for non-parished areas. This report relates to the funding round for the 2023/24 financial year.
- 2.6 The determination of CIL requests as set out in this paper have been considered in accordance with the Councils adopted governance procedures for CIL, as well as ensuring compliance with the fundamentals as set out in the established legislation. This is important to ensure a fair, transparent and lawful process, which is robust to challenge and/or complaint. Officers have undertaken the assessments on this basis.
- 2.7 It is important to be able to demonstrate how a decision has been reached, with clear reasons, in order to uphold the integrity of the process, and ensure

that the decision can be understood even if it is not agreed with. Members may reach alternative conclusions to those as recommended by this report, provided those reasons are clearly articulated and evidenced where possible.

- 2.8 The Council is currently undertaking a review of the CIL process and its associated governance; once this work is completed, future rounds of CIL awards are likely to be judged against the updated process. It is anticipated that this review will be presented to Cabinet in the summer of 2024. When adopted, and as part of the communication strategy, the Council's website will be updated and all Town and Parish Councils will be notified of the updated approach to the award of CIL.
- 2.9 As part of communicating outcomes of this round to applicants they will be notified of the review of CIL governance and that they will be contacted to ensure they are aware when a new CIL round is live. Outcomes of CIL awards do not preclude Parishes from submitting revised proposals to later rounds where they meet the adopted criteria at the time of consideration.
- 2.10 To provide further context for this report, Appendix 3 provides an overview of funding awarded to date and geographic spread, broken down by area. This includes information on allocations made to date, links to growth and applications submitted for this round.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 3.1 In November 2023, stakeholders were invited to submit on-line proforma applications for funding from the Strategic Portion of CIL, in line with [Council Guidance on Allocation and Spending webpage](#) . Communications were issued to infrastructure providers including the County Council, Town & Parish Councils and HDC Members. The Council website was also updated to announce a new round, plus a press release was issued. The projects submitted during this funding round have been reviewed to ensure they meet the criteria for CIL funding.
- 3.2 The levy is intended to focus on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development. It can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure if that is considered necessary to support new development.
- 3.3 In considering spend allocation, the potential support a number of strategic infrastructure projects may need in the near future should be noted i.e., if all the money received to date is allocated to other projects, it may not be possible to provide these strategic projects with the funding they may need over the next few years to be delivered. As required under legislation, the Council has stated in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) 2022-2023 that CIL funds would be approved in line with the governance process and could be allocated towards:
- Strategic Transport including items such as A428, A141, A14, A1, and East West Rail; and

- Supporting the delivery of growth in the District, as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and HDC's Corporate Plan.

3.4 Governance arrangements highlight it is for the applicant to develop their business case. The role of HDC is to consider the applications as submitted. This ensures that all applicants are treated fairly and transparently.

Applications are then assessed further based on:

- The need for the project
- The public benefit of the project
- The deliverability of the project
- The value for money that a scheme provides
- The links to growth and new development
- The links to the HDC Local Plan and/or any other HDC strategies, such as the Place Strategy and Climate Strategy

3.5 CIL allocations previously reported as completed at Cabinet are not referenced again in the update at Appendix 1.

3.6 There is circa £33m of CIL receipts now currently available for allocation on further infrastructure projects including those listed in paragraph 3.3.

PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING FROM STRATEGIC CIL FOR MORE THAN £50,000.00

4.1 Detail on the bids submitted in response to the current round for over £50,000.00 CIL funding, which require Cabinet approval, as outlined in para 2.4 above, are stated below with the officer recommendations. Project bids for £50,000.00 or less were considered at a meeting on 21st March 2024, in accordance with delegated authority. Information on these bids can be found at Appendix 2 to this report, including the decisions reached, and is for Members to note.

4.2 Hilton Cricket Pavilion works.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
HILTON CRICKET PAVILION	HILTON	£87,509.34	£99,603.21	88%

Project Summary: Renovation of the cricket pavilion to include decoration, insulation, re-wiring, new central heating, replacement kitchen and toilets. The changes would make the doors and toilets more accessible.

Initial Assessment:

The need for the project - This project is for maintenance at Hilton pavilion. The works include replacing window shutters, replacement doors and frames, removing interior walls, adding insulation, rewiring, new lighting and new plumbing/central heating.

The public benefit of the project – This would enable a wider range of users to access the pavilion, including disability access and ramp and two disabled toilets.

The deliverability of the project – a quote has been provided which expired in May 2023 and has no contingency. The quote also does not include skips, removals costs and building control costs.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The ask for this project is 88% of the quote costs, which is high. The Parish have sourced £14.8k through CIL easement and other Parish funds. The Parish have also requested £2,500 from the town trust and £2.5k from donations. The FCC communities fund declined a bid of £99k due to lack of evidence of community involvement, of which no evidence has been provided with this submission.

If the project supports new growth/development – Hilton has had 6 completions 2011-2023 according to the AMR, equating to 1.5% growth, which is a small amount of growth.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – There are some links to Place strategy Journey 1 – Pride in Place.

