

Dear Councillor

CABINET - TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2023

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. INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT 2023/24**(Pages 3 - 4)
To receive a report seeking agreement on the **(i)** Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022/2023 and the update on the infrastructure delivery during this time (to 31 March 2023); and **(ii)** statement required in relation to projects that will or may be, wholly or partly, funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Executive Councillor: T Sanderson.

**Contact officer: C Burton
01480 388274**

- 4. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE**(Pages 5 - 6)
To receive a report inviting the Cabinet to consider recommendations relating to infrastructure projects seeking extensions of time for their funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies received to date.

Executive Councillor: T Sanderson.

**Contact officer: C Burton
01480 388274**

- 5. NON-DOMESTIC RATES RURAL SETTLEMENTS LIST**(Pages 7 - 8)
To receive a report on the Rural Settlement List for non-domestic rates.

Executive Councillor: S Ferguson.

**Contact Officer K Kelly
01480 38815**

- 6. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME - WINTER UPDATE**(Pages 9 - 10)
To receive an update on activity across the strands of the Market Town Programme, including an update on funding opportunities.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

**Contact officer: P Scott
01480**

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- 9. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME WINTER UPDATE - PART II**(Pages 11 - 12)
To receive an update on elements of the Market Towns Programme that have commercial confidentiality.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford.

**Contact officer: P Scott
01480**

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INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY.

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Infrastructure Funding Statement Report at its meeting on 6th December 20223.
- 4.3 Following a question from Councillor Pickering regarding monies allocated to the Loves Farm development, it was clarified to the Panel that all monies were allocated to projects. It was further noted that the NHS and Allotments projects were outstanding and in addition that the allotments project related to the second phase of development. It was requested that a more detailed breakdown of these funds be provided to Councillor Pickering within the next week.
- 4.4 Councillor Gardener queried money allocated to a project in Spaldwick and whether or not this had received planning permission ahead of the funding decision. The Panel heard that details would be circulated to Councillor Gardener after further investigation.
- 4.5 Further to questions from Councillors Harvey and Gleadow, the Panel heard that the in kind payments referenced would be projects which would deliver infrastructure or other beneficial schemes in place of cash payments to the benefit of local residents.
- 4.6 In response to a question from Councillor Wells, the Panel heard that Cambridgeshire County Council, as signatories in their own right within many S106 legal agreements, were not required to provide S106 figures to the District Council but, under the legislation, were required to publish their own statement on their website. Members would be able to view this direct once published by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 4.7 Following a question from Councillor Slade, the Panel were advised that dates mentioned on page 43 of the agenda pack illustrated when funding was allocated to projects and that whilst end dates would be specified within project contract details, there was not requirement on the Council as the Charging Authority to spend the funds within a given timescale.
- 4.8 In response to questions from Councillors Pickering and Harvey relating to CIL receipts, the Panel heard that the majority of the money as highlighted on page 39 of the agenda pack was accounted for by virtue of being allocated to projects, however a further CIL funding round was currently ongoing which would deal with some of the surplus funds.
- 4.9 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.

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COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY.

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Community Infrastructure Levy Update Report at its meeting on 6th December 20223.
- 4.3 Councillor Gardener commented that it was positive to see that works would be beginning on the Wheatsheaf junction project.
- 4.4 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.

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NON DOMESTIC RATES RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY.

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Non Domestic Rates Rural Settlement List Report at its meeting on 7th December 20223.
- 4.3 Following a question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel heard that there were no changes to the list from last year. It was also clarified that the map areas highlighted in blue were parts of urban areas which *had been designated as defined rural settlements* in order to support local businesses.
- 4.4 Councillor Criswell observed that due to there having been no change from the previous year, it may be prudent to pursue an alternative method of publishing the document. The Executive Councillor confirmed to the Panel that there was an option to do this via a delegated responsibility and that this would be investigated.
- 4.5 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.

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MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME – WINTER UPDATE

6. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY.

- 6.2 The Panel discussed the Market Towns Programme – Winter Update Report at its meeting on 6th December 20223.
- 6.3 Following an enquiry from Councillor Corney, the Panel heard that where possible common sense would be applied to project delivery to allow for a joined up approach and avoid duplication of works across projects.
- 6.4 Concerns were expressed by councillors Slade and Gardener surrounding the works to trees planned for the St Neots market square. The Panel were reassured that a robust communications plan was in place and would be ramped up closer to the project start. It was also noted that the County Council would be leading on this project. It was further advised that the trees removed from the square would be reutilised as nature habitats, whilst the new planting would increase the tree canopy and biodiversity in the square. Councillor Jennings raised a concern regarding the impact of the project on the Christmas lights in St Neots, the Panel heard that every attempt would be made to minimise impact on the 2024 Christmas lights within the square.
- 6.5 In response to a question from Councillor Jennings on the figures within Table 1 section 3, the Panel heard that more detail on budgets was anticipated within the next quarterly report due to the project start date, however this would be investigated and further clarified to members.
- 6.6 In answer to a question from Councillor Howell, the Panel heard that whilst it was planned to expand the shopfront scheme across the market towns of the district, further discussions were in progress to extend this into rural key service areas. It was noted that the funding for this scheme was specific to towns at this point however further updates would be advised should they develop. Following a further question from Councillor, Harvey, it was confirmed that BID Huntingdon would continue to process the shopfront grants.
- 6.7 Further to a question from Councillor Pickering surrounding the retention of blue badge car parking spaces, the Panel were advised that whilst this was currently to maintain the availability of these bays, work was being undertaken by Parking Services to assess the ongoing need for these spaces within St Neots, allowing for an appropriate provision of these bays in the future.
- 6.8 Following an observation from Councillor Slade, it was confirmed that section 1.9 should read policy compliant planning application.
- 6.9 Councillor Gleadow congratulated the team on the obvious hard work which had been undertaken, a sentiment which was echoed by the Panel.
- 6.10 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.

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

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