

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE, HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK, BRAMPTON ROAD, HUNTINGDON PE29 6DB** on **THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2021** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## **AGENDA**

### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) meeting held on 8th July 2021.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle**  
**01223 752549**

**2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

**Contact Officer:**

**3. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS** (Pages 9 - 16)

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.

**Contact Officer: H Peacey**  
**388169**

**4. OXCAM ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES** (Pages 17 - 44)

The Panel is invited to comment on the adoption of the OxCam Arc environmental principles.

**Contact Officer: N Sloper**  
**01480 388301**

5. **COMMUNITY TRANSITION STRATEGY 2021/23** (Pages 45 - 70)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Community Transition Strategy.

**Contact Officer: O Morley**  
**01480 388103**

6. **CABINET FEEDBACK: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FLOODING TASK AND FINISH STUDY** (Pages 71 - 74)

To note the outcome of Cabinet's deliberations on the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study.

**Contact Officer: H Peacey**  
**01480 388169**

7. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

To note the appointment of Mrs S Smith as a non-voting co-opted substitute Member to the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle**  
**01223 752549**

8. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 75 - 82)

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme is to be presented to the Panel.

**Contact Officer: B Buddle**  
**01223 752549**

30 day of September 2021



Head of Paid Service

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests**

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

**Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings**

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Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

**Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01223 752549/e-mail [Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.**

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

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

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

### **Emergency Procedure**

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

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## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in the Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives PE27 6WU on Thursday, 8 July 2021

PRESENT: Councillor D M Tysoe – Chairman.

Councillors T D Alban, B S Banks, S J Criswell, Mrs M Kadewere, C Smith and Mrs S R Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Miss R D'Souza, I D Gardener, D A Giles, H V Masson and Mrs S Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors R Fuller, J Neish and Mrs A Dickinson.

### 11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 12 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

### 13 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 July 2021 to 31st October 2021.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the Digital Strategy will follow the completion of the Core Service Strategy.

### 14 HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY

By means of a report by the Housing Needs and Resources Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Review & Strategy was presented to the Panel.

Members were advised that the strategy had previously been approved in February 2020 but that due to the global pandemic, formal consultation with wider partners and stakeholders had been postponed. The 2021 strategy has been updated to reflect changes brought about by the pandemic.

Following a question from Councillor Criswell regarding whether an increase in homelessness applications was expected due to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Panel were reassured that the Council continues to work with other agencies and the County Council as the main provider of domestic abuse support services

to ensure that these are available to all those in need. The Council will continue to help, including offering emergency accommodation where appropriate, to people fleeing a domestic abuse situation.

The Panel heard that a significant number of households are rehoused as both relief and prevention duty cases. Councillors were advised that on occasion contact is lost with homeless individuals, this can be due to the transient nature of their lifestyles or a refusal to engage with services, however Members were reassured that Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting all those in need.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

## **15 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FLOODING TASK AND FINISH STUDY**

By means of a report by the Corporate Director (People) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study was presented to the Panel.

The Chairman welcomed the report and thanked officers for their hard work.

Councillors Alban and Criswell emphasised the importance of residents' personal responsibility to their neighbours and communities and that the whole of the district had been considered during the study.

The Panel noted the complex issues which resulted in the flood issues experienced and that whilst preventative measures can be made for the future, self-management of preparations plays an important role for residents and communities.

It was noted that whilst Huntingdonshire District Council have limited powers in flood management, there had been good co-operation between the agencies involved and a lot of work has been done to co-ordinate resident signposting allowing swift access to help and support.

The Panel welcomed the report and thanked officers for their hard work and diligence.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Cabinet be recommended to endorse the recommendations within the report.

## **16 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.

Following the recent Overview and Scrutiny away day, Members were invited to comment on the proposed work programmes, to be reported back at the next meeting.

## **17 CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

It was agreed to approach Councillor S Smith to continue her role as non-voting co-opted substitute Member to the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

Chairman

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

**Prepared by:** Councillor R Fuller, Executive Leader of the Council  
**Date of Publication:** 15 September 2021  
**For Period:** 1 October 2021 to 31 January 2022

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor Mrs M L Beuttell	Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment	Care of Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon PE29 3TN  Tel: 01480 388388 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Marge.Beuttell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Marge.Beuttell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor S Bywater	Executive Councillor for Community Resilience and Well-Being	9 Crabapple Close Sawtry Huntingdon PE28 5QG  Tel: 07984 637553 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Simon.Bywater@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Simon.Bywater@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>
Councillor R Fuller	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Housing and Economic Development	8 Sarah Grace Court New Road St Ives Huntingdon PE27 5DS  Tel: 01480 388311 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>

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Agenda Item 3

Councillor J A Gray	Executive Councillor for Strategic Finance	<p>Vine Cottage 2 Station Road Catworth Huntingdon PE28 OPE</p> <p>Tel: 01832 710799 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor D Keane	Executive Councillor for Corporate Services	<p>1 Bells Villas Mill Street Houghton Cambridgeshire PE28 2BA</p> <p>Tel: 01480 467147 E-mail: <a href="mailto:David.Keane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">David.Keane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor J Neish	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning	<p>7 Willow Green Needingworth St Ives Cambridgeshire PE27 4SW</p> <p>Tel: 01480 466110 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jon.Neish@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jon.Neish@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>
Councillor K Prentice	Executive Councillor for Leisure and Regulatory Services	<p>2 Ushers Court 89 Great North Road Eaton Socon St Neots PE19 8EL</p> <p>Tel: 01480 214838 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Keith.Prentice@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Keith.Prentice@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>

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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 the [District Council's website](#).

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)**

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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.

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
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2021/22	Grants Panel	13 Oct 2021 10 Nov 2021 8 Dec 2021 5 Jan 2022		Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager Tel No: 01480 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Bywater & J Neish	Customers & 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
OxCam Environmental Principles***	Cabinet	14 Oct 2021		<p>Joanne Lancaster, Managing Director Tel No: 01480 388300 or email: <a href="mailto:Joanne.Lancaster@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Joanne.Lancaster@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Neil Sloper, Assistant Director (Recovery), Tel No: 07500 950862 or email: <a href="mailto:Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>		R Fuller	Customers & Partnerships
Litter Minimisation Strategy***	Cabinet	14 Oct 2021		<p>Matthew Chudley, Operations Manager - Environmental Services Tel No: 01480 388648 or email: <a href="mailto:Matthew.Chudley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Matthew.Chudley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a></p>		Mrs M L Beuttell	Customers & 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
Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document	Cabinet	14 Oct 2021		Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel No: 01480 388435 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Performance & Growth
Housing Strategy Action Plan Update***	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 07874 887465 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Performance & Growth
Tenancy Strategy***	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 07874 887465 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Performance & Growth

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
Community Infrastructure Levy Governance***	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021		Clara Kerr, Service Manager - Growth Tel No: 01480 388430 or email: Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Performance & Growth
Car Park Provision Options***##	Cabinet	18 Nov 2021		Jacqueline Cadogan-Poole Tel No: 07732 404780 or email: Jacqueline.Cadogan-Poole@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	Mrs M L Beuttell	Performance & Growth
Approval of Council Tax Base 2022/23	Chairman of Corporate Governance and Section 151 Officer	7 Dec 2021		Amanda Burns, Revenues and Benefits Manager Tel No: 01480 388122 or email: Amanda.Burns@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Gray	Performance & Growth

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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
Grafham & Ellington Neighbourhood Planning Referendum	Cabinet	9 Dec 2021		Natalie Elworthy Tel No: 01480 388434 or email: Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Performance & Growth
Gambling Act – Statement of Principles: Consultation Outcome	Cabinet	9 Dec 2021		Myles Bebbington, Licensing Manager Tel No: 01480 388010 or email: Myles.Bebbington@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		K Prentice	N/A



Key Decision - Yes

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Environment Principles

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny  
Customer and Partnerships – 7 October 2021

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr R Fuller  
Executive Leader,  
Chairman of the Cabinet  
Executive Councillor for Housing and Economic  
Growth

**Report by:** Joanne Lancaster, Managing Director  
Neil Sloper, Assistant Director (Recovery)  
Clara Kerr, Strategic Growth Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the adoption of the Environmental Principles for Huntingdonshire District Council and the recommendations from the Cabinet report attached at Appendix A.

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**Key Decision - Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

<b>Title/Subject Matter:</b>	Environment Principles
<b>Meeting/Date:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Customer and Partnerships – 7 October 2021 Cabinet – 14 October 2021
<b>Executive Portfolio:</b>	Councillor R Fuller Executive Leader, Chairman of the Cabinet Executive Councillor for Housing and Economic Growth
<b>Report by:</b>	Joanne Lancaster, Managing Director Neil Sloper, Assistant Director (Recovery) Clara Kerr, Strategic Growth Manager
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report sets out a proposal for the Council's environmental principles and key considerations to support the renewal of Huntingdonshire's Strategy for Environment. These principles will also inform the delivery of the Corporate Plan and shape our ambitions for the District .