Officer Analysis:

- There is not enough supporting evidence with this application to show why this project is a local priority and what improvements this will make to the bookings for the hall.
- There has been limited local growth on completions from the AMR (1.5% at present) and there are already well used village hall facilities. No information on the existing use or income for the hall have been provided. Also noted is that the application is not changing the facilities they have beyond the accessibility.
- There is no evidence of research into how this project would improve the use of the pavilion, just an assumption it would.
- There is no evidence of community support for it beyond non-councillor members of the committee. This was the reason for another funding decline, and further information has not been provided to support this.
- Overall given the limited local growth, lack of evidence for local support and the fact the majority of the works are maintenance do not make this project suitable for CIL Strategic funding.

Given the limited local growth, lack of evidence of local support and the fact the majority of the works are maintenance matters, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round.

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.3 Sawtry Pavilion Works.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
EXTENSION AND RENOVATION WORKS	GREENFIELD SPORTS PAVILION, SAWTRY	£66,000.00	£330,000.00	20%

Project Summary: the development of the Greenfield sports pavilion at Sawtry, extending the social area including installing a new kitchen, installing economy 7 storage heating throughout the building as currently no heating and renovating the 3 changing rooms.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to upgrade the existing facilities at the pavilion as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) Sawtry is in need of additional community space.

The public benefit of the project – More inclusive facilities including baby changing and disabled toilets and access. Increasing the social area to encourage use of the pavilion for community functions.

The deliverability of the project – a quote has been provided which expired in January 2024, there is no contingency amount.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The ask for this project is 20% of the full project cost with funding also coming from S106 developer contributions.

If the project supports new growth/development – Sawtry has had 283 completions 2011-2023 according to the AMR, equating to 22% growth, which is high.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – The need for additional sports and leisure infrastructure is noted in the IDP; the HDC Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy November 2022 recognises on page 7 that Sawtry is one of the most densely populated settlements of North Huntingdonshire, there are also links to the Place Strategy Journey 1 and the Corporate plan.

Officer Analysis:

- This is a second application for this scheme. A previous application was awarded £80,000 towards the cost of an £800,000 a Pavilion Redevelopment scheme by Cabinet on 12th October 2022 (Minute 43 refers). This was withdrawn due to the applicant finding the cheaper solution outlined in this application.
- The works would give Sawtry more community space and increase the number of changing rooms and toilets, also making the space more accessible.
- The need for more community space in Sawtry is recognised in the IDP and Sawtry Neighbourhood plan recognises a priority need for the premises to expand.
- Funding has been secured towards this scheme under a S106 legal agreement associated with planning permission 20/01407/OUT. The development of the site has not yet commenced and until that happens and associated triggers within the agreement are reached, no obligations will be due to be paid.

Given the high level of growth in Sawtry and amount of match funding along with the fact that CIL funding help to bring forward early delivery of this infrastructure need whilst potential future S106 receipts could repay the investment, the project is considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: APPROVE subject to:

- a) Funding being repaid upon the receipt of the S106 funds from application 20/01407/OUT. It is not clear that the funds are going to the Parish, so this would need to be clarified.
- b) Confirmation that the works are permissible under the Elizabeth II Trust.
- c) Clarity on funding amount, the cost of project ex VAT (which can be reclaimed) is slightly less than their contribution and the £66k they are applying for. If the figure is lower than the Strategic CIL amount to be reduced accordingly.

4.4 The Guardroom Community Hub, Bury (the Hub)

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
RESTORE A GUARDROOM TO DELIVER A COMMUNITY HUB.	BURY	£2,300,000.00	£2,604,600.00	88%

Project Summary: Restore a former RAF guardroom to deliver a carbon neutral community hub. The hub will include a museum, council office space, hot desking, meeting facilities, bistro, and community facilities.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to create a new community facility to support the growing population in Bury, on the former RAF Upwood site.

The public benefit of the project – This project would have many functions including Council offices, community space, a health facility and a museum.

The deliverability of the project – a quote has been provided with a contingency amount.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The ask for this project is 88% of the full project cost, with a small amount of funding requested from Cambridgeshire County Council and £400,000.00 CIL funding from the Parish. No other funding has been applied for.

If the project supports new growth/development – Bury has had 248 completions 2011-2023 according to the AMR, which represents 35% growth, which is high.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This project has links to the improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, and with the potential exercise classes stated in the HDC Sports and Leisure Facilities Strategy 2016-2021. It is noted too that the aim is for it to be carbon zero.

