

Appendix C: Projects and programmes update



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
<p>Community Health Preventative Interventions</p> <p>i) Health Inequalities programme (2022/23)</p> <p>ii) Community Health Prevention Project (2023/24)</p>	<p>Continuation of delivery of 2022/23 programme with funds now fully allocated. There are projects within the programme which are still in delivery All activities are aiming for full completion by June 2024.</p> <p>Integrated Care System funded programmes for those at risk of frailty and those at risk of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD). Sessions now available for referrals from health practitioners or open access. Development of sessions identified and delivered through the community commenced.</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p>	<p>For both community health prevention projects detailed below, it is important to note that in addition to direct health benefits there will have a positive impact on other determinants of health and well-being (including financial well-being). For supporting evidence see paper to the October 2023 meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships)</p> <p>This programme is a broad range of community-based activities to improve health and wellbeing. Projects have a sustainability plan which seeks to ensure continuation of activity after the life of the funding. Delivery partners in this programme are being encouraged to support delivery of the 2023/24 programme.</p> <p>The consequences of CVD and frailty lead significant costs to the NHS and social care systems and significant impacts on the quality of life and life expectancy of our residents. Frailty is particularly important given the growth in our older population, while CVD is the largest cause of premature death.</p> <p>The work will reduce number of residents getting into poor health in the long term, reducing pressures on the NHS due to reduction in fracture, frailty, dementia, and cardiovascular disease. It should be noted that the impact of such primary prevention activity may, in many cases, not be seen for years. However, the broader more immediate impacts of physical activity (mobility, mood, socialisation) will be more immediately apparent.</p>



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
<p>Financial vulnerability for residents programme</p>	<p>As presented to the October meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) our work on financial vulnerability has led to the development of a range of approaches based on the wider determinants of health.</p> <p>This is reflected in the fact that we have progressed the individual actions set out in the corporate plan and a number have begun to develop considerable overlap. Newer initiatives have also begun to be developed that are contributing to the priority outcomes set out above. The rating for the ‘financial vulnerability’ therefore represents an overview of this work as a whole.</p> <p>Mapping work on resident ‘support journeys’ between our provided services (HDC Residents Advice and Information Team), our commissioned services (Citizen’s Advice Rural Cambridgeshire) and our partners financial vulnerability services (Cambridgeshire County Council) has been undertaken. While this does not represent the totality of support services available this work will support simplifying the system and improving resident access to the right support at the right time.</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>Approach set out in commentary will inform forthcoming refresh of the Communities and Health Strategy.</p> <p>Development of ‘basket of interventions’ based on the wider determinants of health model. From Q3 on these interventions will be piloted in different way with different cohorts (e.g. those in Council tax debt, those moving home, residents in a geographical area)</p> <p>Commissioning of skills and employment advisors and partnerships with VCS organisations to address barriers to employment, training, skills and volunteering.</p> <p>Expanded use of ‘We Are Huntingdonshire’ as a single source of referral for partner organisations, including a new trial of use by the police service.</p> <p>Earlier engagement of residents with available support.</p>



Outcome: Improving Housing

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Longhurst Contract - HDC Surplus Sites (Affordable Housing)	<p>Planning permission for Station Road, Warboys has delayed the project delivery. Local Planning Authority raised concerns around the submitted scheme, that needs resolution.</p> <p>Collaboration is happening with different planning departments to achieve a successful permission. Regular meetings with Longhurst also taking place.</p>	A	To increase the number of quality affordable homes for residents across the district.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Market Towns Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Made up of 9 projects, 2 of which are on track (Smarter Towns and Digital Wayfinding)ii) Ramsey Great Whyte Civic and Business Hub is now completed, following successful delivery.iii) The other 6 projects have a planned return to green, with Ramsey Great Whyte Pedestrian and Produce Hub being the main project at risk, due to the river Culvert having weight restriction issues.	A	<p>Improvement to the local economic development of the 4 market towns in the district and creating increased high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents.</p> <p>Additional benefits to HDC of increased NNDR potential.</p>

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	iv) Remaining projects (Old Falcon, Priory Centre, St Neots Transport Programme, Huntingdon & St Neots, St Neots Legacy Programme) are Amber due to delays with building materials/supplies, concerns around content management, existing budget allocation versus what is available, construction schedule and ongoing legal work to secure market lease.		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme	v) Made up of 8 projects, 7 of which are on track (Community based employment and skills provision, Vibrant Communities, Business and IP centres, Green Business Grant programme, Manufacturing Digitisation, Ramsey Great Whyte Improvements, Start up and Entrepreneurship programme) vi) Active travel feasibility is 1 month behind schedule due to staff leave with an aim to commence work in October.	A	Improvement to the local economic development of the 4 market towns in the district and creating increased high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents.
Local Plan	vii) Continuing assessment and sustainability appraisal of potential development sites to inform draft options for engagement in spring 2024.	G	Enablement of providing a framework for the district to shape how land use and places will change and develop in the future. This will ensure all future development in the district is coordinated, prioritised and appropriate (e.g.: socially, environmentally, economically) to ensure Huntingdon is a good place to live and work.



