

Dear Councillor

CABINET - THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021

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

**Agenda Item
No.**

- 3. LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT: CONSULTATION DRAFT 2021**(Pages 3 - 4)
To receive a report from the Strategic Growth Manager on the Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document: Consultation Draft 2021.

Executive Councillor: J Neish.

- 4. ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLES**(Pages 5 - 6)
To receive a report seeking the adoption of a set of environmental principles for Huntingdonshire District Council and its activities that align with those developed as part of the Oxfordshire-Cambridgeshire Arc (OxCam arc).

Executive Councillor: R Fuller.

- 5. COMMUNITY TRANSITION STRATEGY 2021/23**(Pages 7 - 8)
To receive a report from the Corporate Director (People) seeking the endorsement of a Community Transition Strategy and the supporting Action Plan.

Executive Councillor: S Bywater.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)

LANSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

- 4.1 The panel discussed the Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document at its meeting on 6th October 2021.
- 4.2 Councillor Grice praised the Officers for a commendable piece of work which would form a great reference for the future.
- 4.3 Councillor Dew reflected that the 2007 document greatly needed updating as the world has changed significantly since it's adoption. He praised the document as essential in keeping the suite of the Council's planning documents up to date. It was also noted that it is important to engage with town and parish councils on this subject to allow them a platform to build on for the future.
- 4.4 Councillors also praised the focus on townscapes within the document as they felt this was more in keeping with the local area and crucial for proposed and future developments.
- 4.5 Following a question from Councillor Butler over town centre parking in Ramsey, the Planning Policy Team Leader reassured that the suggestion is to introduce landscaping to the town centre in order to reduce the visible impact of town centre parking not to restrict the parking itself.
- 4.6 Councillor Sanderson questioned what the most effective way to provide natural screenings for existing developments would be. He was advised that whilst the report primarily focuses on new developments, town and parish councils are encouraged to work with the district council to provide planting screens on council owned land to reduce the impact of existing developments.
- 4.7 The report was wholeheartedly endorsed by Councillor Corney, who also questioned how the document would be communicated with local councils and public for the consultation. The panel heard that the document would be available electronically and that it would be interactive to allow residents and councils to focus on specific geographic areas.
- 4.8 The panel also heard that the public consultation is to be increased to eight weeks from the statutory four weeks as the council recognises the size of the document and aims to allow sufficient time for residents and local councils to digest and comment upon the proposals.
- 4.9 The Panel welcomed the report and encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)

OXCAM ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- 9.1 The panel discussed the OxCam Environmental Principles at its meeting on 7th October 2021.
- 9.2 Councillor Alban expressed that he was thrilled and enthused that 2040 is the target end date for the implementation of these principles, this gives confidence that the Council is looking to achieve these targets with a sense of urgency and also that the Council can play a part in enabling this across the community.
- 9.3 Councillor Wilson seconded this enthusiasm and questioned where resources would be diverted from as mentioned in 7.1 of the report. Councillor Fuller assured that this would be taken from underspends from other budget areas.
- 9.4 The report was praised by Councillor Criswell who observed that it builds upon and forms a progression from previous green initiatives implemented by the Council. Councillor Criswell observed that whilst a green environment is welcomed, commuting and local transport should also be considered including an aspiration for everything to be available for residents within a 15-minute radius of their homes. A joined-up approach to development would help to achieve a sustainable future.
- 9.5 Councillor Wilson suggested that the environmental principles be included in every new policy and plan adopted across the Council to ensure targets are met.
- 9.6 Councillor D'Souza commented on an exciting and ambitious paper and endorsed that the Council should influence the local community and help to educate local groups, enabling them to implement and adopt the principles in the community.
- 9.7 The panel welcomed the report and encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

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COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)

COMMUNITY TRANSITION STRATEGY

- 4.1 The panel discussed the Community Transition Strategy at its meeting on 7th October 2021.
- 4.2 Councillor Criswell noted that Huntingdonshire District Council and the voluntary sector had worked well together to form a cohesive and swift response to the Covid-19 crisis. He observed that the relationship with town and parish councils was not always as robust but was hopeful that the proposed strategy would address this and create stronger partnerships for the future.
- 4.3 This sentiment was seconded by Councillor Banks, who stated how impressed he was with the involvement of the volunteer organisations and that the strategy provided an opportunity to form closer working relationships with parish and town councils to provide more resilience for the future.
- 4.4 Councillor Alban echoed this and was impressed at the rapid growth in community resilience across the district over recent years, he hoped that this could now be harnessed and developed to allow for stronger communities in the future.
- 4.5 Councillor Tysoe observed that whilst local government responsibilities and functions can be complicated, residents aren't interested in the bureaucracy, they are more focused on achieving the end result, this strategy should help to achieve this.
- 4.6 Following a comment from Councillor D'Souza on data usage, the Corporate Director (People) reassured that the value of human contact can't be replaced but there are some who prefer the anonymity of digital. It was also noted that core to the strategy is the better use of data and technology enabling ongoing engagement and dialogue with residents which will result in the kind of common-sense service delivery for residents aspired to in the strategy.
- 4.7 The panel welcomed the report and encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

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