Officer Analysis:

- The full community facility is not a priority in the Neighbourhood Plan
 - The building is not yet owned by the Parish.
 - The project does not have Planning Permission
 - Applications have not been made for other funding, apart from CCC, which does not have a decision yet.*UPDATE by Bury Parish Council to confirm funding has been agreed by CCC.
 - This project was not mentioned in Parish comments on recent Planning Applications until this year, or in S106 discussions.
 - It would appear this site would also be used by commercial operators, developers and may have a museum but this is not clear. Some of the costs seem to include parts of the building to be used by private business and developers, with no mention of leases/rent.
 - Resident involvement in this project seems low, despite many attempts to engage them, with only 79 residents views counted through the presentations locally. *UPDATE Following the May 2023 engagement event a total of 131 residents offered a view on the designs. There was residents feedback about the outside use of the area, with community gardens being suggested, but this is not reflected in the submission.
 - The residents themselves seem concerned that footfall would be low, and as this facility would be in addition to the existing village hall, there is no evidence to clarify this position.
 - There is no clear evidence of current village hall footfall, prospective users, and any income from this.
- Given the high cost of this project with high level of funding ask and lack of evidence of the need or sustainability of the building, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.5 St Neots Community Fire Station Modernisation and Extension Project.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
FIRE STATION MODERNISATION AND EXTENSION	ST NEOTS	£700,000.00	£1,845.559.00	38%

Project Summary: The project is to extend and modernise the 1960's built, St Neots Community Fire Station. The works will incorporate a modern community space.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to refurbish a fire station built in 1960, with the improvements including a gym and a community space. Locally Huntingdons' new Fire Station opened in 2023 which included a new Training Centre with the Operational Support Group, Health and Safety Team and Occupational Health Team being based there.

The public benefit of the project – More community space available in the town, although there is no supporting evidence of this need. The supporting information demonstrated that a lot of the community work involved the Fire Service going onsite to residents homes and businesses for safety checks.

The deliverability of the project – At this time the project the CIL application relates to does not have planning permission, Planning permission was granted previously for an application for a two-storey extension. The quote provided to cover the cost of delivery of the scheme does allow for inflation but does not include the full cost of the project, including internal refit.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The ask for this project is 38% of the full project cost. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority have confirmed funding of £1.145 million for this project.

If the project supports new growth/development - St Neots has had 1659 completions 2011-2023 according to the AMR, which represents 12% growth, although much of this growth will be linked to the strategic expansion including Loves Farm I. During preparation of the Local Plan to 2036 the Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service (CFRS) advised that there is no direct correlation between population growth and pressure on fire services. The CFRS explained that due to changing regulations and improvements in household safety, fire calls tend to

decline as population rises, this is documented in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2017, covering all allocated sites including Strategic Expansion Locations.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1.

Officer Analysis:

- Insufficient evidence of links to growth and the need for this proposal to provide a bigger gym and community space.
- The quote provided excludes items like furniture, IT, gym equipment and a Canopy, and is also based on drawings that do not have Planning permission and so may change. As such the total cost may differ, especially as this is the pre-tender cost. Insufficient evidence of this being a priority for the Fire Service within the District given the small changes proposed for the works.
- No support sought from the Town Council.
- No funding sought from the Town Council or other funding sources.
- Lack of evidence that this has links to community use beyond there being a Community Officer based there. Evidence supplied only confirms its use for the Fire Service. Also, no links or analysis of potential impact on community space availability currently in the town.

Given the reasonably high level of CIL ask, the lack of supporting evidence of need and unclear cost of project due to conflicting figures given, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.6 Sports Provision, Abbey College, Ramsey.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
SPORTS HALL PROVISION	RAMSEY	£4,400,000.00	£4,500,000.00	98%

Project Summary: The project is to replace the teaching accommodation and construct a new 594m2 sports hall.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to replace existing teaching accommodation with new sports hall facilities.

The public benefit of the project – Improved sports facilities at Abbey College

The deliverability of the project – One quote has been provided with a contingency of 7%, this is an estimated cost though as no plans have been produced and so costs cannot be accurately provided.

The value for money that a scheme provides – This project is a 98% ask which is one of the highest received, with no funding requested from other bodies such as the County Council as Local Education Authority. Abbey College are supporting this project with £100,000.00.

If the project supports new growth/development – Ramsey has seen 558 dwellings completed 2011-2023 according to the AMR, which represents 15% growth. There is no evidenced link between growth and the need for the sports hall development, with the application indicating that the school uses facilities at One Leisure.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1.

Officer Analysis:

- Lack of evidence of links to growth and the priority need for this project and that this request is not due to lack of previous investment / maintenance.
- No evidence on support for this project from CCC. Although this is an Academy, CCC as the Education Authority should be consulted on it., where it sits in their priorities and capital programme and/or how this would address new school place needs from growth.
- No evidence of support from One Leisure (OL) Ramsey and no evidence of the need for this beyond school wanting, which would appear to take income potentially away from OL.

- Project is only at draft estimate stage with no evidence of further funding.
- No evidence of support from Ramsey or Bury T/PC Councils
- No evidence provided of the full suite of works for this site and why this one has been applied for
- No plans to show works or business plan submitted.

Given the high percentage of CIL ask at 98%, the lack of any match funding from the Town Council or other funding available, including the Local Education Authority / Trust, the lack of evidence to new growth and the lack of supporting evidence for the proposed scheme, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round.

