

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE 0.1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH 2019** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact  
(01480)**

## **APOLOGIES**

### **1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) meeting held on 5th February 2019.

**A Green  
388008**

### **2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

### **3. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 11 - 14)**

A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**H Peacey  
388169**

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

To appoint of Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

### **5. MARKETS - ANNUAL REVIEW (Pages 15 - 24)**

Members are to receive the Annual Review of the Markets.

**C Jablonski  
388368**

### **6. EAST WEST RAIL CONSULTATION (Pages 25 - 32)**

The Panel are to receive a report on the East West Rail Consultation.

**C Kerr  
388430**

### **7. 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).

### **8. SHARED SERVICES BUSINESS PLANS (Pages 33 - 92)**

The Shared Services Business Plans will be presented to the Panel.

**O Morley  
388103**

## 9. RE-ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve:

that the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

## 10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 93 - 100)

The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

**A Green  
388008**

Dated this 25th day of February  
2019



Head of Paid Service

### Notes

#### 1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- (1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*
- (2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it -*
  - (a) *relates to you, or*
  - (b) *is an interest of -*
    - (i) *your spouse or civil partner; or*
    - (ii) *a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*
    - (iii) *a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

*and you are aware that the other person has the interest.*
- (3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*
  - (a) *any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;*
  - (b) *any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);*
  - (c) *any current contracts with the Council;*
  - (d) *any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;*
  - (e) *any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;*
  - (f) *any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or*
  - (g) *a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.*

#### Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

- (4) *If a Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote providing you do not breach the overall Nolan principles.*
- (5) *A Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest where -*

- (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
- (b) it relates to or is likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association, or
- (c) it relates to or is likely to affect any body –
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or
  - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of control or management.

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

## **2. Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings**

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**Please contact Mr Adam Green, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail [Adam.Green@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Green@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.**

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If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Elections & Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

**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 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 5th February 2019.

PRESENT: Councillor D B Dew – Chairman.

Councillors J C Cooper-Marsh, S J Corney, Dr P L R Gaskin, D A Giles, M S Grice, K P Gulson, J P Morris, S Wakeford and D J Wells.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillors J Neish.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mrs M L Beuttell, Mrs A Dickinson, R Fuller, J A Gray and T D Sanderson.

### **49. MINUTES**

Subject to an amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **50. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **51. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st February 2019 to 31st May 2019.

### **52. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19, QUARTER 3**

With the aid of a report by the Corporate Team Manager and the Finance Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Integrated Performance Report 2018/19, Quarter 3 was presented to the Panel.

In reviewing the report a Member complained about the use of acronyms and abbreviations and asked that full descriptions be provided in future reports.

Following a query regarding the target for EDGE customers, the Panel was reassured that the Council was doing all it could to reach the target and that resources from other teams are being allocated towards tracking success in supporting customers into work.

*(At 7.10pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor S Wakeford entered the meeting.)*

**53. FINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2023/24**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Resources (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Final Revenue Budget 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020/21 to 2023/24 was presented to the Panel.

A Member commented that the budget did not mention the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), however it was clarified that CIL is not recorded in the revenue budget. In addition, even though the Council hold CIL in an earmarked reserve, there is no guarantee that it would be spent on the Council budget.

Clarification was given regarding the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Financial Resilience Index. Members were informed that CIPFA have developed the index independently and that they don't formally report directly to any organisation. In relation to the Council's budget, the index does not show the Council in a good light. This is because CIPFA only took into account the last three years which shows a dip in reserves but does not state the reasons for it.

In regards to the Commercial Investment Strategy and any potential impact from the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, Members were informed that the Council have long leases with the tenants on those properties and that good due diligence was done before purchasing any property. There is also a contingency fund to cover costs if a tenant suddenly leaves.

After a question about a forecast rise in Car Park income, the Panel was informed that the extra income is expected to come from the changes to the car parking charging structure which is designed to encourage dwell.

At the invitation of the Panel, the Executive Councillor for Resources informed Members of Cabinet's considerations of the alternative budget proposals. Cabinet stated that funding play equipment should be done at a local level and that the local highways initiative is a County Council function. In respect to grounds maintenance, the evidence was not clear, however the Cabinet would consider a more thorough proposal. In regards to the Community Chest, the fund would have to be spent before consideration is given to increasing it.

A Member questioned why there had been a £200k overspend on the grounds maintenance element of the Leisure and Health budget during 2018/19. The Head of Resources stated he did not know but confirmed that he will investigate why.

Concern was raised regarding the litter bin removal scheme, however the Panel was informed that the scheme will not remove all litter bins, only those that are underutilised or in areas where there is more than one bin.

*(At 7.33pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor T Sanderson left the meeting.)*

*(At 7.34pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor T Sanderson entered the meeting.)*

*(At 8.03pm, after the consideration of this item, Councillor M Grice left the meeting.)*

**54. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019/20**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Resources (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20 was presented to the Panel. The report covered the following: Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Statement and Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

A Member commented that they were concerned that the report only mentioned the Commercial Investment Strategy in terms of a financial activity and not in regards to greater economic benefits. It was explained that the strategy is prescribed and that greater economic benefits is covered by the Commercial Investment Strategy policy document.

*(At 8.04pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor M Grice entered the meeting.)*

**55. COUNCIL TAX - REVIEW OF DISCOUNTS**

With the aid of a report by the Revenues and Benefits Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Council Tax – Review of Discounts was presented to the Panel. It was explained that it is proposed discounts are removed for unoccupied and substantially unfurnished properties and that the premium levied on long term empty properties is increased.

A Member commented that they would like a speedier increase in applying the increased premiums to long-term empty properties; however they were informed that the speed of the increase is governed by legislation.

The suggestion was made that the Council could write to the owners of long-term empty properties regarding the changes.

The Panel was reassured that the properties of the deceased would be classified under a different category and treated differently to long-term empty properties. For all other long-term empty properties it was confirmed that the owner is responsible for the charge and that premiums will be applied from when they become empty.