The aspiration is of a net zero carbon Huntingdonshire by 2040 to be delivered through sustainable place making. This will be achieved through strong economic growth with strong environmental principles, good design of our homes and infrastructure, with health and biodiversity net gain at the core of our agenda to ensure our residents thrive now, and in the future.

The principles are those developed as part of the Oxfordshire Cambridgeshire (OxCam) Arc reflecting that Huntingdonshire is well positioned with partner organisations to maximise the benefits of an environmentally positive recovery. This also links closely to the Council's Economic Growth Strategy – Ready for Recovery.

The environmental principles proposed for the District Council and its activities:

- To target net zero carbon at a district level by 2040

- To protect, enhance and restore, existing nature areas (green space) and create new ones (where it is viable to do so).
- To pursue the ambitions of 'A green Future: Our 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment' and that new development should be designed with a view to minimising and mitigating the effects of Climate Change.
- Ensuring existing and new communities see real benefits in their well-being from living in Huntingdonshire.
- Using natural resources wisely.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED to agree:**

- A) the adoption of the aspiration of a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire by 2040.
- B) the adoption of the OxCam Arc environmental principles
- C) that the environmental principles form the basis upon which to renew Huntingdonshire's Strategy for the Environment, centred on achieving an environmentally positive recovery.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To adopt a set of environmental principles for Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and its activities that align with those developed as part of the Oxfordshire – Cambridgeshire Arc (OxCam Arc).
- 1.2 The adoption of these principles will support the renewal of Huntingdonshire's Strategy for the Environment, shaping our ambitions for the District and informing the delivery of the Corporate Plan centred on achieving an environmentally positive recovery.
- 1.3 To present the aspiration of a Net Zero Carbon Huntingdonshire by 2050 delivered through sustainable place making.

## 2. CONTEXT

### 2.1 Government Policy

The UK Government amended the **Climate Change Act 2018** in 2019 by introducing a target of at least a 100% reduction in the net UK carbon account (i.e., reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. This is otherwise known as the 'Net Zero' target.

The **Government's 25 year Plan to Improve the Environment – A Green Future** published in 2018 sets out long term targets and approach to protecting and enhancing natural landscapes and habitats in England for the generation – its goals are:

- cleaner air and water
- plants and animals which are thriving
- a cleaner, greener country for us all.

The forthcoming **Environment Bill 2019-21 and 2021-22** has completed the Committee Stage, Report Stage and Third Reading in the House of Commons. The bill has now proceeded to the House of Lords and in June 2021 it was confirmed that requirements would be set for biodiversity net gain for new nationally significant infrastructure projects in England. There is no clear timescale for a bill at this stage as it is subject to mutual agreement of the House of Lords and Parliament before it can achieve Royal ascent and become law, originally it was anticipated that this would be Autumn 2021.

The main purposes of the bill are:

- Transform our environmental governance once we leave the EU by putting environmental principles into law; introducing legally binding targets; and establishing a new Office for Environmental Protection.
- Increase local powers to tackle sources of air pollution.
- Protect nature and improve biodiversity by working with developers.

- Extend producer responsibility, ensure a consistent approach to recycling, introduce deposit return schemes, and introduce charges for specified single use plastic items.
- Secure long-term, resilient water and wastewater services, including through powers to direct water companies to work together to meet current and future demand.

## 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF - 2021)

This included a number of amendments and updates relating to climate change mitigation for new development including reference to UK signing up to “17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.”

## 2.3 Oxfordshire - Cambridgeshire Arc

The OxCam Arc is a globally significant area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It is formed of 5 counties: Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.

Huntingdonshire District Council is a key partner in the Arc because it supports the ambition of building a better economic, social and environmental future for the area with high-quality, well-connected and sustainable communities.

In developing ambitions for the Arc HDC was involved in a working group of all partners to devise a set of Arc environmental principles. All partner agencies have been asked to adopt the principles while recognising the primacy of Council’s Development Plans:

- Targeting net zero carbon at a district level by 2040
- Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets
- Be an exemplar for environmentally sustainable development, in line with the ambitions set out in the government’s 25-year plan. We will aim to go beyond the minimum legislated requirements for development.
- Ensure that existing and new communities see real benefit from living in the Arc.
- Using natural resources wisely.

## 2.4 Huntingdonshire’s Local Plan

In May 2019 the **Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036** (HLP2036) was adopted setting out 8 key policies which better shape our future environment for the benefit of nature and the reduction of carbon emissions.

Climate change is recognised as a key issue for due to changing household size and the challenge of obtaining affordable properties. The development strategy aims to meet the NPPF's challenge to respond to expected climate change by concentrating most of the new development

in locations where people can choose to walk or cycle to local services, can create sufficient demand to make public transport services viable and are away from areas of greatest flood risk to protect against the increased frequency, extent and impact of flooding associated with climate change.

**Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Supplementary Planning Document (2017)** adopted across all Cambridgeshire Authorities details guidance for applicants on managing flood risk and the water environment in and around new developments within Cambridgeshire ensuring development appropriately located, well designed, managed and take account of the impacts of climate change.

The **Huntingdonshire Design Guide (2017)** Supplementary Planning Document addresses the need for good design and recognises landscaping is part of the solution to challenges from climate change to declining health and well-being.

## 2.5 Huntingdonshire District Council Activities

**Pride of Place** was established as a guiding principle for Huntingdonshire in 2018, with continuous development of good quality services, improving them to be more sustainable with good financial management.

HDC is guardian of 1,534 hectares of green space, 42.8 hectares of woodlands and a managed tree canopy of 400 hectares the Council protects and manages the natural environment every day. Over £2.5m of investment has been assigned to our open spaces over the next few years.

Considerable work has been undertaken in all services to deliver the activity and projects that enhance our environment and respond to the challenges presented by climate change (Appendix 1 – Executive Member Statement – Environment, Appendix 2 - Nature and Biodiversity in Huntingdonshire).

## 2.6 Key Governance Risk

HDC has consistently identified and responded to Environmental Sustainability as an Annual Governance Risk termed **Environmental Pressures and Sustainability Challenges** – *specifically based on the long-term sustainability and attraction of our area*. This is detailed in Appendix 3 – Annual Governance Statement Environmental Risk. This corporate risk has informed the work of the Council's services to ensure a sustainable and affordable approach to climate change was in place.

# 3. REPORT

## 3.1 Strategy for the Environment

The Council has long recognised the key environmental issues impacting the district, with a commitment to Pride of Place. The focus has been of

actions to address the impact of our changing climate such as reducing our own carbon emissions by over 1,000 tones between 2018 and 2022 or planting over five and a half Wembley stadiums of pictorial meadows to increase biodiversity. These are set out in Appendix 1 – Executive Member Statement – Environment, and Appendix 2 - Nature and Biodiversity in Huntingdonshire.

The Council has a duty to ensure we promote an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire following the impacts of COVID 19 and to limit the negative impacts of climate change. We also have a duty to deliver sustainable place making. This will be achieved through strong economic growth with strong environmental principles, good design of our homes and infrastructure, health and biodiversity net gain at the core to ensure our residents thrive now, and in the future.

Clear environmental principles now will support the Council to renew its Strategy for the Environment and its role in an environmentally positive recovery for Huntingdonshire as we move beyond the crisis presented to our communities through Covid-19.

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

### 3.2 Environmental Principles

It is proposed that HDC adopt a core set of environmental principles as the foundation of this approach and that this is tied to those of our key partners, engaged in the delivery of the same outcomes. HDC has been a key partner in the development of the environmental principles for the OxCam Arc, it is therefore proposed that these are also adopted by the Council.

- Targeting net zero carbon at a district level by 2040
- Protect, restore, enhance and create new nature areas and natural capital assets
- Be an exemplar for environmentally sustainable development, in line with the ambitions set out in the government's 25-year plan. We will aim to go beyond the minimum legislated requirements for development.
- Ensure that existing and new communities see real benefit from living in the Arc.
- Using natural resources wisely.

The aspiration is of a net zero carbon Huntingdonshire by 2040 to be delivered through sustainable place making. This will be achieved through strong economic growth with strong environmental principles, good design of our homes and infrastructure, health and biodiversity net gain at the core of our agenda to ensure our residents thrive now, and in the future.



#### **4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS**

- 4.1 The annual governance risk is highlighted in Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Agreed environmental principles will facilitate and focus the renewal of an environmental strategy. These principles will balance strong economic growth with strong environmental principles, good design of our homes and infrastructure, health and biodiversity net gain at the core of our agenda to ensure our residents thrive now, and in the future.
- 4.3 In adopting the principles co-created with the OxCam Arc, the Council will ensure maximum benefit from alignment with this globally recognised area of economic opportunity central to the UK's future economic growth and prosperity in an environmentally sustainable and enhancing way for Huntingdonshire.