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.7 Folksworth Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
NEW MUGA ON PLAYING FIELD, TOWNSEND WAY	FOLKSWORTH	£96,808.77	£96,808.77	100%

Project Summary: The project is to provide a MUGA on the playing field in Folksworth to replace the Zip Wire which recently had to be removed.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to install a new MUGA.

The public benefit of the project – A MUGA would provide myriad sports opportunities in the village.

The deliverability of the project – One quote has been provided which expired 19th February 2024, there was no contingency in the quote.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The CIL ask for this project is 100% of the total cost. The Town council have reported they have no CIL funds available. The Parish have said they can contribute £2000.00 although this is not reflected on their application. They have not applied for any other funding source.

If the project supports new growth/development – There have been 7 net completions in Folksworth and Washingley in the AMR 2011-2023 which is 1.8% growth.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1.

Officer Analysis:

- Links to growth not evidenced.
- This is not listed in the IDP or infrastructure to support growth.
- No other funding sources applied for

Given the high percentage of CIL ask at 100% and therefore the lack of any match funding as well as the lack of evidence to new growth, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.8 Workshop with storage for Warboys New Parish Centre.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
WORKSHOP	WARBOYS	£80,000.00	£80,000.00	100%

Project Summary: The project is to build a workshop for Warboys Parish Council handymen providing space for storage and work benches.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to install a workshop on the new Warboys Village Hall. The Warboys Village Hall received £200,000.00 in the 19/20 CIL funding round – an update on the status of this can be seen in Appendix 1.

The public benefit of the project – It will help with village maintenance.

The deliverability of the project – No quote provided, and with no quote it is hard to see if there is contingency.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The CIL ask for this project is 100% of the total cost. The Town council have reported they have no funds available for this project, they have also not mentioned any other funding sources they have contacted to support the proposal.

If the project supports new growth/development – 2011-2023 15% or 558 net completions in the AMR.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – There are no clear links to any strategies.

Officer Analysis:

- Lack of evidence for links to the need for a new workshop and growth
- The workshop is not in the IDP or infrastructure needed to support the growth in the area.
- The CIL ask is for 100% with no other funding resourced from elsewhere. This is a separate project to the Village Hall project.

Given the high percentage of CIL ask at 100% and therefore the lack of any match funding, the lack of evidence of previous maintenance planning for the existing facility or medium-long term plan sink funding as well as the lack of evidence to new growth for this type of infrastructure, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.9 King George V Pavilion works, Huntingdon.

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
HEALTH AND SPORTS PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS	HUNTINGDON	£600,000.00	£1,700,000.00	36%

Project Summary: This project would see the demolition and rebuilding of the existing cricket pavilion at St Peters Road in Huntingdon. The new building would provide Huntingdon with a purpose built, eco-friendly, sustainable, prefabricated timber building. For Huntingdon & District Cricket Club and HCCN (Hunts Cancer Care Network) and other community support groups to use.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to improve the current Cricket pavilion facilities.

The public benefit of the project – Improved Cricket and community facilities.

The deliverability of the project – No quote has been provided, so no contingency is evidenced. There is also no Planning Permission in place.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The CIL ask for this project is 36% of the total cost. The Town Council have agreed to pay £750,000.00, they have also identified funding sources (Committed and / or Potential) funding referenced includes Cambridgeshire County Council £500k to £1m; Sports England £500k to £1m; Cricket East £500k; Freeman Charity & Mick George £200k. No explanation has been provided as to why these have not been applied for. Also applied for £40,000 from CPCF (Decision due April 2024) and another small grant which has not been specified.

If the project supports new growth/development – Huntingdon has had 839 completions in the AMR 2011-2023, and so 8.7% growth.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1. The HDC Sports strategy overall states there are enough facilities in the district. The focus is more on keeping pitches in good shape, which this proposal does not address and nor does it provide additional indoor facilities. The TC optioned for the second of two options which is a single storey pavilion without a sports hall.

Officer Analysis:

Cabinet has previously considered applications for this facility. A scheme submitted in 2021 for CIL funding was not supported at Cabinet. A further application scaled down from the first was submitted in early 2023 which did not include, as per the first application, the indoor cricket nets or an indoor facility to all of an 8-a-side cricket pitch for training and tournaments, which would also cater for wheelchair cricket as the whole facility would be accessible. This application was also declined by Cabinet. This latest application has reduced the application further to a single storey building, still with the previous additional indoor sports facility excluded.

- Lack of evidence of need for this and links to growth
- No evidence of community support for this as an infrastructure priority
- No links to infrastructure priority in Neighbourhood Plan
- No evidence provided of current usage and improved usage.
- Concerns over vandalism on site
- Noted that the state of repair of the existing building indicates it has not been fully maintained and the need for asbestos removal before any demolition, which it is unclear if has been investigated or costed.