Members welcomed the report and were supportive of the proposed changes.

**56. OFF STREET CAR PARKING INVESTMENT AND AFFORDABILITY**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Off-Street Car Parking Investment and Affordability was presented to the Panel. In introducing the report the Executive Councillor for Operations and Regulation informed Members that all the improvements will take between three and four years to roll out.

A Member asked if consideration been given to those residents who forget their vehicle registration or enter the incorrect vehicle registration, the opportunity for response was not given, due to other questions.

A comment was made in respect to the communications of the changes. In response, the Panel was informed that once the decision to invest has been taken, then a full communications plan will be put in place.

In response to a query on additional car parking income, it was explained that the changes to the charging structure are to encourage an increase in dwell times and through this additional paid for parking time income is anticipated to rise. It was also noted that as the charging structure is altering to allow the customer to pay for what they use, a direct comparison between existing charges and new charges cannot be made.

Members were informed that where pay for what you use is implemented, 50% of customers have swapped over to use the check in, check out service. It was stated that the customer would need a debit or credit card to take advantage of the service and that customers using cash payment would have to pay for a set amount of time upfront.

Concerns were raised over the amount of personal data being collected; however Members were informed that personal data will only be viewed by authorised personnel and will be managed and deleted in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation. The Parking Service is audited by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to ensure they are fully compliant in managing any personal data, failure would result in a withdrawal of their ability to have access to vehicle keeper information. It was confirmed that the Council has never failed to meet these requirements. Data for statistics will be anonymised but will still provide the Council with enough information to be able to make better and more informed decisions.

Following a question as to why the Council are not charging in all car parks, the Panel was informed that it would not be economically viable for the Council to charge for parking in some car parks. It was clarified that the Task and Finish Group agreed early on that Sundays should not be charged and existing small non-town based car parks without charge should remain so with opportunities explored to transfer them to community ownership where possible reflecting their main use. In addition, blue badge holders will not be charged for parking.

A Member commented that they expected pushback from the public in regards to changing the charging structure without the improvements and that openness on the future improvements will be



required. It was clarified that the charging structure will only be changed once the new machines are installed, in a phased approach as it is a requirement of 'Pay for What You Use'. In addition where possible, bay sizes will also be increased.

A Member stated that they are not convinced that charging for car parks will encourage retail in the town centres. The Panel was informed that car parks are not free as they have to be maintained and they incur business rates. In the event that charges were lowered or withdrawn the Council would need to find additional funding streams from elsewhere in order to achieve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

*(At 8.27pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor J A Gray left the meeting.)*

*(At 8.37pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor J A Gray entered the meeting.)*

*(At 8.57pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor J Cooper-Marsh left the meeting.)*

*(At 8.58pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor J Cooper-Marsh entered the meeting.)*

**57. 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).

**58. HDC VENTURES LIMITED - SSL BUSINESS PLAN**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) HDC Ventures Limited – SSL Business Plan was presented to the Panel.

Members were informed that the Council have found a business partner and that the collaboration will bring benefits to each party that would not otherwise have been achieved.

The Panel provided comments for consideration by Cabinet.

*(At 9.17pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillors Mrs A Dickinson, M Grice and J P Morris left the meeting and did not return.)*

**59. RE-ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

**60. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel.

*(At 9.37pm, during the consideration of this item, Councillor J A Gray left the meeting and did not return.)*

Chairman

**NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

**Prepared by** Councillor G J Bull, Executive Leader of the Council  
**Date of Publication:** 20 February 2019  
**For Period:** 1 March 2019 to 30 June 2019

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Mrs M L Beuttell	Executive Councillor for Operations and Regulation	Councillor J A Gray	Executive Councillor for Resources
Councillor G J Bull	Executive Leader of the Council	Councillor J M Palmer	Executive Councillor for Partnerships and Well-Being
Councillor R Fuller	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Economic Development	Councillor D M Tysoe	Executive Councillor for Digital and Customer

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

Agendas may be accessed electronically at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

**Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)**

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)

4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
  - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council  
 Pathfinder House  
 St Mary's Street  
 Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated \*\*\*  
 (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

12 Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Cambridgeshire Housing Adaptions & Repairs Policy	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019		Andy Moffat, Head of Development Tel No 01480 388400 or email Andy.Moffat@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Customers and Partnerships
Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency Performance Report 2017/18 and Shared Service Contract extension	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019		Andy Moffat, Head of Development Tel No 01480 388400 or email Andy.Moffat@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Customers and Partnerships

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Shared Services Business Plans ##	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019		Oliver Morley, Corporate Director (Services) Tel No 01480 388103 or email Oliver.Morley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	D M Tysoe	Performance and Growth
Waste and Recycling Service - Clinical Waste***	Cabinet	21 Mar 2019		Neil Sloper, Head of Operations Tel No 01480 388635 or email Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		M Beuttell	Customers and Partnerships
Outline of Key Principles for the Transfer of the Management of One Leisure Sawtry to Sawtry Village Academy***##	Cabinet	18 Apr 2019		Jayne Wisely, Head of Leisure and Health Tel No 01480 388049 or email Jayne.Wisely@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	J Palmer	Customer and Partnerships
Community Resilience Strategy	Cabinet	20 Jun 2019		Chris Stopford, Head of Community Tel No 01480 388280 or email Chris.Stopford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Palmer	Customers and Partnerships

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Public  
Key Decision - No

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Annual Review of Huntingdonshire Markets – 2018/19

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economy & Growth) –  
5 March 2019

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor Marge Beuttell – Executive Councillor for  
Operations and Regulation

**Report by:** Business Development Manager – Chris Jablonski

**Ward(s) affected:** Huntingdon and St Ives Wards

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### Executive Summary:

1. The Council operates traditional street markets in Huntingdon on Wednesdays and Saturdays and in St Ives on Mondays and Fridays. In line with the stated aim of the Council's Corporate Plan, these markets fulfil an important role in **ensuring that our market towns remain vibrant and prosperous places where communities and businesses can thrive.**
2. This report accompanies a verbal presentation by Keith Salmon the Council's Markets Officer, to update Members on the performance of the Council's Market Service over the past 12 months and the measures in place to ensure the viability of our markets going forward.
3. The report and presentation highlight the continued success of Huntingdon Market in its new High Street location and outline the approach to addressing operational issues associated with St Ives weekly and Bank Holiday markets.
4. Trading conditions continue to be extremely challenging for market traders and retailers alike. The report and presentation outlines the measures taken to ensure that our markets remain viable, operate safely and provide an attractive retail offering supporting the image of our market towns as attractive retail destinations.