#### **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN**

- 5.1 Subject to the adoption of the environmental principles, a proposal to progress a refresh of the Council's strategy for environment will be progressed.
- 5.2 This refresh will include:
- Establishing a new baseline of the Council's own impact on the environment through its activities including a gap analysis of where these are actively monitored.
  - Clear identification of the issues impacting Huntingdonshire and actions our communities and businesses can take to achieve our aspiration of carbon zero by 2040.
  - Independent and expert advice able to advise robust methodology for calculating impacts and options for monitoring these so that the Council can embed this within its activities.
  - Inclusive engagement with businesses and our communities is essential, time will be taken to listen and prioritise the environmental issues of those living, working and visiting Huntingdonshire along with the changes they might most like to see. This will ensure the strategy and resulting action plan options are well informed, as well as well researched.
- 5.3 It is anticipated that a draft strategy will be produced within 12 months to allow the elements above to be completed with sufficient rigor.
- 5.4 After the adoption of the strategy, an action plan will follow to support the aspiration of net zero carbon Huntingdonshire by 2040. This will seek to demonstrate our own actions leading by example and encourage our businesses and communities to make positive choices for the environment that have been identified as those that will benefit Huntingdonshire the most.

## **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

6.1 The corporate plan sets out a vision that:

### **We want to support a safe and healthy environment for the people of Huntingdonshire**

- **For people** – to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, improve health and well-being
- **For place** – to make Huntingdonshire a better place to work and invest

The Council has strategic priorities to:

- create, protect and enhance our safe clean built and green environment
- to support infrastructure to enable growth and investment

The Council's stated ambition is to adapt to the challenges we are facing and involve our residents and local businesses.

## **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 To kick start positive recovery, it is proposed that resources be diverted this year to initiate the renewal of the environment strategy, to pull the work together for maximum benefit. A strategy for the environment which re-baselines carbon impact and biodiversity will enable even more positive actions to minimise the environmental impact of our own operations, maximise our positive impact on the environment and influence our partners, businesses and communities to do more.

7.2 The development and co-ordination of an Environment Strategy to implementation and initial delivery of outcomes across the Council is anticipated to take 24 months. To accelerate this, subject to the adoption of the proposed environmental principles, it is proposed that resources and work is brought forward into this year, highlighting the importance of an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire.

7.3 The funding will support a dedicated officer with additional budget for any additional specialist research if required. This will deliver a refreshed and co-ordinated environment strategy, targeted and evidenced based, outcomes agreed with a monitoring system for carbon reduction and enhancements to nature.

## **8. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The Council's Healthy Open Spaces Strategy and 10 year action plan established in 2020 identified:

- 90% of our community believe parks, play areas and open spaces improve their mental health and well-being
- 78% actively visit them for this purpose
- 64% of our community say parks and open spaces are essential to their quality of life.

The environmental principles will continue to support this commitment to encourage a healthy and active community.

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

- 9.1 It is proposed that the District Council formally adopt a simple and clear set of principles to establish a clear Climate Change Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for Huntingdonshire. An environment strategy with aspiration of a carbon neutral Huntingdonshire by 2040 will support an even more focused approach in response to the challenges Huntingdonshire faces and the aspirations of our communities and businesses in respect of climate change.
- 9.2 Adopting principles that align the Council with Arc will be beneficial in terms of supporting a green recovery and enhancing and protecting nature whilst reducing the carbon emissions of the district.
- 9.3 The Environment Strategy will accelerate progress in the green recovery engaging with our communities across the themes proposed capitalising on the opportunities presented within the forthcoming Environment Bill.

## **10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Nature and Bio Diversity in Huntingdonshire – Summary 2021
- 10.2 Appendix 2 - Portfolio Environment Statement – 2021
- 10.3 Appendix 3 – Annual governance Risk - Environment

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Huntingdonshire District Council - Healthy Open Spaces Strategy

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s111005/Appendix%202020-%20HDC%20Healthy%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%20and%2010%20Year%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

CPCA Independent Climate Commission Report 2021

[https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT\\_Final.pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6985942/CLIMATE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT_Final.pdf)

Oxfordshire-Cambridgeshire Arc Spatial Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-spatial-framework/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-an-introduction-to-the-spatial-framework>

Environment Bill 2020-21 and 2021-22

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

25 year Environment Plan for England  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019  
[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/pdfs/ukdsi\\_9780111187654\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111187654_en.pdf)

## **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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# How Nature and Biodiversity Is Supported in Huntingdonshire



## *The Importance of Protecting Nature*

Protecting and preserving nature and biodiversity has become a more salient issue in the minds of people all across the country, with 45% stating that green spaces have played a vital, positive impact in protecting their mental health and wellbeing during the Covid19 pandemic (Mental Health Foundation, 2021).

After a year of being at home, individuals have become more aware of the importance of access to local green and blue spaces. Studies have also suggested that this new awareness will lead to increased public support of future policy surrounding and aiming at more resilient and sustainable living environments (Rousseau, 2020).

Having access to good quality green space has been vital to our residents in this past year, with one Huntingdon resident reaching out to us to say:

*“Lockdown actually showed me how essential green spaces are for my mental health... I discovered that even a couple of days of not getting outdoors and near some grass, trees and plants led to a massive decline in my mood. Just one walk in nature helped me not just survive, but even thrive...”*

It is clear that accessibility to nature and open spaces is crucial in supporting the wellbeing of our residents, which is why Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has been actively taking steps to protect the nature and biodiversity we have in our District and continue to form actions and plans to build on this work.

## *An Overview of the District*

- 1,534 hectares of Green Space
- 87m<sup>2</sup> of Green Space per Resident, more than double the national average
- 14,872m<sup>2</sup> (equivalent to the size of two football pitches) of meadow seed planted in 2021 to support Wildlife across our network of parks and open spaces
- Large network of watercourses maintained to support local habitats
- HDC own and manage approximately 42.8 Ha of woodlands which is comprised of “Woodland”, “Pocket Woodland” and “Shelterbelts”
- HDC currently manages over 9000 individual trees, tree groups, shelterbelts, and woodland within the District - it has been estimated that the tree canopy managed by HDC covers 400Ha of the district (equivalent to five and a half Wembley Stadiums)

## *Corporate Plan*

Huntingdonshire has a strong record of protecting and maintaining a broad spectrum of open spaces, waterways, and countryside, all of which contributes to the quality of the natural environment across the district. HDC have committed to the principles and the aspirations of Doubling Nature across the district in its Corporate Plan, to protect the natural environment and in turn create a space where our residents wellbeing thrives.

Our Corporate Plan commits to protecting nature and the biodiversity in several ways...

*People: Supporting people to improve their health and well-being*

- Provide great, accessible green spaces, countryside leisure and cultural facilities and opportunities for recreation and health
- Ensuring new developments have sufficient public green open spaces
- Prioritising accessible, high quality, well maintained open space
- Facilitating and providing opportunities for positive activities that support residents' health and wellbeing needs
- Adopt a plan and deliver increases in nature, protecting and increasing biodiversity within our parks and open spaces

## *What have we already achieved?*

### *Awards*

- HDC currently holds three prestigious Green Flag Awards at Priory Park (St Neots), Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (HCP) and Paxton Pits Nature Reserve. This award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.
- 2020 Bees Needs Winner for Priory Park and HCP, recognising these parks as a haven for Bees and other pollinators due to success of our pictorial meadow planting
- 2021 Keep Britain Tidy **Love Parks** Network Award Winner recognising the actions HDC had taken to protect our parks and opens spaces during the Covid19 pandemic, including increasing litter bin capacity and improving accessibility

### *Healthy Open Spaces Strategy*

- Adopted in October 2020 our Healthy Open Spaces Strategy lays out the importance of good quality parks and open spaces and how to maximise the health benefits of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces
- 58% of residents spoken to during the stakeholder consultation period, stated that wildlife and nature was the most important aspect of parks and open spaces, cementing that wildlife and nature is at the forefront of our residents minds and we need to work to protect that
- Approximately 100m<sup>2</sup> of wildflower seed given out to residents to help create biodiverse spaces at home
- 10-year action plan includes community led approach to help educate residents on the importance nature has on wellbeing and build communities around this

### *Trees*

- Tree Strategy adopted in 2020 which contains updated policies relating to all aspects of Local Authority tree management, and incorporates national issues such as biosecurity, canopy cover management, and subsidence
- The Tree Strategy leads on the premise that trees and woodland areas play an important part in protecting the natural environment, by cleaning the air we breathe, providing habitats for plants and animal species and creating an attractive environment for people to live in
- Ensures a minimum of 2:1 ratio for tree replacement
- During winter 2020/21 HDC planted around 1500 new trees at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and Priory Park, St Neots to both enhance the tree canopy and support nature
- Implementation of a robust Tree Management Programme: to include the adoption of a computerised tree inspection and management system to programme tree surveys and public tree works both proactively and reactively.
- As of January 2020, HDC currently administer 858 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); this equates to approximately 10,000 individual trees and 3000Ha of protected woodland, groups, and areas of trees