- No evidence regarding the full project planning and financing.
- No other funding sources that Huntingdon Town Council has mentioned have been applied for, especially sports and/or community funds.

Given the reasonably high level of CIL ask, the lack of clarity over other funding available, the lack of supporting evidence of need particularly the exclusion of provision of additional indoor sports facilities, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round.

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.10 Extension to the footpath, Colne

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
EARITH ROAD FOOTPATH EXTENSION	COLNE	£51,196.17	£76,056.70	68%

Project Summary: The project is for the extension of an existing footpath on the B1050 (Earith Road) for approximately 50 metres, which would benefit 6 dwellings.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to extend a footpath, which will improve accessibility for one current resident in the dwellings.

The public benefit of the project – This will benefit the accessibility of 6 dwellings to accessing Earith.

The deliverability of the project – The costs are estimated and so concerns over of this amount could rise, also there are questions about if the works can be carried out on privately owned land.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The CIL ask for this project is 68% of the total cost. The Parish council are match funding with £8,000.00 of their meaningful proportion of CIL funding and have secured £16,860.53 from CCC.

If the project supports new growth/development – There are no links to new growth/development and the houses affected have been in place for many years.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1.

Officer Analysis:

- Lack of evidence that this is related to growth.
- Not in IDP or linked to supporting new growth.
- Questions over the works on private property
- High level of CIL ask and lack of funding from other sources.
- Lack of evidence for community support

Given the high percentage of CIL, the lack of evidence to new growth and concerns of the deliverability and cost of the scheme, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

4.11 Community Centre Extension, Ramsey

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
EXTEND AND RE-CONFIGURE COMMUNITY CENTRE	RAMSEY	£100,000.00	£260,000.00	39%

Project Summary: Extend and re-configure the layout of the Ramsey Community centre including a commercial sized kitchen. The re-configuration from one to three rooms will allow more groups access to an oversubscribed building.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to extend and re-configure the community centre. This will increase community space and provide a commercial sized kitchen.

The public benefit of the project – More community rooms which will help to facilitate a morning nursery in the town. There is an ambition to run courses using the commercial kitchen too, working with Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust, Sparks and the Foodbank teaching life skills to the most vulnerable.

The deliverability of the project – There is no detailed breakdown of the quote, so it is not clear if there is contingency within the quote. Planning permission has been granted.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The CIL ask for this project is 39% of the total cost. The Town Council currently have funding applications in with Cambridge ACRE and their platinum jubilee fund for village halls and community centres, Cambridgeshire County Council and their Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund and Warboys Windfarm for grants of energy saving and their sporting fund. They have already been successful with grants from Ramsey Town Councils meaningful proportion CIL fund and the Ramsey Wind Farm Grant scheme.

If the project supports new growth/development – Based on AMR completions, there has been 15% growth, or 558 dwellings completed 2011-2023

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1.

Officer Analysis:

- Match funding in place and number of supporting applications made.
- Community involvement evidenced.
- Strong links to growth and evidence of need for the infrastructure.
- Good levels of growth locally

Given the level of growth in Ramsey, the (potential) amount of match funding, the evidence of community engagement and need for the additional infrastructure, the project is considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding. In light of the need to await decisions on the match funding applications to support the application for the CIL funding, it is suggested that if approved, this is for 12 months to enable the funding applications to be considered.

Recommendation: APPROVE subject to

- a) Confirmation of full funding in place.

4.12 MAGPAS Air Ambulance base fitout and tank, The Stukeleys

PROJECT PROPOSED	LOCATION	CIL FUNDING REQUESTED EXCLUDING VAT	TOTAL COST EXCLUDING VAT	%CIL ASK
MAGPAS WORKS	THE STUKELEYS	£200,000.00	£200,000 (Please see note in initial assessment below)	100%

Project Summary: Completion, fit out of new air ambulance base and purchase of aviation fuel tank.

Initial Assessment

The need for the project – This project is to fit out the new MAGPAS base and install a 30,000-litre aviation fuel tank.

The public benefit of the project – The public would benefit from MAGPAS having better rest facilities and the new fuel tank will make refuelling quicker.

The deliverability of the project – There is no specific quote and so no contingency information within the quote.

The value for money that a scheme provides – The cost for the project has been noted by the applicant as £7 million, but this is including the previous project to build the new base which has been open and running since last year. This application is for the full £200,000.00 making this a 100% CIL ask as shown above. No other funding has been requested from other sources.

If the project supports new growth/development – The Stukeleys have had a 209% growth through completion in the AMR 2011-2023.

How the project is linked to the Local Plan/Corporate Plan/ Place Strategy or any supporting strategies – This could be linked to improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents in the Corporate Plan, Priority 1. There are also links to the Place Strategy Journey 3 – healthier and more holistic.