### Recommendation(s):

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to:
  - Comment on the progress of the Markets Service during 2018/19.
  - Note the challenging trading conditions facing the Council's Markets, in particular the St Ives Bank Holiday Market and the proposed Fees and Charges for the Markets Service in 2019/20.
  - Endorse the measures proposed to ensure the continued viability of Huntingdonshire's markets during 2019/20 and beyond.





## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This is a covering report accompanying a presentation by Keith Salmon, the Council's Markets Officer, updating Members on the performance of the Council's Market Service over the past 12 months and outlining plans for the development of the service during 2019/20.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At the end of 2015/16 the Council's Markets Service made an operating loss. The service had not been given much focus and as a consequence our markets had gone into decline with a diminishing number of traders, a lack of clear direction and significant overdue debt.
- 2.2 To address this situation a new post of Markets Officer was created in 2016 with a retail specialist employed to review and improve the Markets Service.
- 2.3 Since 2016 Members have received an annual review of the progress of the Markets Service, outlining structural changes implemented to improve viability.
- 2.4 A prime example of such an improvement was the relocation of Huntingdon Market in September 2017 from the Market Square to the High Street. The purpose of which was to capture the main footfall of the town and re-invigorate both the market and the High Street.

## **3. HUNTINGDON MARKET**

### **3.1 Benefits of relocation:**

The presentation outlines significant benefits from the relocation of Huntingdon Market:

- a) The number of pitches available and the number of traders has increased, with the market now almost four times its size compared to 2016.
- b) The trial of a differential pricing structure providing pitches ranging in price from £10 to £22 has proved highly successful and pivotal to the expansion of the market.
- c) Pitch utilisation to Christmas 2018 averaged 95% for both Wednesday and Saturday Markets for prime pitches.
- d) Overall pitch utilisation to Christmas 2018 averaged 82% on Saturday and 68% on Wednesday.
- e) Traders vans are no longer parked on the Market Square and to minimise loss of car parking revenue, Pathfinder House is used for trader parking on Saturday's.
- f) The relocation of the Market has fostered a much closer working relationship with partners, including Huntingdon BID and the Town

Council. The Market Square is increasingly used for promotional events, including an extremely successful Family Fun Day in July 2018, Speciality Markets and the Christmas Market.

- g) The relocation of the market has created space for children's fairground rides to be integrated into the Saturday Market on a regular basis. This has added to the sense of the Market as an 'event', drawing residents into the town centre who may otherwise shop and spend their leisure time elsewhere.
- h) The market now has a Facebook page and promotion is increasingly undertaken using press articles and partner publications.

### 3.2 **Ongoing Issues/Actions:**

- a) Cycling in the High Street remains a very real safety concern – Traffic calming measures are now routinely in place in the early morning on market days and discussions are ongoing with HBAC, BID and the Police regarding the issue. Periodically Police enforcement has been undertaken and a proposal to joint fund improved signage is supported by the Markets Service.
- b) Vehicles attempting to drive down the High Street on market days – particularly taxis, regularly encroach first thing in the morning and last thing at night leading to safety concerns and conflict. Where taxis are involved they are reported to Council's licencing section and the Police are informed where other vehicles are involved, although we are not aware of any enforcement action being taken as a result.
- c) Trading has been consistently difficult on the Wednesday Market and since Christmas has become even more so with several traders leaving the market. Incentives are being considered to maintain the viability of this market. Ultimately it may be necessary to consider the whether it is viable to operate two markets in Huntingdon each week.
- d) Severe weather – Incidences of prolonged high winds in particular, cause problems for the Market in the High Street which can become a wind tunnel. This issue is mitigated by the use of weights for all structures and where winds of dangerous speeds are forecast the Market Rules allow for the operation of a 'no structures' market.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Support a proposal to joint fund improved signage to alleviate issues with illegal cycling in the High Street
- Support continued liaison with Police and HDC Licencing to address issues of illegal use of the High Street by taxis and other vehicles.
- Support the use of incentives to maintain the viability of Huntingdon Wednesday Market

## **4. ST IVES MARKET**

### **4.1 Relocation Feasibility Study**

In 2017 a feasibility study was undertaken to consider the possible extension of the St Ives Monday Market into Bridge Street to remove the need to operate a partial Road Closure to manage traffic flows on the Monday Market. A series of concerns from stakeholders regarding the proposal led to a recommendation not to extend the market but to maintain and develop its current location in Market Hill.

Since 2017 the trading position for St Ives Market has been positive. Pitch utilisation prior to Christmas 2018 averaged 86% for the Monday Market and 83% on Friday.