- Work in partnership with Development Management and the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to ensure that new developments protect existing trees and natural features whilst also providing new opportunities for tree planting

### *Development Management*

- Adopted May 2019, Huntingdonshire's Local Plan identifies several Green Infrastructure Priority Areas, the policy also sets out HDC's approach to protecting and enhancing Huntingdonshire's green infrastructure for the benefit of biodiversity and residents for recreation and leisure
- Green infrastructure serves to balance built development - it facilitates opportunities for people to access open space and provides habitats for wildlife. Improving the ecological, visual, heritage and recreational value of the countryside brings environmental, social and health benefits
- Proposals for facilities associated with strategic green infrastructure that, by their nature, need to be in the countryside will be supported subject to their compatibility with the green infrastructure where adverse effects are avoided

Implementation and Monitoring	
Responsible agencies	Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, town and parish councils, environmental protection agencies, landowners, developers
Delivery mechanism	Through the determination of planning applications, SPDs, Neighbourhood Plans
Timescale	Throughout the plan period
Monitoring indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Losses to biodiversity habitat</li> <li>• Additions to biodiversity habitat</li> <li>• Total change in biodiversity habitat</li> </ul>

### *Championing Biodiversity*

- Beehive area in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park expanded and made wheelchair friendly, with new interpretation which helps educate park users on the importance of protecting bees
- Hosting community litter picks and having equipment available in parks for ad-hoc litter picks to help preserve the quality of our green spaces, keep them, and increase community involvement with nature and the outdoors
- Venue for three Forest Schools at Priory Park, Hill Rise Park, and HCP, including Fireflies who meet at least once a week
- The new Berman Park in St Ives, a key action in the Corporate Plan achieved in 2021, provides a home for nature and biodiversity, including areas of wildflower, trees and seasonal wetland, this area connects to existing Countryside managed woodland known as the Thicket and will create a Green Corridor for local wildlife



- Annual wildlife reports for Holt Island and Paxton Pits, recently showing increased sightings of otters at Paxton Pits indicating that the habitat is favorable and being managed well
- Increasing popularity of sponsored nest box at Holt Island, managed by Friends group to increase funding and awareness
- Monitoring of wildlife through use of cameras – Holt Island badger and fox footage
- The Dragonfly Society named Paxton Pits a Dragonfly Hotspot after 26 species of Dragonfly and Damselfly, nearly half of all species known in the UK, were recorded in Dragonfly Week 2020

## *Live Projects*

- Priory Park, St Neots – grant application to clear pond -we will have different levels within the pond to attract different pond species (plants and wildlife). To enhance the habitat within the park by encouraging wildlife and benefiting the knowledge of local children.
- Parklets Project – providing themed green spaces in town centres, encouraging wildlife, and including local native planting. The community engagement process has highlighted how important nature is to the public with comments such as, adding in mini herb community planters around the parklets, a nature/wildlife themed design and a popular comment of how planting was the most liked feature of the parklet. By carrying out the pilot, we will be able to see whether incorporating nature into the project's design will be a success or not.
- Launch of GoJauntly, an app with the aim of getting users actively involved in nature, including a 'Nature Notes' feature which encourages users to engage with and appreciate their surroundings
- Rolling programme to try and eradicate invasive species such as Turkey Oak and Sycamore regrowth while leaving as much standing deadwood as possible for the benefit of wildlife where it is safe to do so
- Paxton Pits Nature Reserve have an area set aside for bark chippings from HDC Arboriculture Team, this is used for paths, new tree, and hedgerow planting - it is also signposted on site to allow people to help themselves in return for a donation to our Friends group
- St Neots Riverside dredging, a partnership with the Environment Agency and St Neots Angling Society, working to support and protect fish stock and habitats
- Fish pass at Godmanchester - part of an ecological project to improve fish and eel migration along the Great Ouse

- Improving habitat at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve for nightingales after a few years of (national) decline

## In the Future

Priory Park Pond Dipping Platform	We hope to build a pond dipping platform that will encourage a wealth of wildlife and insects on the site, while also creating a community asset where residents can learn about the benefits of nature
Priory Park Bee Poles	Building off the success of Priory Parks Bees Needs Award we hope to install Bee Posts to provide a hope for solitary bees and other pollinators
Memory Trees in all parks	An initiative to provide a forum to share memories and experiences
Learn from Museum After Dark Event	Identify appropriate events and activities in appropriate sites that enable people to safely experience parks after dark
Work in Partnership with Woodland Trust	Work in partnership with the Woodland Trust and support the aspirations of the District Council's Tree Strategy through an annual big tree plant event
Parks Passport	Encourage people to visit more of our parks and open spaces. Create a passport app, where families can collect a virtual stamp for each site they visit, creating a relationship between families and nature
Adopt an open space	Establish a scheme for local groups, organisations and businesses to adopt a space. Adopters can support the space through financial or in kind contributions such as volunteering, promotion, education programmes or supporting projects within the site.

Protect and maintain trees across our network of parks and open spaces	Use the HDC Tree Strategy to shape the approach across in parks and open space
Over £2million investment in Nature	An excess of £2m already assigned for more improvements to our parks and open spaces in the next 2 years
Bringing nature back to verges	Pilot of a new management method for roadside verges that promote biodiversity and nature with the aim to roll out wider based on the learning in 2022/23

### References

Mental Health Foundation, Rowland, M., 2021. *Why Nature is the theme for Mental Health Awareness Week 2021*. [online] Mental Health Foundation. Available at: <<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week/why-nature>> [Accessed 12 May 2021].

Rousseau, S., Deschacht, N. Public Awareness of Nature and the Environment During the COVID-19 Crisis. *Environ Resource Econ* 76, 1149–1159 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10640-020-00445-w>

Huntingdonshire District Council Tree Strategy:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/5069/huntingdonshire-tree-strategy-2020-2030.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council Healthy Open Spaces Strategy:

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s111005/Appendix%20%20-%20HDC%20Healthy%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%20and%2010%20Year%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council Corporate Plan:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/1390/corporate-plan.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3872/190516-final-adopted-local-plan-to-2036.pdf>

## **Executive Portfolio Statement:** **Huntingdonshire - Our Sustainable Environment**

In my portfolio of Operations and Environment I would like to set out this Council's and my own commitment to an environmentally and financially sustainable Huntingdonshire.

We **Love Huntingdonshire**. This Council has a longstanding record and commitment to the environment, enabling Huntingdonshire to be a good place to live and work, with a good start in life and a place to enjoy good health. We have shown this through action.

**Pride of Place** was established within our 2018 manifesto with continuous development of good quality services, improving them to be more sustainable with good financial management. Our aim is not just to be successful, but to be both environmentally and financially sustainable.

**Nature and Biodiversity.** Huntingdonshire District Council is the guardian of 1,534 hectares of green space, owning and managing 42.8 hectares of woodlands with a managed tree canopy of 400 hectares including over 9000 individual trees.

Let me set out what we have achieved so far in our Built and Natural Environment as well as our own operations, our immediate plans already agreed and those I have asked to be developed. I call on the Council to support Love Huntingdonshire and our commitment to doubling nature.

### **What have we already delivered?**

#### **Our Own Activities**

We have adapted our own activities as a Council so that we can continue to provide our services in an efficient manner while still being sustainable financially and environmentally.

Since 2018 CO<sub>2</sub> savings have increased to over 600 tons per annum through innovative investment in our buildings, with a further 440 tonnes per annum projected to be saved by March 2022 thanks to our planned decarbonisation project.

This project sees HDC securing £3.8M Salix funding to reduce our carbon emissions at Pathfinder House and One Leisure Ramsey.

We have introduced our first electric van and implemented fleet reduction plans as well as new monitoring equipment to reduce energy use at our buildings, while working to establish a carbon baseline management plan and looking to identify how we can move the last 20% of our energy to renewable sources.

The introduction of Council Anywhere has enabled the council to actively encourage members of staff to work flexibly, resulting in considerably reduced business travel, with the added benefits of improved efficiency and staff wellbeing.

We are piloting a community business pledge and award scheme to help recognise and celebrate the environmental focus of our businesses.

We are working with Highways England to keep our main roads clean and green and enhancing our Council wide approach to Enforcement with a strategy and shared delivery plan, across all Council services, including how we can better use enforcement to tackle environmental crime.

Our waste services are in the top quartile in the Country, with recycling contamination below 7% - which is achieved through education, communication and direct intervention with residents when required

We have funded projects to help prevent litter and increase recycling, including working alongside our Town Councils by implementing high street recycling litter bins.

## Our Natural Environment

We are all so fortunate to live in Huntingdonshire and be in such close proximity to beautiful parks, open and green spaces.

The last year has raised awareness for all about the importance of protecting these open spaces, with **95% of our residents having visited a park or open space**, and **64% say they are essential to their quality of life**. Supporting them to preserve and increase nature for our residents to enjoy is crucial.

Which is why we supported and adopted a Healthy Open Spaces Strategy that aims to get more people in our parks and open spaces, to help improve their physical and mental wellbeing, as well as creating communities within our valuable parks.