Officer Analysis:

- Unclear supporting evidence on what the application is for, the internal fittings have not been specified.
- Not evidenced the link to growth and this proposal beyond it will support more people. Their business plan states they cover the whole of the East of England.
- Supporting evidence all relates to the general build and not the proposal this is for

- This is a stand-alone application and was not noted in previous application supported for a new build. This is a further £200k ask and if had been added to original ask changing the % match funding, it may not have been supported.
- No evidence of requesting funding whether CIL or other sources from other LPAs or local councils

The MAPAS facility has previously been supported with £0.7m CIL funding and the facility has been open since early last year. This is a separate application and given the high level of CIL ask at 100%, the lack of evidence to new growth for this specific application and lack of evidence of match funding support, the project is not considered suitable for CIL Strategic funding at this time, based on the submission as part of this round..

Recommendation: DECLINE

COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 5.1 The Panel discussed the Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation Report at its meeting on 3rd April 2024.
- 5.2 Following a question from Councillor Corney regarding why so many applications had been unsuccessful in the funding round, the Panel were advised that applications need to demonstrate the need for growth within their community. It was observed that during previous funding rounds, the Parish Forum had provided the opportunity for preliminary discussions on applications and that work would be undertaken to ensure applicants were educated about the requirements for a successful application.
- 5.3 In response to an observation from Councillor Corney, the Panel were advised that applicants, upon submitting their application, should receive a confirmation confirming the submission.
- 5.4 Councillor Harvey enquired about the review of the CIL process which had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Panel and why funding was ongoing during that process. The Panel heard that the review was proving to be a lengthy process and having been appraised that several applications were ready for funding, it had been decided to progress with the current round.
- 5.5 Further to a question from Councillor Slade, the Panel were advised that the St Neots Fire Station application was due to the monetary amount being requested rather than the percentage of the project.
- 5.6 In response to a question from Councillor Jennings about further delays to the foot and cycleways within Riverside Park, St Neots, the Panel heard that more detailed information would be sought and relayed back to the Panel.
- 5.7 The Panel were reassured, following a question from Councillor Harvey, that funding could be offered subject to certain qualifications being met and that this applied to both smaller and larger projects.
- 5.8 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.

KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 6.1 The key impact from not considering the CIL spend will be the potential for certain infrastructure projects not being delivered and match funding lost.

WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 Project bids submitted will be notified of the outcome of the decision made by Cabinet. Next steps as appropriate are noted below:

1. Notify applicants of outcome of Cabinet meeting and provide feedback.
2. Prepare and initiate contracts for approved projects once any additional requirements have been met.
3. Issue funds in accordance with agreed milestones set out in the contract.
4. Commence quarterly monitoring of projects approved.
5. Provide an update for members at next funding round.

LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

(See Corporate Plan)

- 8.1 This helps to deliver across the Council's Corporate Plan priorities for 2023/24 specifically Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations by:
- Improved housing - 27. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, which meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).
 - Forward-thinking economic growth - 39. Influence delivery of infrastructure including East West Rail, A428, A141 Strategic Outline Business Case and future Transport Strategies.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Regulation 59 (1) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a charging authority to apply CIL to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area. It may also, under Regulation 59 (3), support infrastructure outside its area where to do so would support the development of its area.
- 9.2 Passing CIL to another person for that person to apply to funding the provision, improvement, replace, operation and maintenance of infrastructure is also permitted under Regulation 59 (4).
- 9.3 Section 216 (2) of the Planning Act 2008 as amended by Regulation 63 of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended) stated that infrastructure 'includes [and is therefore not limited to]:
- (a) roads and other transport facilities,
 - (b) flood defences,
 - (c) schools and other educational facilities,
 - (d) medical facilities,
 - (e) sporting and recreational facilities,
 - (f) open spaces.'
- 9.4 The levy may not be used to fund affordable housing.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 CIL money can only be spent to deliver infrastructure, in accordance with the legal restrictions on the spending of CIL receipts.
- 10.2 Staff resource to administer and monitor the allocation of the CIL. This is funded, in part, by the administration costs permitted from the CIL receipts.
- 10.3 Staff resource from elsewhere in the Council will be used in preparing funding bids and implementing successful cases.

REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 11.1 The recommendations for individual funding awards for projects (as stated in section 4) have been considered in terms of: how they support growth; their deliverability and risks; benefits and outputs; the extent of match funding being provided; and current stage of development of the project. These factors are in accordance with the Council's established governance framework for CIL; as well as the wider legislative context as set out in the report. For each project award, or decline, a reason has been provided which would be communicated to the applicant.
- 11.2 An update on 'live projects' is provided at Appendix 1 for noting only. A summary of each application request for £50,000 or less CIL funding is noted separately in Appendix 2 which has been approved in line with delegated authority – these are for noting only.

LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Update on 'live' Projects previously approved CIL funding to-date.

Appendix 2 - Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Project Bids submitted for consideration in 2023/24 round for £50,000.00 or less – Decisions.