### **4.2 Ongoing Issues/Actions**

- a) The ensuring the safety of the public and traders from vehicles moving within the market (predominantly on Fridays when no Road Closure is in operation) remains an issue. Although it is impossible to completely alleviate this risk the Markets team are working with the Council's Health and Safety Co-ordinator and explore all options to minimise this risk. This includes the consideration of new market layouts and the use of cones to slow and guide traffic away from market stalls.
- b) Motorists regularly challenge the requirement for the Road Closure which operates on the Monday Market and the authority of the Road Closure Marshal in performing his job. The situation is being closely monitored and there is a need for Body Cams to be used in the coming year.
- c) Vehicles parking in traders pitches on Sunday night – This is a constant cause of friction between market traders and motorists, with the Markets Team regularly caught in the middle of such disputes. Close liaison with the Golden Lion Hotel is limiting the extent of the problem.
- d) Maintaining the market at its present occupancy levels. - Traders takings are mostly in decline and they are looking for further lines to augment their present range. Unfortunately this is usually lines sold by existing traders which can cause considerable friction between traders.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Continue to trial the use of new market layouts to slow and guide traffic away from market stalls and improve customer experience .
- To use Body Cams as a matter of course at the earliest opportunity
- To actively engage with stakeholders to alleviate parking issues concerning overnight parking on Sundays affect the Monday Market.

## **5. FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20**

- 5.1 In 2015/16 the Markets Service made a loss of £5,745 but since this time the service has consistently delivered a trading surplus and is on course to do the same in 2018/19.

- 5.2 This represents a considerable success in the current trading climate and although the Markets Service is non-statutory it plays a vital role in maintaining life in our Market Towns and bringing people into the town centre.
- 5.3 In deciding the level of pitch fees a balance must be struck between increasing pitch fees and ensuring that our markets remain as close to full occupancy as possible. The price sensitivity of pitch fees differs from market to market and town to town and it is significantly easier to fill pitches at some markets than others.
- 5.4 To assist with this issue a differential pricing structure was trialled at Huntingdon Market in 2018/19 and this has proved extremely successful. The structure divides pitches into bands based on their position in the High Street, with prime pitches costing £22 and peripheral pitches costing as little as £10.
- 5.5 In 2019/20 pitch fees at all HDC markets will rise in line with inflation. The exception to this is St Ives Bank Holiday market which is particularly price sensitive and for which pitch fees will be held at their current level. The timings of the Bank Holidays in 2019 will make it extremely difficult to fill pitches, but to counteract this, as in previous years, discounts will be offered, to attract traders to sign up early for all four Bank Holiday markets.
- 5.6 Looking to 2020/21 the likelihood is that to maintain occupancy levels of Huntingdonshire markets it may be necessary to reduce fees and charges across the board. This will be assessed in the coming year with recommendations made as part of the process of setting Fees and Charges for 2020/21.

**Recommendations:**

- To note the changes to fees and charges and the continued operation of discounts to attract traders to the St Ives Bank Holiday Market
- Support work to be undertaken by the Markets Team to consider the need for a permanent reduction in pitch fees across our Markets

**6. PUBLICITY**

- 6.1 A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in the current year to upgrade the online presence of Huntingdonshire's markets and both Huntingdon and St Ives Markets now have their own dedicated Facebook pages. During the current year attention has turned to the development of a stand-alone website linked to the Council's website.
- 6.2 This is seen as a clear 'next step' in the branding and publicising of the Council's Markets. Whilst they are amongst the very best in our region, publicity is currently behind that of some competitors and for our markets to thrive, it will become increasingly important to promote them as fully as possible.
- 6.3 By improving our online presence it is hoped that it will be possible not only to attract new customers to our markets but also to attract new traders and to provide support and information to individual's considering a market stall as a first step in starting a business.

### **Recommendations:**

- To support the development of standalone websites linked to the Council's website

## **7. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 7.1 Huntingdonshire's Markets play an important role in maintaining the vibrancy of our town centres. Many markets across the UK are in decline and the average age of market traders is rising. HDC is proud of our market towns and they need vibrant markets to remain.
- 7.2 The Council's Corporate strategic plan is committed to **supporting economic growth in our towns.**
- 7.3 The Council is committed to enabling vibrant markets
- **to regenerate and drive redevelopment of retail in our market towns**
  - **supporting the success of our markets is a valuable part of the retail mix in our market towns**
- 7.4 Against a backdrop of an increasingly difficult trading environment the HDC Markets Team is doing everything in its power to ensure that our markets remain financially viable, attractive for traders and appealing to customers going forward.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	East West Rail Consultation
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) – 5th March
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Housing, Planning and Economic Development
<b>Report by:</b>	Planning Service Manager (Growth)
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All, with the potential most direct impact on Wards in the south of the District.

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### **Executive Summary:**

On the 29th January a 6 week consultation on 5 broad route options for East West Rail (EwR) was launched. The consultation closes on the 11th March. The process is intended to inform a later decision on actual route alignment in 2020 and there will be a further statutory consultation on route alignment in 2021 if a route is progressed.

EwR consider that Oxford, Cambridge and the communities in between are renowned for their vibrant economy, educational excellence and scientific innovation. They deliver growth and prosperity both locally and for the whole country.

The National Infrastructure Commission identified in their report "Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc", economic prosperity is not guaranteed. Without investment in new infrastructure designed to support housing growth and link communities, the area will fall behind and fail to attract or retain the talent which helps maintain its position in the UK economy.

To read the full consultation and technical report please follow the link:

[EWR-Consultation-Document](#)

Cabinet, on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019, authorised the Head of Development and Planning Service Manager (Growth), in consultation with the Executive Leader and Deputy Executive Leader, to prepare and submit formal comments on the route options proposed on behalf of the Council. At the time of writing of this report, the options were still being considered. A further report detailing the preferred option(s) will be provided to the Panel in advance of the meeting.