With great feedback from our residents, we have successfully planted more **pictorial meadows, the equivalent footprint of 5 and a half Wembley stadiums**, to help double nature and increase biodiversity in our open spaces. The pictorial meadows are not only a huge benefit for the wildlife, but officers have been inundated with gratitude and photos of the flowers from residents across the district.

Berman Park has been a successful addition to St Ives, a brand new natural park for residents to enjoy and for wildlife and biodiversity to thrive.

We are working towards project delivery of £2.5million investment in our open spaces and country parks over the next 3 years, including Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and Paxton Pits Nature Reserve.

Three of our parks and open spaces have been awarded a Green Flag and Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and Priory Park host a further award for protecting bee habitats.

Our Tree Strategy, adopted in 2020, will increase the tree canopy in Huntingdon planting over 3000 more trees and protecting those that we have. We have started

already with initiatives such as the recent planting of 100 saplings with the Young Farmers and the Woodland Trust planted near Hartford.

### Our Built Environment

We are also working hard to help shape our built environment for good, through planning policy, guidance, and interventions.

We want to at least double the provision for electrical charging points in our market towns and install secure cycle hubs to encourage more cycling between our car parks, parks and open spaces and leisure facilities to develop better infrastructure to encourage cycling.

Adopted May 2019, Huntingdonshire's Local Plan identifies several Green Infrastructure Priority Areas, the policy also sets out HDC's approach to protecting and enhancing Huntingdonshire's green infrastructure for the benefit of biodiversity and residents for recreation and leisure

Green infrastructure serves to balance built development - it facilitates opportunities for people to access open space and provides habitats for wildlife. Improving the ecological, visual, heritage and recreational value of the countryside while bringing environmental, social and health benefits.

Proposals for facilities associated with strategic green infrastructure that, by their nature, need to be in the countryside, will be supported subject to their compatibility with the green infrastructure where adverse effects are avoided

The new **Local Plan to 2036** includes **8 key policies** to shape Huntingdonshire's environment:

- LP2 – Strategy for Development - **minimises travel to access employment and leisure** opportunities, **promotes cycling and walking**
- LP3 - **protect and enhance green infrastructure for biodiversity** with increased green space trees to store carbon and reduce flooding impact
- LP5 – Flood risk – **minimise contribution to further flooding**, protect our vital floodplains
- LP12 – **Design for energy efficiency** to reduce energy demands, challenging but achievable zero carbon target.
- LP16 – sustainable travel, **increased opportunities for walking and cycling**
- LP30 – **Biodiversity, priority habitats**



- LP35 – **Renewable and low carbon energy**, supporting energy generation reducing fossil fuel use
- LP36 – **Air quality**, attention to impact of new developments including promotion of clean air zones

### **Future Plans**

To establish a clear Climate Strategy in 2022 with a Climate Action Plan adopted and underway by 2023, drawing all our activity together to measure and monitor our impact on CO2 and nature to ensure we continue to deliver positive change.

To identify what we can do more of through:

- better use our statutory powers to shape our built environment
- better use our enforcement powers to shape our built and natural environment
- implementing our Healthy Open Spaces Strategy
- managing our valued green open spaces and parks to positively impact nature and wildlife

### **Summary**

We have set out and followed an **environmentally sensitive manifesto that is financially sustainable**. The challenge facing all of us is significant and the pace of change is faster. We are committed to doing more.

Our single Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will be established in 2022 and then reviewed on an annual basis to ensure continued progress.

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### Appendix 3 – Annual Governance Risk - Environment

This risk is defined within the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as:

*The human impact on our environment and our health through litter and waste minimisation, environmental pollution (land, water and air) and energy consumption.*

The scope:

*Transport choices and congestion, use of sustainable materials, achieving high levels of recycling of high quality, development standards for new residential areas.*

Desirable outcomes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Use of solar and renewable energy to reduce CO2 emissions</i></li><li>• <i>Supporting the expanding use of electric vehicles and alternative transport choices</i></li><li>• <i>Maximise recycling and reducing contamination of that which is recycled</i></li><li>• <i>Implementing a single use plastics policy across HDC services</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Maximising impact of green space by investing and expanding green spaces and their bio-diversity</i></li><li>• <i>To influence Parish and Town Councils to develop sustainable neighbourhood plans</i></li><li>• <i>Ensuring new developments are environmentally sustainable</i></li><li>• <i>To understand community ambition for sustainability</i></li></ul>
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**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title:** **Community Transition Strategy 2021-23**

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny (Customers and Partnerships) – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Executive Portfolio:**

**Report by:** Corporate Director (People) - Oliver Morley

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider and comment on the Community Transition Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2021-23, as detailed in the report to Cabinet attached.



**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** **Community Transition Strategy 2021-23**

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny (Customers and Partnerships) – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Cabinet – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Community Resilience and Well-Being, Councillor Simon Bywater

**Report by:** Corporate Director (People) - Oliver Morley

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

This report presents the proposed Community Strategy for Huntingdonshire; and how Huntingdonshire District Council will work with residents and community groups to support the best possible outcomes for Huntingdonshire, its residents and businesses. Huntingdonshire DC has a strong record of having supported and worked in partnership with our residents and the community organisations that support them over an extended period. This report lays out the ways in which we seek to expand and build on these strong foundations.

Much of this approach builds on the evidence based, innovative and genuinely co-produced activity that has taken place during the period of Covid impact. It lays out how HDC will seek to deliver on its ambitions for the best possible outcomes for residents in partnership with our residents and community groups, who share these objectives.

This Strategy has been written following strong input from Community groups, ongoing shared working arrangements and a series of workshops which took the learning from Covid and how the District had responded. It is hoped and believed, that it represents a shared vision and way of working for the future.

This Strategy is presented as a Transition Strategy, recognising that the Place Strategy for Huntingdonshire will represent the largest community engagement activity in a generation, and this engagement should rightly influence and shape the Community strategy. We therefore wanted to lay down a clear commitment to objectives and ways of working in the immediate term but provide an opportunity to review and update this on the back of the Place Strategy consultation.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet is

**RECOMMENDED**

To endorse the proposed Community Transition Strategy and the list of actions that sit within the supporting Action Plan.



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

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement of the proposed Community Transition Strategy and the list of actions that sit within the supporting Action Plan

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

- 2.1 Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has a strong ambition for Huntingdonshire, its residents, and communities. Evidence is compelling that people who live in strong communities, tend to be happier, and achieve better outcomes. Similarly public services are able to have the greatest impact where residents and communities are able to take advantage of opportunities, building self-reliance and aspiration. The foundations of good work, residents enjoying good health, where people enjoy a good start and people live within a good place, benefit everyone.
- 2.2 These outcomes however are beyond the remit or reach of any one organisation. Rather it requires a process for joint working that seeks to help people help themselves, that offers a helping hand where required, and that interlinks support in a way that removes duplication and presents resources to residents in a way that makes sense to them.
- 2.3 Within this context it is essential that the area has a Community Strategy which seeks to lay out the ambitions for the area and the process by which engagement will take place with residents and those seeking to meet community needs. That is the intent of this strategy.

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

- 3.1 Many District areas do not have a Community Strategy in the form this is presented. There is no statutory duty to do so. However, following the significant review of evidence and insight, testing of impacts and trialing of Community interventions a key opportunity for such a document has been identified. This work has also led to the conclusion that attempting to “do” community to others both does not meet the ways of working to which we aspire or enable the production of the kind of flexible and responsive services that our communities need.
- 3.2 Another option exists of leaving the Community to deliver to their own needs. However that would leave the Community to push ahead without the support of one of its key allies and advocates. There is a lot the District Council can do, and a lot we have learned from our Community colleagues. We believe that through the alignment of our efforts, the District Council has a key role in coordinating and convening, supporting community groups, and developing new ways of working with them to achieve more together than we can apart.

## **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny (Customers and Partnerships) Panel is due to receive this report at its meeting on 7 October 2021. Comments from the Panel will be submitted to Cabinet following this report.

## **5. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS**

5.1 The key impact of this Strategy is to ensure all partners involved in supporting Communities within Huntingdonshire will be clear on how we intend to work and the outcomes we are seeking. The strategy lays out how we intend to work around four themes, our approach will be:

- Evidence based and responsive
- Engaging and capacity building
- Proactive
- Creative

5.2 The key risks to which the Strategy responds largely lie around longer term Covid impacts (captured in the areas Covid Impact Assessment), and Covid Recovery dashboards dealt with in the Recovery work plan.

## **6. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

6.1 The supporting Action Plan lists the 14 actions that we will be pursuing in order to deliver against the Community Strategy over the next 2 years.