Appendix 3 - Allocations to date, growth and applications this round

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Section 216 of Planning Act 2008

Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2694/infrastructure-delivery-plan.pdf>

Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Infrastructure Schedule

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2693/infrastructure-schedule.pdf>

Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan Addendum

<http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2861/infrastructure-delivery-plan-addendum.pdf>

Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Allocation July 2019

[Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2694/infrastructure-delivery-plan-addendum.pdf)

Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Allocation November 2021

[Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2694/infrastructure-delivery-plan-addendum.pdf)

Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Allocation March 2021

[Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2694/infrastructure-delivery-plan-addendum.pdf)

Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Funding Statement 2021-22

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APPENDIX 1 - Update on 'live' Projects previously approved to-date.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
<p>St Ives Park Extension Approved by Cabinet - 18th July 2019</p>	<p>The provision of Benches/Interpretation and a feasibility study on the commercial opportunities through the park when fully available plus first year's maintenance due to early release</p>	<p>£80,000.00</p>	<p>£80,000.00</p>	<p>The Berman Park project is still very much in the planning and scoping phase. A nature based community engagement, in partnership with key stakeholders, is planned for summer 2024 to create an evidence based approach to the development of the park.</p>

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Improvements to path/cycle route at Riverside Park, St Neots Approved by Cabinet - 18th July 2019	Improvements to the path and cycle route at Riverside Park, originated from a pedestrian audit.	£600,000.00	£445,000.00	Paths Contractor appointed and phasing of work being agreed with Project Manager. Looking to start on site early Summer 2024. Additional funding application submitted to the A428 Legacy Fund to extend the works, but it was not successful. We will continue to try and secure additional funding to extend project across the park.
Warboys Village Hall Approved by Cabinet - 18th July 2019 Extension of time to 31 st July 2022 agreed by Cabinet 18th November 2021	Funding towards a new facility	£1,000,000.00	£200,000.00	Extension of time granted by Cabinet in 2023 for works to complete by 30 th March 2025. This will be a 52-week build.
Fenstanton Village Hall Approved by Cabinet - 16 th July 2020	Funding towards a new village hall in Fenstanton	£880,000.00	£75,000.00	Planning Application approved 16/02/24. They are now working on structural design.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
<p>Alconbury Weald Special school to serve Huntingdonshire, located at Alconbury Weald</p> <p>Approved by Cabinet – 11th February 2020 and confirmed 18th November 2021</p>	Alconbury Weald Special school	£20,000,000.00	£4,000,000.00	Building work on track to complete by the end of September this year. First payment to them has been made, as agreed.
<p>New length of cycle/footway and safer crossing point on Buckden Road, Brampton</p> <p>Approved by Cabinet - 18th March 2021</p>	Cycleway between Buckden and Brampton	£188,391.50	£100,000.00	Works completed.
<p>Extension and landscaping of Little Paxton Cemetery</p> <p>Delegated approval 3rd March 2020</p>	Cemetery landscaping and extension	£137,408.40	£30,600.00	Works completed.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
<p>New mains power supply in Priory Park, St Neots</p> <p>Delegated approval 3rd March 2020</p>	<p>Power supply to Priory Park</p>	<p>£15,500.00</p>	<p>£15,500.00</p>	<p>Works completed.</p>

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
<p>B1040 Wheatsheaf Road/Somersham Road Accident Reduction Scheme</p> <p>Approved by Cabinet - 18th March 2021</p>	<p>Junction safety improvements</p>	<p>£1,200,000.00</p>	<p>£500,000.00</p>	<p>Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond CCC's control involving land ownership there is a delay to the land purchase. Until the land has been purchased by CCC, as the Highway Authority, the work to divert utilities and subsequently mobilise for construction of the new junction cannot happen. Officers are working with legal teams and land agents to seek to complete the purchase at the earliest opportunity. Unfortunately, the legal situation is complex, and it is anticipated to take many months to resolve, and officers will seek to take every step to achieve the purchase earlier if possible.</p>