### **Recommendation:**

**That, when received, the Panel makes comments on the report setting out the preferred option(s) and the rationale for selecting this option(s), which will then be considered by the Head of Development and Planning Service Manager (Growth), in consultation with the Executive Leader and Deputy Executive Leader, in the finalisation and submission of the Council's formal comments on the route options.**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 East West Rail (EWR) is proposing a new rail connection between Oxford and Cambridge. The Western Section between Oxford and Bedford can be built by reinstating and upgrading old rail lines, for the Central Section between Bedford and Cambridge an entirely new rail line will need to be constructed. For the last year, EWR has been developing route options and wants to hear public views on five options, known as A-E.
- 1.2 This consultation is about the section of East West Rail between Bedford and Cambridge (often called the Central Section). The consultation commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and closes on the 11th March. The process is intended to inform a later decision on actual route alignment in 2020 and there will be a further statutory consultation on route alignment in 2021 if a route is progressed.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 EWR consider that Oxford, Cambridge and the communities in between are renowned for their vibrant economy, educational excellence and scientific innovation. They deliver growth and prosperity both locally and for the whole country.
- 2.2 The National Infrastructure Commission identified in their report "Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc", economic prosperity is not guaranteed. Without investment in new infrastructure designed to support housing growth and link communities, the area will fall behind and fail to attract or retain the talent which helps maintain its position in the UK economy. EWR will also improve journey times for existing residents. The aim is to complete this Central section in the mid-2020s.
- 2.3 EWR are seeking views on:
- The challenges and opportunities;
  - Whether they are right to focus on route options;
  - The approach into Cambridge from the south; and
  - The overall approach they have taken to developing route options.

## **3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS**

- 3.1 Prior to EWR Co being established, twenty potential route corridors were considered at a high level by Network Rail based on the priority journey pairs and conditional outputs developed by the EWR Consortium. These twenty corridors spanned the area from St Albans and Harlow to Peterborough and were discussed with a working group comprising representatives from DfT, the rail industry, local authorities and the EWR Consortium.
- 3.2 Having identified the corridor via Sandy as the preferred route corridor, the next stage in developing the EWR central section has been to consider route options within that corridor. The route corridor has defined start and finish points, beginning around Stewartby near Bedford and ending at Cambridge. It increases to around 15km wide along the East Coast Main Line and through South Cambridgeshire. Not all of this land will be required for the new railway.
- 3.3 A wide range of factors has been considered to inform the appraisal of route options within the preferred route corridor including:

- Transport user benefits;
  - Contribution to enabling housing and economic growth, including best serving areas benefitting from developable land;
  - Capital and operating costs and overall affordability; and
  - Environmental impacts and opportunities.
- 3.4 These might be given particularly substantial weight in decision-making, particularly where they differentiate strongly between route options.
- 3.5 The overall approach to identifying route options within the preferred route corridor via the broad area around Sandy for assessment against the factors in Chapter 4 of the technical report has been framed around three questions:
- Where could EWR provide an interchange with the Midland Main Line?
  - Where could EWR provide an interchange with the East Coast Main Line?
  - What route could EWR take through South Cambridgeshire, including where any potential additional stations might be located?
- 3.6 A number of route options have been ruled out and these can be found in the technical report in Chapter 6 (P21-24)
- 3.7 In reviewing the option for approaching Cambridge a number of options have been considered. EWR Co have re-visited the case for approaching Cambridge from the north in the context of the current strategic objectives for EWR and identified the following issues:
- It would require potential modifications to the new Cambridge North station and adding more tracks to a longer section of the West Anglia Main Line (four-tracking of the West Anglia Main Line immediately to the south of Cambridge is likely to be required anyway to support the proposed new Cambridge South station), both of which are likely to add significant cost.
  - It would be expected to incur higher capital and operating costs and result in slower journey times due to the greater route length. This would reduce the benefits for transport users and the wider economy across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and also have an adverse impact on opportunities to support new homes.
  - Existing local transport infrastructure (the guided busway) appears to cater for growth opportunities to the north of Cambridge and therefore an additional railway service to improve local connectivity to the north of Cambridge may not be required.
  - Approaching Cambridge from the north would not directly serve the proposed new Cambridge South station, thereby foregoing an opportunity to support growth, housing and employment.
  - It would require a reversing move and journey time penalties for any onward journeys to and from Norwich, Ipswich and other destinations to the east of Cambridge.
- 3.8 Based on the further, recent analysis of the options for approaching Cambridge, the previous decision to approach Cambridge from the south rather than the north is considered to remain sound when considered against the current strategic objectives for EWR. However, of the five route options that are being taken forward for consultation, Routes B and E could alternatively approach Cambridge from the north if new information is provided to EWR Co through the consultation that suggests this would be better than

approaching Cambridge from the south as currently shown in the indicative route maps.

#### *ROUTE A*

*Bedford South – Sandy (re-located south) – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)*

- 3.9 This route would support economic growth across the OxMkCam corridor but is not proposed to route through Huntingdonshire and cannot be said to offer direct future opportunities for the District. Furthermore, while the MOD may have plans to vacate Bassingbourn Barracks it is not a current allocation within the South Cambridgeshire adopted Local Plan. Indicative costs are c.£2 billion (2015 prices) but given the uncertainty around Bassingbourn and the timescales involved to investigate the suitability and capacity of Bassingbourn, while the online construction costs are lower (because of the more direct alignment) it offers less potential than other options for future growth. The environmental impact is not quantified but will affect Wimpole Hall and the RSPB nature reserve.

#### *ROUTE B*

*Bedford South – Sandy (re-located north) / Tempsford area / south of St Neots – Cambourne – Cambridge*

- 3.10 Again, this route would support economic growth across the OxMkCam corridor and provides for future opportunities for the district. It would give residents the opportunity to access faster journey times between Oxford and Cambridge. Furthermore, the ECML passes through St. Neots while it is not currently possible to access Cambridge via Rail. This proposal would allow for both east-west and north-south rail travel, while also having regard to the routing of the Expressway (orange Route; announced 17<sup>th</sup> Feb) unlocking future potential in St. Neots and across the wider District. Cambourne is an existing settlement and also has opportunities for expansion whereas Bassingbourn, favoured in other route options, has a high degree of uncertainty attached to growth potential. The cost is c. £2.6b but this should be weighed against future opportunities.