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

7.1 This report delivers against significant aspects of the Corporate Plan and the People element (Good Start/Good Health): We want to make our district a better place to live, to improve health and well-being and support people to be the best they can be:

- People – Support people to improve their health and well-being
- People – Develop a flexible and skilled local workforce
- People – Develop stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 Throughout the Covid outbreak we have worked cross organisationally as a core way of operating, meeting on a fortnightly basis as equals with relevant Community partners. We have also undertaken regular project work and joint working in relation to emergency food need, and the development of process and technology solutions to cross agency working. It is this co-production space, working as equals to develop shared solutions which is critical to delivering the objectives laid out in this report.

8.2 In addition to this we ran a series of 3 joint workshops with the County Council, and Community partners to take the learning from Covid and to reflect on what had worked well, and what we needed in the future. All of this is captured in the document.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Not applicable to this report.

## **10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Resources are in place to deliver this activity within currently committed resources. Where gaps exist projects will be developed on a case by case basis.

## **11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This approach is not anticipated to have any negative impacts on the equalities agenda.

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

12.1 The Community Transition Strategy provides a clear direction for what we are doing (and proposing to do), why we are doing it and what impact it is having in terms of Community outcomes. It is believed to be an appropriate response to the challenges we are currently facing, and the challenges we are forecast to see in the future.

## **13. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Community Transition Strategy 2021-23

## **14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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WeareHuntingdonshire

**The Huntingdonshire Community Strategy – Transition Plan 2021 to 2023**

**Huntingdonshire District Councils approach to work with its community, community organisations and other local partners to deliver positive outcomes for our residents.**



## Foreword

The last 18 months have been remarkable. The tragic and longstanding effects of Covid will live long in the memory, and we stand with our communities, as we have throughout this difficult time, to both support them in the immediate impacts of Covid, but also to work with them to ensure that Huntingdonshire grows back stronger in the future.

As we have worked with our communities over the past year we have also witnessed one of the biggest changes in ways of working that has ever been seen either locally or nationally. As the groundswell of spontaneous community support, and emergence of a myriad of new schemes and support arrangements has seen us all humbled by what our residents and businesses have done for each other. We know however that Covid was not ground zero for strong Community working in Huntingdonshire. If our communities and their organisations were able to respond quickly to Covid it was in large part down to the vibrant community scene that already existed, built on strong local bonds, knowledge and a pool of talented staff and volunteers, something that we have always valued, but which has become integral to the way we work over the past 18 months.

For our part as local politicians we have been clear that we want our organisation to do “whatever is required” to meet the needs of our residents and communities. During Covid that saw us supporting a brand-new network of Recognised Organisations – tailored to their 15 local areas, making community groups and local delivery a cornerstone of our response in the earliest days of the crisis delivering hundreds of food packages, and becoming one of the few, possibly only district council, in the country directly supporting our most vulnerable Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents to shield. In addition, from the very early days of the crisis we recognised that residents would require a simple one-stop-shop for advice and support regardless of who provided the service. Our WeAreHuntingdonshire website did and continues to do just that, providing clear access to the support that our residents need irrespective of where that support comes from.

We have also acted with our resources, putting more money than ever into supporting local communities and community groups, and in the management of the distribution of grants, have sought at every opportunity to not just meet immediate need but also build capacity and long term solutions for both the individuals and families affected.

The last year has shown us several things. Firstly, how well we have worked together as a whole community. As a council we take our own delivery very seriously and strive to deliver the best possible results for our residents and businesses. However, our work over recent years and in particular our experience during Covid has made us acutely aware that there are limits to what any single organisation can do and the better we understand the problem, the more we can align support to provide a simple and logical process for residents and businesses the better.

Better solutions, better targeted and more impactful, reduced bureaucracy, increased pace of delivery, and more local ownership are some of the pieces of feedback that we have had from those who have benefited from these new solutions.

What we believe is that as we continue to live with Covid and begin to deal with its longer-term consequences that many of these things will continue to be true. We are therefore committed to continuing to pursue these ways of working to ensure that we respond quickly to deal with changing needs and ensure that as an area we grow back stronger from the impacts of Covid.

We are taking the learning from this experience and intend to embark on the largest engagement in the District Council’s history to develop a Place Strategy for Huntingdonshire that goes beyond what

the Council does, to focus on what we all want the area to be, and what role residents, businesses and all local organisations can play in delivering exactly this. With this in mind, we did not want to launch a strategy which appeared to suggest we knew what all the answers were before we undertook this exercise. This engagement will then inform our collective longer-term community approach, with everyone locally having a chance to input. This document therefore lays out a way of working and the areas of priority based on what we are seeing now. But as we have seen during Covid, we will continue to flex and amend to meet those needs.

As Members we have clear priorities. We believe passionately in a strong economy and its key role into supporting our residents to live independent and fulfilling lives. We also believe in being there to provide a helping hand when people need it, central to this is us being there early before too much harm has been done, and whilst we can help people get back on track. Finally, we want to create a strong sense of place. We are proud to be from Huntingdonshire and we know our residents and businesses are too. We are keen to work together to make Huntingdonshire the best it possibly can be, all playing our part, because together We Are Huntingdonshire.

**Simon Bywater**

Executive Councillor for Community Resilience and Well-Being Huntingdonshire District Council

### **Purpose of document (Why)**

This document lays out our approach and practical plans for how we intend to work with and for our communities over the next 18 months as we develop a longer-term Community Strategy for Huntingdonshire. Informed by the biggest community listening exercise in the area's history, as part of the development of our long-term place strategy. In short, this document lays out an approach to achieving more together working in partnership with our communities, than we could ever hope to achieve alone. Listening to and engaging with our residents to create solutions and an appreciation of our support, rather than a dependency on our help.

The outcomes that our communities want for themselves, meaningful quality work, a good education for their children, good physical and emotional health, and to live in a pleasant place where people support themselves and each other. At the heart of an approach like this will always be the resident and business owner, being aspirational for themselves and their family. But local providers, be they schools, hospitals or councils, play a big part in people's lives too. We as a council want to work to help local people meet their needs and achieve all they can within Huntingdonshire. That will mean us understanding local needs and barriers, and working to advocate for our residents to ensure that we do all we can to support joined up solutions, and the creation of opportunities that make sense to our residents, not just the organisations that deliver them.

This is work that will take time, however we can point to concrete examples of where we are already doing this: Proactively writing to residents who are newly on Universal Credit to encourage them to also apply for Council Tax Support; the WeAreHuntingdonshire website which presents services on the basis of what the resident needs, rather than who delivers it. It will be a process that we work through together.

We intend to create an environment in which we support positive solutions to emerge and not one where we seek to deliver every one of them ourselves. Many of these solutions will build on what we have seen already and be directly delivered by the community, for the community in the community.

The key purpose of this strategy is to work to ensure positive outcomes for residents creating an environment where solutions are found early and communities are able to shape their own futures and meet their own needs, supported at all points by the District Council who are invested in the best possible outcomes for local residents, irrespective of who is delivering the service.

### **What does this document cover?**

This document outlines our approach to engagement with Huntingdonshire residents. Detailing the approach that we propose to use to ensure we do all we can to:

- Provide a helping hand to residents, and are there to support residents to achieve good outcomes when they need us;
- Build a strong economy that our residents both drive and benefit from; and
- Further the pride in Huntingdonshire and support our residents to take care of their families and their communities.

In doing this, the strategy links very closely with a number of other Council documents:

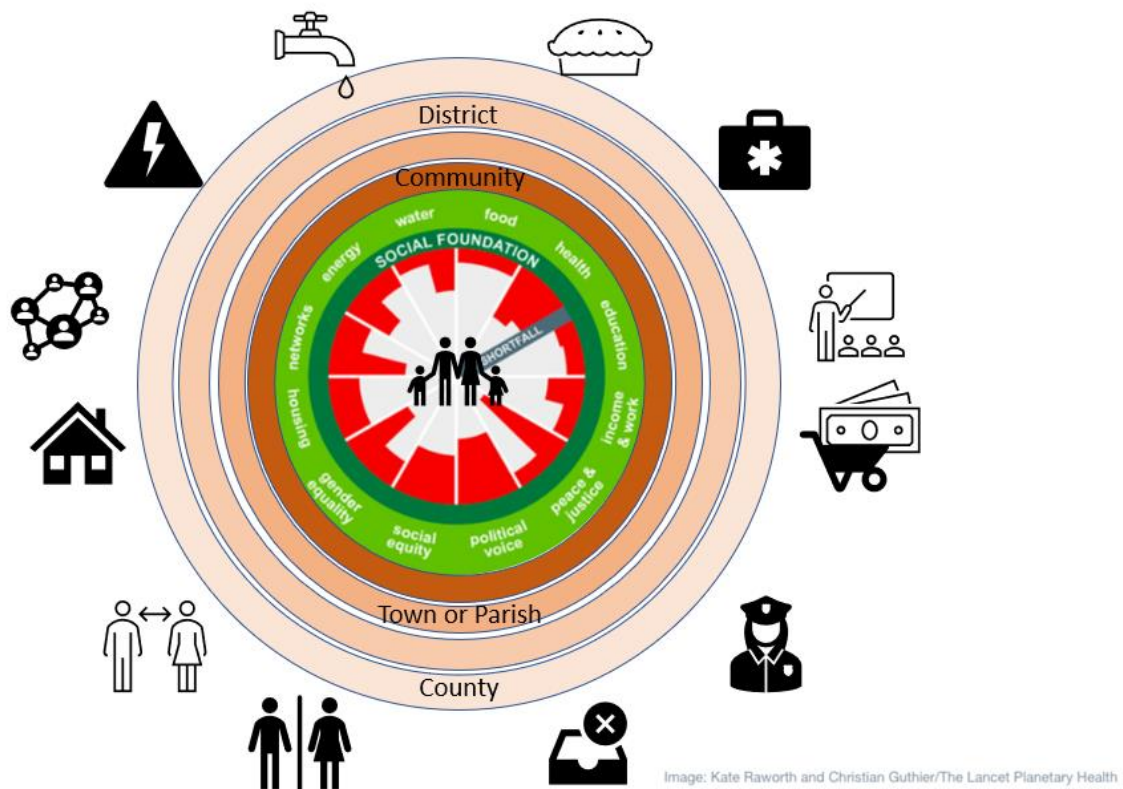
- Our Economic Growth Strategy – outlining how we will nurture and grow the strong economy that will serve Huntingdonshire into the future. Ensuring there is a close tie in between our residents and business, and we have the skilled workforce able to access and drive the local economy. It is also important to recognise the absolutely critical role that businesses play in our communities. With the enlightened approaches of our businesses not only creating employment opportunities, but also supporting and developing employees, supporting other