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Ramsey Skate Park Delegated Approval 22 nd October 2021	A plaza style concrete skate park, enabling inclusive and disabled sports access.	£130,000.00	£50,000.00	Extension of time agreed by Cabinet Dec 2023 for completion by 31/12/2025. Planning are working with the developer to progress the application.
St Neots Future High Street Fund	A comprehensive programme of schemes designed to enable the redevelopment of several strategically chosen areas of St Neots town centre and bring change to strengthen the economy of St Neots, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, while retaining the features that make it a strong and vibrant market town	£15,422,033.00 (funding envelope as project details developed)	£4,830,000.00	The updated position in relation to the Future High Street Fund is set out in the Market Towns Programme Latest Updates - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Hinchingbrooke Country Park Improvement Project Approved at Cabinet 17 th March 2022	Part of larger project, the bid seeks funding for: •Pathway improvements and associated lighting and signage. • Upgrading existing car park. • 5 new play zones • Associated management costs	£2,995,184.00	£1,495,184.00	There have been a number of factors that have meant the project timeline has had to be re-evaluated. including ensuring that it acts as an exemplar in its approach to Ecology and creating a sustainable and sympathetic environment.
Hinchingbrooke Hospital Approved at Cabinet 17 th March 2022	Redevelopment Phase 2 – Main Theatres	£25,506,600.00	£271,000.00	Works well under way and due to finish on time.
Sawtry Village Academy Approved at Cabinet 17 th March 2022	New community 3G Artificial Grass Pitch	£775,000.00	£150,000.00	Planning was granted and the Football Foundation have agreed funding. Discussions underway with contractors on timeline for works.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Brampton FP24 /Buckden FP13 Public Rights of Way. Agreed by delegation on 14 th February 2022	Great Ouse Valley Rights of Way Maintenance/ Improvement.	£132,000.00	£50,000.00	Works completed.
Ramsey Pavilion Agreed by delegation 21 st July 2022	To fund remaining infrastructure including the car park and access.	£585,000.00	£33,000.00	Works have completed, agreement is underway on the lease
Glatton Village Hall Agreed by delegation 3rd October 2022	Replacement of an asbestos roof for the Glatton Village Hall.	£64,750.00	£49,750.00	Planning permission has been approved 6 th October 2023. Fundraising is underway for the works.
Elton Speed Restrictions Agreed by delegation 3rd October 2022	Road Safety Table.	£51,671.74	£13,747.70	Works completed.
Great Gransden Play Agreed by delegation 3rd October 2022	Improvement of the current playground to make it more inclusive to all children.	£38,000.00	£20,000.00	Works completed.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Sawtry Pavilion Extension Approved at Cabinet 18 th October 2022	Extension to current sports pavilion including 4 changing rooms, 2 officials rooms etc.	£800,000.00	£80,000.00	WITHDRAWN – A new application has been submitted to extend the pavilion
Alconbury Weald MAGPAS Approved at Cabinet 18 th October 2022	Building a new Air Ambulance operational airbase, headquarters, clinical training centre, including public/visitor centre with patient facilities and community facilities	£7,000,000.00	£750,000.00	Works completed.
Upwood Bentley Close Playground Approved at Cabinet 18 th October 2022	Play area improvements to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New play equipment • New safety flooring • Biodiversity features including bug houses. 	£61,979.00	£55,769.00	Works completed.
Alconbury Weald Health Facility Approved at Cabinet 18 th October 2022	New primary health care facility at Alconbury Weald.	£7,888,400.00	£6,013,388.00	Work underway on arranging the best of use of the space to maximise local facilities.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
Godmanchester Astro turf football pitch Approved at Cabinet 18 th October 2022	Installation of a full-sized football pitch all weather (Astro turf) football pitch	£800,000.00	£150,000.00	Surveys carried out on site, on track to commence on site in October.
Yaxley Skate Park Approved by delegation February 2023	Install solar lights at the Skate Park to maximise usage.	£11,711.00	£5,850.00	Works completed.
Somersham Car Park Extension Approved by delegation 7 th February 2023	Community car park extension	£20,480.90	£15,480.90	An architect has been employed to finalise the drawings submitted as part of their planning application.
Catworth Play Equipment Approved by delegation 7 th February 2023	Play equipment improvements	£49,035.60	£28,943.60	Works completed.
Monks Wood Police Training Site Approved at Cabinet 18 th April 2023	New facility to meet the statutory requirements to train police across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.	£12,300,900.00	£641,492.00	Some minor changes in design, sign off on final design is expected in May.

Project Name	Description	Project cost	CIL funding offered	Update
St Neots (Longsands) Computer Suite Approved at Cabinet 18 th April 2023	Dedicated Computer Science suite through refurbishment of existing building	£650,104.00	£325,052.00	Academy is considering priorities at the moment and is due to confirm if they are withdrawing this project.
St Ives Pitch Approved at Cabinet 18 th April 2023	Replacement of the existing artificial turf pitch carpet and review/replace the subbase.	£300,000.00	£175,000.00	Works completed.

APPENDIX 2 - Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Project Bids submitted for consideration in Funding Round 2023/24 for £50,000.00 or less – Decisions.

Project proposed	Location	CIL funding requested	Total project cost without VAT	CIL as a % of total EXCL VAT	Decision
Amenity halls works	Yaxley	£5,000.00	£10,187.00	50%	Decline
Queens Walk play area refurbishment	Godmanchester	£49,950.00	£109,665.00	46%	Accept subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> confirmation of land ownership by GTC confirmation of this site and links to growth Information confirming above to be supplied within two months.
Village hall facias and soffits	Grafham	£2,618.00	£5,235.00	50%	Decline
Village story boards	Tilbrook	£900.00	£1,500.00	60%	Decline
Car park resurfacing	The Offords	£22,795.000	£22,795.000	100%	Decline
Traffic Calming	Elton	£5,000.00	£30,204.31	17%	Decline
Processing of Definitive Map Modification Orders - CCC	3 Specific sites	£13,000.00	£25,500.00	51%	Decline

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