#### *ROUTE C*

*Bedford South – Tempsford area – Sandy – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)*

- 3.11 This route would support economic growth across the OxMkCam corridor but is not proposed to route through Huntingdonshire and cannot be said to offer direct future opportunities for the District. Furthermore, given the nature of the route it is likely to be less attractive for travellers as it calls into question the actual commuting time between Oxford and Cambridge. Again, similar questions arise in relation to Bassingbourn which are already discussed under Route A above. The cost of Route C is estimated to be £2.5b.

#### *ROUTE D*

*Bedford Midland – Tempsford area – Sandy – Cambridge (via Bassingbourn)*

- 3.12 This route would support economic growth across the OxMkCam corridor but is not proposed to route through Huntingdonshire and cannot be said to offer direct future opportunities for the District. This route is similar to Route C with the exception of routing out of Bedford. The cost of Route is c.£2.6b. This route raised similar questions in relation to journey time concerns relating to concerns relating to Bassingbourn.

## ROUTE E

*Bedford Midland – south of St Neots / Tempsford area – Cambourne – Cambridge*

- 3.13 Similar to Route B this proposal offers the greater opportunity for the district to improve connectivity across the Arc but also on a local scale, namely St. Neots, Bedford, Cambridge, improving sustainable alternatives to use of the private car, unlocking greater economic potential across the district. Similarly to Route B this also offers the opportunity to provide a strategic link to the ECML outside of London along with the Metro that is currently being considered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The estimated cost is c.£3.4b.
- 3.14 A further report detailing the preferred option(s) will be provided to the Panel in advance of the meeting.

## 4. TIMETABLE FOR FURTHER CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 A public exhibition took place in St. Neots on the 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- 4.2 Indicative timetable ( from consultation document P11)
- Early 2019 Consultation on potential route options
  - 2020 Develop a detailed route alignment
  - 2021 Statutory consultation on a route alignment
  - 2021 Development consent application submitted
  - 2023 Development Consent Order secured

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

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan includes a work programme and actions that include:
- Supporting new and growing businesses and promoting business success
  - Supporting economic growth in market towns and rural areas
  - Promoting inward investment
  - Influencing the development of the Highways and Transport Infrastructure Strategy
  - Facilitating the delivery of infrastructure to support housing growth
  - Improve the supply of new and affordable housing, jobs and community facilities to meet current and future need

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None. This is a consultation response.

## 7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 At this time no additional resource is required.

## 8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 8.1 The preferred option(s) and the rationale for selecting this option(s) will be detailed in the further report to be provided to the Panel in advance of the meeting.

## 9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix – Route Options Map

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

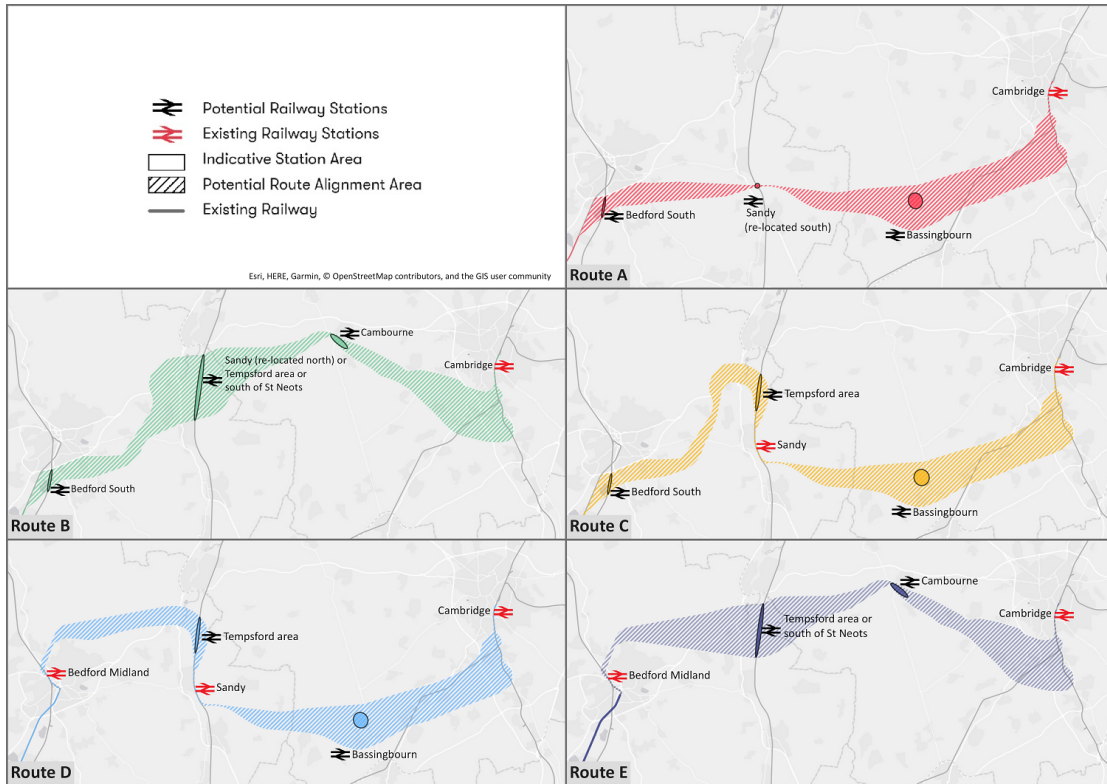
- East West Rail Bedford to Cambridge Route Option Consultation  
<https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Central-Section-Consultation/fe0f74c338/EWR-Consultation-Document.pdf>
- East West Rail Bedford to Cambridge Technical Report  
<https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Central-Section-Consultation/db652106d4/EWR-Technical-Report.pdf>
- NIC - Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc (2017)  
<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/partnering-prosperity-new-deal-cambridge-milton-keynes-oxford-arc/>

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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/2019