local businesses and caring for the environment but also acting as key community hubs – which is what our pubs, tea-shops and local shops are.

- Our consultation and engagement strategy – how we engage, listen and respond and more importantly share and involve our residents in developing solutions to local issues will be critical to the success of this project.
- Our digital strategy – we live in a world of 24-hour digital access and integrated services. People expect services to be designed around them, accessible when they want them and fast. Our use of data and technology will be important in linking up services with the needs of our residents.
- Our Core Service Strategy and Medium-Term Financial Strategy – Whilst this document looks at our relationship with residents, there is clearly a close link with the services we deliver directly, be that leisure, waste or benefits services. We will ensure that these services wherever possible, are integrated in a way that makes sense for residents. We must also be aware of the financial impact that increased demand could have on our services and our overarching financial position.

### What is a community?



The diagram above seeks to provide a simple representation of how an individual or family interacts with the place in which they live. At the heart of it is the individual or family, who have a range of needs to fulfil. The success of those residents is largely dependent on their ability to fulfil these needs successfully.

This family is then part of a number of localities, first they live in a community, this is likely to be defined by the residents themselves, it could be a street, an area, or a village or town. This community then exists within a formal parish or town boundary, a district, and a county, and finally the country.

These structures, are not geographical as we know, they also come with service delivery and accountability for certain outcomes. They may indeed deliver some of the services that meet the needs of residents, or a resident may not directly use any of these services, and have responsibility for the outcomes that are delivered collectively such as peace and justice.

However, the success of any of those geographies is closely linked to the ability of the residents at its heart to thrive and succeed. This paper proposes the way in which Huntingdonshire District Council will work to help residents succeed, and communities thrive. Recognising that generally solutions delivered closest to the family are likely to be the ones most responsive to their needs. This will require a clear understanding of need, but also open and honest conversations with those other tiers of government, and often directly with those organisations that help meet resident needs – businesses, the police and other organisations, utility company etc.

One of the outputs of this piece of work could be further work to define exactly where and what are communities are, building on the kind of work that has established are 15 community recognised organisation patches.

### **Why are we proposing a ‘Transition Plan’?**

Whilst we engage more fully with our communities around the longer-term priorities that our residents and businesses have, the reality of Covid, is that there continues to be both immediate needs linked to the controls that the Government has had to put in place, and ultimately some consequences of the virus that are likely to have longer lasting impacts.

With this in mind we believe our communities would be best served by the adoption of an interim transition plan that will establish the principles as well as the areas of activity that we will commit to undertake over the next 12-18 months. The learning from this activity included in this plan will then be combined with the output from the work of the Place Strategy to enable us to produce a longer term community strategy that is properly informed and produced in partnership with our communities, one that hopefully everyone feels a sense of ownership of and commitment too.

This will lay out how we will:

- Continue to support communities to deal with the direct impacts of Covid – such as working to reduce infection rates, maximise take up of Covid vaccinations and supporting our Shielded residents.
- Support our residents with the longer-term consequences of Covid – dealing with the impacts of economic changes, and the social impacts of an extended lockdown and the wider changes this period will generate.
- Work with our communities on a million other priorities that have nothing to do with Covid, from flooding to play parks, urban design to bio-diversity.

### **To solve a problem first you have to understand the problem - What is the evidence showing us?**

Evidence is a core element of the community approach. We want to see lives improved and the area going from strength to strength. That will require us to gather and build evidence to inform our work with our communities and to enable us to prioritise and ensure that activity is having the effect we need it to. This does not mean all spreadsheets and formulas (although they will play a part), it means proper intelligence about what is happening on the ground to help us focus on what is important. The listening exercise as part of the Place Strategy will be a core part of this, regular insight and feedback from community representatives will be another, surveys, involving residents in designing solutions, and performance information from our businesses – funnelled through our Economic Growth strategy will all play a part in helping establish this picture.

So what is the current evidence telling us? It is not only now that Covid is having an impact on our lives the evidence is suggesting that some of these impacts will be felt for some time to come. The data and evidence suggests future needs in a number of areas, and demand that will be placed on services to support those residents who have been worse affected. Work has also been undertaken to map the anticipated impacts of Covid in relation to the nearest equivalent that we have, this being the 2007/8 financial crisis. Demand for District Council services remains relatively stable at present, with small increases in areas relating to financial support or income collection. However, beyond our direct service delivery there are signs of change, which could indicate the future need to come.

- Universal Credit claimant rates are at a historic high in Huntingdonshire. Higher than they got to at the height of the financial crisis of 2007/8. We remain hugely positive about the strengths of the local economy and are actively supporting it, but believe that there will be impacts for local residents caused by these changes that we are keen to support.
- Demand is rising for support with emergency food and essential supplies, and indications are that rent arrears are also rising. These are early days, but indications are that demand is increasing. This has been mirrored in demand for Winter Support Grant payments that we have supported the County Council in administering.
- More residents are struggling to pay their utility bills and are requesting help to repay gas and electricity debts or to purchase credit to top up their meters.
- There is an increase in the number of contacts to CAB from residents who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Whilst a direct comparison is difficult, and recognising the significant efforts and financial support being provided by the Government to address these needs, the experience in 2007/8 showed that this initial demand was a prelude to delayed demand for statutory District Council functions.

- 2007/8 also showed that nationally this demand later translated into statutory care demand and national impacts on wider community outcomes – educational challenges, increases in looked after children etc.

It is important to note here that since 2007/8 the local government sector has seen a real-term reduction in spending power of circa 30%. There are indications that the demand could exceed what was seen in 2007/8. Also since the financial crisis the areas direct reliance on local sources of funding – NNDR and Council Tax has increased significantly, so demand caused by unemployment has the risk of also generating a commensurate fall in NNDR receipts and the ability to pay Council Tax. More demand, less resource. This is a key issue that as a community we need to cover together to ensure that we collectively benefit from a thriving local economy.

Direct government support to those affected by Covid remains in place. Whilst we all hope for a smooth and speedy recovery from the impacts of Covid, we believe, and importantly our community organisations do to, that it is prudent to continue to pursue a course of action which seeks to understand and response to these impacts over the period of this strategy.

#### **What have we learned during Covid?**

The response to Covid has seen us deliver any new services and meet needs in very different ways. However, whilst new and innovative, a number of the approaches and lessons that informed these services were informed by work that had been done in previous years. Importantly though, the Covid response has enabled us to better understand local needs and how these are best met and to learn from delivering some of these services at a scale, pace and range never previously delivered. Some of the findings are that:

- Residents and community organisations have valued the role of the District Council in supporting residents during difficult times. Not muscling in, helping out.