Outcome: Lowering our carbon emissions

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Biodiversity for all	The signed funding agreement from Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) has been resolved and completed. There are new risks of exceeding budget and delays to green skills work due to work permits. Project team have mitigations in place to continue to deliver this 3-year programme of biodiversity improvements to district owned, and town/parish owned land.	A	Demonstrating our progress, engaging with our communities across Huntingdonshire will inform/influence decisions that increase our percentage of biodiversity across the district.



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Riverside Park St Neots	Activity being managed through the Open Spaces Service Plan.	G	Improvement to aesthetics and access to Riverside Park.
Civil Parking Enforcement	Risks regarding outsourcing remedial works have been mitigated and the project team are awaiting a quote from a supplier for sign and lines work.	G	The district will take on the ownership and responsibility of parking enforcement.
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	The RAG rating has been kept to RED due to the objections submitted on the planning portal and the feedback provided from the planning team. There are archaeology, biodiversity and flood risk objections which will be escalated to Major Change Board in October, for a project request adjustment.	R	Increased facilities for residents at the Country Park, to encourage increased visitor numbers and enabling improved health and well-being for residents. Additional benefits to HDC of increased revenue from car parking and hospitality facilities.

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Additional Funding for Energy Bill Rebate (COMPLETED)	<p>Project to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that people who do not have a contract with an energy supplier, but who have electricity costs, benefit from a £400 payment (416 Applicants - £166,400 distributed) • Make £200 grant payment to UK households that use alternative fuels for heating instead of mains gas completed (469 Applicants - £93,800 distributed) <p>Project now successfully completed</p>	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.
Planning Improvement programme	<p>Some initial projects commenced and progressed within the service to deliver improvements.</p> <p>Significant resource and time spent on discovery workshops to accurately assess the priority areas of challenge for the service. These will be assessed and approved, then fed into the overall delivery plan in November.</p>	G	Will allow all planning applications to be managed and reported on consistently. Will enable development of improved customer experience and increased income opportunities, creating additional capacity in back-office service activities.
Green Bins project	<p>Overview and Scrutiny panel meeting took place with comments and feedback being captured with regards to next steps, whilst the Cabinet meeting was also completed and approval for the proposal was received.</p> <p>Procurement completed so that the sticker tender pack could be uploaded on the portal in September with engagement sessions with Town and Parish Councils also being initiated.</p>	G	To provide the Council with financial sustainability to continue to deliver essential services to all residents.
Council Tax Support Scheme review	Consultant services procured to support modelling of new scheme, which went to public consultation at the end of July and ends 10 th September 2023.	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.
Council Tax Support Fund (2023/24)	Discussed the various options for awarding further payments under the discretionary criteria and it was agreed that, based on detailed data modelling, consultants are content with the options under consideration.	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
	<p>Project team are now awaiting the installation of the latest software release that will enable them to model each of the options (from modelling spreadsheet). Once the software is installed, the options can then be modelled with regards to costs and the remaining funds available, and then proceed to pay the awards to customers.</p>		
Customer Services Improvement programme	<p>Project currently being scoped, and recruitment of Customer Change Director was completed in June 2023. Discovery work continually undertaken across Q2, with a delivery start date set for mid-October.</p>	G	<p>Will allow all customer contacts to be managed and reported on consistently. Will enable development of improved customer experience via additional digital channels, creating additional capacity in back-office service activities.</p>
HR system	<p>The project required a final upgrade which was implemented in Q2. Board members are working with Partners to sign off this project and produce a closure report.</p>	G	<p>Will allow all staff management responsibilities to be managed securely and consistently within a bespoke system.</p>
Workforce Strategy	<p>In Q2 the Project Manager started their role and underwent several initiation activities as well as overseeing the production of a comprehensive business plan. Champions have been appointed to the project and presentations have been provided to members of staff, outlining the work set to take place over the coming months.</p>	G	<p>The workforce strategy will give a framework that links people management and development practices to our long term goals as an employer which will ultimately move us to being an employer of choice, which will drive both recruitment and retention.</p>