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) – Active

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress
<p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify ways in which the Council can improve the lifelong health of residents.</li> <li>Identify the benefits of a whole system approach for the Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify what the main health issues facing the residents of Huntingdonshire are (and if there are any problem areas).</li> <li>To discover what leisure activities/provision residents enjoy and/or want.</li> <li>Identify what leisure provision/facilities are most effective. (Investment shouldn't be made in a particular facility if the benefits are minimal.)</li> <li>Discuss with the CCG in order to establish if collaboration between the Council and the CCG is worthwhile.</li> </ul>	<p>CCG  <b>CCC Public Health</b>  <b>Jayne Wisely</b>  <b>Cllr J Palmer</b>  <b>Cllr Jill Tavener</b></p>	<p>10th January 2019 – The Task and Finish Group met and reviewed the scoping document. Based on the Group's discussion the scoping document is being revised. The revised scoping document will be presented to the Group at their next meeting for approval. <b>7th February 2019</b></p> <p>7th February 2019 – The Task and Finish Group met and agreed the scoping document. Members planned out the next steps of work and agreed to focus on collaboration with Parish Councils. For their next meeting, the Task and Finish Group will visit Little Paxton Parish Council to view their facilities. <b>20th March 2019</b></p>

CS

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) – Inactive

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) idea	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
<p><b>Health</b> – What are the issues facing the young and elderly populations of Huntingdonshire. How can HDC, either with partners or on its own initiative, assist with the health and well-being of residents in the District.</p>	<p><b>1. Reducing isolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reducing age-specific dependency rates by 1 per cent per year would reduce public expenditure by £940m per year by 2031</li> <li>reducing the rate of institutionalisation by 1</li> </ul>	<p>Age UK</p>	<p>Identifying opportunities (particularly technology) to deliver key activities identified by Age UK, to address isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a new social link</li> <li>Developing wider social networks</li> <li>Meeting like-minded people through clubs and groups</li> <li>Meeting people with similar needs and supporting each other</li> <li>Using local services and facilities</li> <li>Changing social attitudes so that users become</li> </ul>	<p>Dependent upon outcome of bid for inclusion in CCC digital services programme – Spring 2018</p>

Agenda Item 10

	<p>per cent a year could save £3.8bn.</p> <p><b>2. Improving mental health</b>          Contributes to addressing:          - Worklessness          - Homelessness          - Poor health outcomes          - Self-reliance</p> <p><b>3. Reducing hospital admissions in over 65's</b></p>	<p>CCG</p> <p>Sports England/Active Lifestyles/CCG</p>	<p>accepted and valued as full members of the community in their own right.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantifying the cost and impacts of isolation</li> <li>- Recommendations for our services to address</li> <li>- Designing communities for the future</li> </ul> <p>Identifying non health interventions that can support mental health – e.g. social referral, links to community activities, volunteering activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities to improve impact of DFG's?</li> <li>- Assisted collections. Investigate if having an assisted collection is an indicator that a resident may require a DFG.</li> <li>- Closer partnership working with health</li> <li>- Establishing greater community resilience</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Homelessness</b> – Investigating the links between homelessness and housing supply. Finding triggers for homelessness. Discovering options and opportunities to reduce homelessness in Huntingdonshire.</p>	<p><b>1. Increase supply of affordable property.</b></p> <p><b>2. Reduce number of homelessness presentations.</b></p> <p><b>3. Increase number of homelessness preventions – solutions that prevent people</b></p>	<p>Development Advisor</p> <p>Jon Collen / Helen Brown</p> <p>Jon Collen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement with Places for People/Luminus</li> <li>- Working with Private Sector landlords to understand reasons behind end of AST and incentives to address</li> <li>- Looking to develop options to incentivise Private landlords to take social tenants.</li> <li>- Strategies around use of HMOs</li> <li>- Testing effectiveness of Trailblazer</li> <li>- Testing Homelessness pilot work</li> <li>- Looking at opportunities for partners to signpost and intervene</li> </ul>	

	<p>losing their home</p> <p>4. Increase number of empty properties brought back into use</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking evidence from best practice providers elsewhere</li> <li>- Working with Registered Providers to maximise housing stock utilisation and fit</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b> – What are the environmental (and lifestyle) quality issues facing Huntingdonshire,</p>	<p>1. Reducing air pollution</p> <p>2. Reducing long term flood issues</p> <p>3. The community role in grounds maintenance and cleansing</p> <p>4. Definition of 'Place' and 'People' vision for Huntingdonshire</p>	<p>Chris Stopford</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Neil Sloper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport options</li> <li>- Natural environment – exploring opportunities to enhance HDC country parks (Hinchingbrook / Paxton Pits)</li> <li>- Role of Great Fen as a regionally significant habitat / tourism destination</li> <li>- A14 and Cam Ox corridor – actively influencing Govt and key transport agencies on investment pipeline and funding options</li> <li>- Exploring the options and Council/communities appetite for scalable growth linked to new infrastructure and 'healthy places' with sustainable living choices</li> <li>- Role of Neighbourhood Plans and Market Town Master Plans in promoting and directing employment and housing growth</li> <li>- Influencing long term utility provision – water/power</li> </ul>

O&S (Performance and Growth) – Active

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress
<p><b>Delivery of Affordable Housing</b> <i>(Accelerating the delivery of Affordable Housing across Huntingdonshire communities primarily through Rural Exception Site mechanisms)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the number of affordable houses built in the District – positively impacting on the quality of developments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore methods that maximise the effectiveness of the Council’s approach to achieving additional affordable housing provision beyond allocated sites.</li> <li>To advise on a strategic programme and range of mechanisms to promote and secure rural exception sites (RES) appropriate to settlement scale and need across the District.</li> <li>To explore how RES sites can best be promoted locally, including the role of Ward Members and Parish /Town Councils.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Andy Moffat</b> <b>Cllr Corney (a builder by trade)/Developers</b></p>	<p>8th January 2019 – The Panel reviewed and agreed the scoping document.</p> <p>12th February 2019 – The Task and Finish Group met and reminded themselves of the scoping document. Members also discussed the documents presented to them and considered them when planning future work. The Task and Finish Group agreed to invite a representative of CambridgeshireAcre to the next meeting. <b>12th March 2019</b></p>

<p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in educational attainment, and achievement of key skills.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combined Authority strategy impacts, particularly advancing recommendations from CPIER.</li> <li>Alignment to future skills and sectoral demand identified through EMSI study.</li> <li>Role of EDGE programme and wider Combined Authority skills and business support advisory services.</li> <li>Relationship to CPBS 'Grand Challenges' outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Andy Moffat</b> <b>John T Hill - CPCA</b> <b>CA Business Board</b> <b>/ Company CEOs – reasons for locations choices and future workforce aspiration</b></p>	<p>Once the Combined Authority has published their skills strategy, Mr John T Hill will be invited to discuss the strategy with Members. <b>To be confirmed</b></p>
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67 O&S (Performance and Growth) – Inactive

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
<p><b>Housing</b> – Increasing quality of housing developments and increasing supply of Affordable/Social housing – specifically in the villages.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Increase in the number of affordable houses built in the District – positively impacting on the quality of developments</b></li> <li><b>Reduce voids of all types, inc empty homes and RP turnaround times</b></li> <li><b>Increase the availability of social housing</b></li> <li><b>Reduce Council spend on Homelessness</b></li> </ol>	<p>Andy Moffat Cllr Corney (a builder by trade)/Developers Homes England Registered Providers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the effectiveness of rural exception sites and 60/40 policy</li> <li>Explore viability assessment mechanisms to ensure proper value is created form development sites</li> <li>Review of CIL charging regime and utilisation of funds</li> <li>Relationships with RPs (Registered Providers) and options to increase pace and tenure type of supply plans</li> <li>Utilisation of HDC non-operational land assets to increase supply and generate system savings (eg reduction in B&amp;B spend.</li> <li>Improving infrastructure on developments to enhance liveability, including digital, environmental</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>5. Enhanced infrastructure and liveability on developments</b></p>		<p>– flooding etc, energy use, health land and space for wildlife. Supporting positive transport choices, and community self-reliance.</p>	
<p><b>Wider Economic Environment</b> – How to best position Huntingdonshire as an attractive place to do business</p>	<p><b>1. A Local Industrial Strategy for Cambridgeshire within which Huntingdonshire is prominent</b></p> <p><b>2. GVA (Gross Value Added) net increase</b></p> <p><b>3. Increase in business rates receipts and invest to accumulate utilisation thereof (subject to Govt regs)</b></p> <p><b>4. Increase average earnings and percentage earnings derived in Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire</b></p> <p><b>5. Opportunities to enhance the Councils industrial portfolio and Corporate Investment Strategy in facilitating, retaining and securing new business opportunities</b></p> <p><b>A package of ‘Deals’:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HDC &amp; Govt/CA</li> <li>- HDC and Local Councils</li> <li>- HDC and communities</li> </ul>	<p>Andy Moffat / Clive Mason</p> <p>CA Business Board / Company CEOs – reasons for locations choices and future workforce aspirations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of an Investment prospectus for Huntingdonshire</li> <li>- Input into a Local Industrial Strategy</li> <li>- Digital infrastructure and Connected Cambridgeshire roll-out across market towns</li> <li>- Better Business for All pilot initiative matching regulatory services to advice and promotion</li> <li>- Roads and rail infrastructure investment deal with Govt / CA</li> <li>- Business rates retention and utilisation of AW Enterprise Zone NNRD receipts</li> <li>- Role of strategic sites such as Alconbury Weald in delivering floor space and clusters</li> <li>- Sector analysis - what are the indicators of existing success and productivity. Sectors to nurture and attract.</li> <li>- Understanding locational advantages of Huntingdonshire and investment decisions of business leaders to stay/relocate here.</li> <li>- Scope and mechanisms for HDC interventions in infrastructure/redevelopment programmes</li> </ul>	

## Ideas

**Health** – What are the issues facing the young and elderly populations of Huntingdonshire. How can HDC, either with partners or on its own initiative, assist with the health and well-being of residents in the District.

### Evidence

Local Authority Health Profile 2018 published by Public Health England. We have three key indicators where we perform significantly worse than the national average:

- Killed and seriously injured on roads
- Alcohol-specific hospital stays (under 18s)
- Excess weight in adults (aged 18+)

Not significantly worse, but underperforming national average

- Hip fractures in older people (aged 65+)

We have a number of projects already underway or receiving support which are directly contributing to these outcomes (Ramsey Think Healthy / Live Healthy project).

Support for activity through our leisure centres and for community initiatives such as Park Run. With a new run supported to start in St Neots this year. One Leisure Active Lifestyles Team creating opportunities for social engagement, particularly ageing population, through its class programmes, particularly 'Right Start'

**Homelessness** – Investigating the links between homelessness and housing supply.

Finding triggers for homelessness. Discovering options and opportunities to reduce homelessness in Huntingdonshire.

A large amount of work is happening in this space already, as a key corporate priority. Our own net spend on Homelessness is has more than doubled since 2015/16. This is in line with national figures. Housing affordability is an issue locally. With private rentals being very limited within the rates that national benefits pay. Huntingdonshire's average house price increased by **36%** in four years from April 2014 and the average household would now need to borrow **7.1** times its income to purchase the average house based on median values.

**Environment** – What are the environmental (and lifestyle) quality issues facing Huntingdonshire,

### Evidence

2036 Local Plan and associated studies, particularly Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Combined Authority strategies and CPIER report

**Affordable Housing** – Increasing quality of housing developments and increasing supply of Affordable/Social housing – specifically in the villages.

**Wider Economic Environment** – How to best position Huntingdonshire as an attractive place to do business

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