- Residents only care about solutions and services that help them achieve what they are trying to do regardless of who delivers it. There is confusion about the remits and lack of coordination across local service delivery.
- There is realism amongst the community about the capacity of organisations to deliver. They value clear guidance, honesty and simple processes that allow them to get what they need with the lowest possible fuss.
- A large amount of community need sits with residents who do not have a significant public sector footprint, and therefore we struggle to reach proactively. These same people are also struggling to navigate a system that they have not had previous experience of.
- Residents are open to non-traditional service delivery, involving the community or non-governmental solutions, as long as these services are linked to the need they have, and believe the system is listening to what they need.
- The voluntary and community sector is very effective at having those conversations and being enterprising about the solutions. Developing solutions that did not previously exist, on the basis of evidence of need, and being able to reach places with local residents that at times professional council officers cannot.
- Horses for courses. There are some things that only a single organisation can do, and everyone should play to their strengths. Within this though, the involvement of other stakeholders has improved service delivery, either through playing a direct part, or by sharing their insight that improved the method of delivery. Coordination is key.
- Statutory partners are well placed to help coordinate, gather and share evidence and create overarching pictures of demand which can then help better inform the actions of a range of partners.
- No one likes duplication – it is slow and expensive. Those on the front line want to help, and as long as guidance is clear are more than willing to assess and distribute funds.
- That the networks we have established over the past 12 months with broader partners, a fortnightly Covid-coordination meeting, and a monthly Emergency Food work meeting have delivered benefits way in advance. Ensuring that all players are treated as ‘equal partners’ with the experience and knowledge of grass-roots organisations is appropriately valued and used to shape and informs priorities and activity.
- That every engagement is an opportunity to not just solve the problem in front of you, but to risk assess and where needed seek to put in place longer term support eg referral to social group which will build sustainability and reduce the likelihood of repeated presentations. Building capacity not just distributing resources.

### **How will our approach do this?**

While we continue to battle with the pandemic, our focus over the next 12 months will evolve with the crisis, however it will be based on the following areas of work, that will both allow us to grow back stronger, but also ensure that we have concrete areas of action that the longer-term Community Strategy can build upon:

**It will be evidence based and responsive** – We do not have the time or financial capacity to undertake activity that is not valuable and effective. A strong evidence base enables us to do two things. Track impact, and intervene in a targeted way that reduces the expensive and abortive contact from people who either do not qualify or are not suitable for the support, whilst simultaneously not reaching those residents who would benefit most and whose failure to access the support often generates additional high cost demand further down the line. We will pursue this task by:

- **Establishing a Covid Recovery evidence base** – Continue the ongoing work already underway to build and monitor the evidence base of the longer term impact that Covid will have on every aspect of our lives, and the actual impacts we are seeing locally – not

what might happen, but what is happening and what does this mean. To use this data to inform core service delivery and appropriate future budget provision. Addressing significant historic weaknesses in data collection across the public sector and making full use of the evidence that our community and their representatives have. Building a balanced picture which our residents and communities would recognise.

- **Learning lessons and apply the learning** – To continue to review the lessons of comparable events such as the 2007/8 financial crisis to enable us to better, and to employ these to ensure the way we work learns the lessons, whilst also recognising the different starting points of both individuals and organisations before the two events.
- **Offering targeted support to those who are likely to benefit** – Continue to pursue the fully funded MHCLG projects which seeks to identify common characteristics of those in need, and to link them up with appropriate solutions and enable onward referral to appropriate agencies – through the establishment of a Community Signposting Tool. To use the technology to work with partners and offer targeted support and outbound contact to nip issues in the bud.

**Engaging and capacity building** – Covid has shown us once again the value of a strong coalition of providers all working together to meet the needs of residents. There is increasing evidence through Covid of people going to non-governmental organisations as their first point of contact, we do not want these opportunities for prevention to be missed. Furthermore, more community-based organisations are sometimes more effective at helping people to solve their own problems in sustainable ways than traditional public sector approaches. Finally, the scale of demand we are forecasting means any additional capacity we can collectively generate is going to be to the communities advantage.

- **Foundation Building and leveraging in resources** – Embracing the truly astounding offer of help and support that we have seen from our communities over the last 12 months and ensure that these relationships are sustained, and we seek to build ongoing capacity by supporting growth and grant bid activity, and any other opportunity to leverage in funding across the district. Working with our local community infrastructure organisation to build capacity, attract volunteers, and ensure community groups are viewed as key delivery partners, with appropriate funding when designing services.
- **Build local capacity** – To work with community groups, to develop a culture where residents feel confident and able to ask for help and support within their community, and digitally, in turn resolving problems more quickly and reducing the demand on public services.
- **Integrated support locally** – To support this work by exploring opportunities, where appropriate, for RO's to act as a front door for council services. Equipping and empowering our network of community Recognised Organisations to be able to offer direct support to our communities on areas such as debt, employment and well-being – building on the kind of flow chart approach we have benefited from in Flooding - Appendix 1.
- **Develop easy digital tools** – To evolve and improve the WeAreHuntingdonshire website, and to use other tools to ensure residents have the information that they need to make informed choices about their behaviours and in turn, the impact that these have on others, our communities and our economy. Using digital tools to complement the critical in-person support that already exists, and which in certain circumstances is irreplaceable.
- **Nurture the commercial community** – Work with the Economic Development Team to encourage residents to invest in the district by working, shopping and spending their time locally. Supporting both pride in Huntingdonshire and driving the local economy.

- **Develop our community advocate role** – Continue to develop our role as a coordinator and advocate to meet local needs, as seen during both flooding incidents and Covid, working to represent our communities to other agencies to ensure we get the best outcome for our communities, and recognising the high value generated through this role in comparison to the return we get for often limited direct delivery. For this to inform our ways of working across BCP and other areas of core business.
- **Establish clear community goals** – To fully support the engagement activity as part of the development of the Huntingdonshire Place Strategy to develop a clear set of community goals and needs.

**Proactive** – Wherever possible we will use our evidence base, and feedback from the community and their representatives to be proactive and seek to prevent issues, rather than to respond to them. There is a growing evidence base that expensive and destructive crises such as eviction, mental health crisis or children being taken into care have their roots in a range of longer-term causes, and life events, and if these are identified steps can be taken to prevent the cost and damage of crisis. Covid Response – Dealing with the ‘now’ by working closely with the voluntary and community sector, especially the District’s 15 Recognised Organisations (ROs) to support:

- **To continue to actively support the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable** – the CEV group are at greatest risk of a poor health outcome from Covid. Enabling this cohort of individuals to remain within their homes but at the same time receive the support necessary to manage their health and well-being as well as ensure they receive financial assistance.
- **Establish a clear hierarchy of prevention and embed it in our core business** – Seek to develop a clear methodology for prevention, which recognises the role of factors such as housing, employment and social support as key drivers of positive outcomes, and reduction in expensive negative demand.
- **Seek to identify and respond to the ‘moments of truth’ in residents’ lives** – Explore learning from other areas and sectors of making use of change in payment history to act as a catalyst for broader support around income maximisation and employment support.
- **Support our most vulnerable** – Look to continue our targeted intervention on a risk based approach with individuals and families who have been financially impacted by Covid meaning that by not receiving help and support now, they are at greater risk of poor financial outcomes such as homelessness.
- **Explore potential for a local employment service** – Explore the potential for the development of more co-ordinated and locally driven employment offers, which seeks to establish the deliverability of clear pathways for our residents from unemployment to skills and employment offers linked directly to our economic aspirations for the area as covered in the Economic Development Strategy.
- **Never reinvent the wheel** – utilise, support and respect the critical work, and detailed know how of community groups that have been providing valuable coordinated support for many years.

**Creative** – A lot of the learning that has been taken from the Covid response places direct challenge to traditional ways of working and the structural barriers that often get in the way of **‘common sense’ service delivery**. Some of these issues will be easier to address than others, but with an expectation of growing demand, and recognising the lower levels of resource than we had in the past, we will be able to ill afford duplication of effort across organisational boundaries that we see in some areas.

- **Continue to define and develop solutions to local needs** – To continue to work with all local agencies to develop a suite of solutions to local need, with clear processes for dealing with residents with multiple issues, focusing on the areas of:
  - Employment
  - Food and essential items

- Utilities support
- Social and Emotional Support
- Income maximisation and financial advice
- **Explore system solutions with local partners** – To develop proposals as part of the MHCLG funded project for how a shared assessment and referral process would work across partners including RSLs, Community Group and Emergency Food providers, and potentially onto other statutory partners. Meaning customers can access support from first point of contact, and don't need to repeat the same information multiple times.
- **Explore one touch assessment gateways** – To work with partners to identify potential gateway services, such as applying for a school place, registering for Council Tax that could enable data to be reused, assessments reduced and the risk of expensive future poor outcomes be reduced.
- **Services wrapped around residents not organisational charts** – To continue to find ways to simplify the navigation process through the local public and voluntary sector landscape, and recognising the different needs of experienced community workers, and members of the general public.

#### **How will this look in terms of working relationships?**

All of this activity will be overseen by the areas Place Based Board, with Policy and priority issues escalated to local members for decision.

Regular working groups with community groups as key equal partners will continue. In addition community groups will be invited to input into delivery and design sessions where they can add value.

#### **How will we monitor how we are doing?**

Through tracking of community impacts captured in the area's community impact assessment, and recovery metrics. Including metrics around employment and economic metrics, council demand volumes, health and mental indicators, and environmental metrics. We will track input and prevention activity eg number of people exercising regularly, as well as outcome metrics number of people entering hospital, so wherever possible we can identify and prioritise prevention activity that empower residents and communities, rather than processes that only make sense to statutory partners.

We will also regularly monitor and report on progress against the Community Strategy Action Plan, included below in Appendix 2.

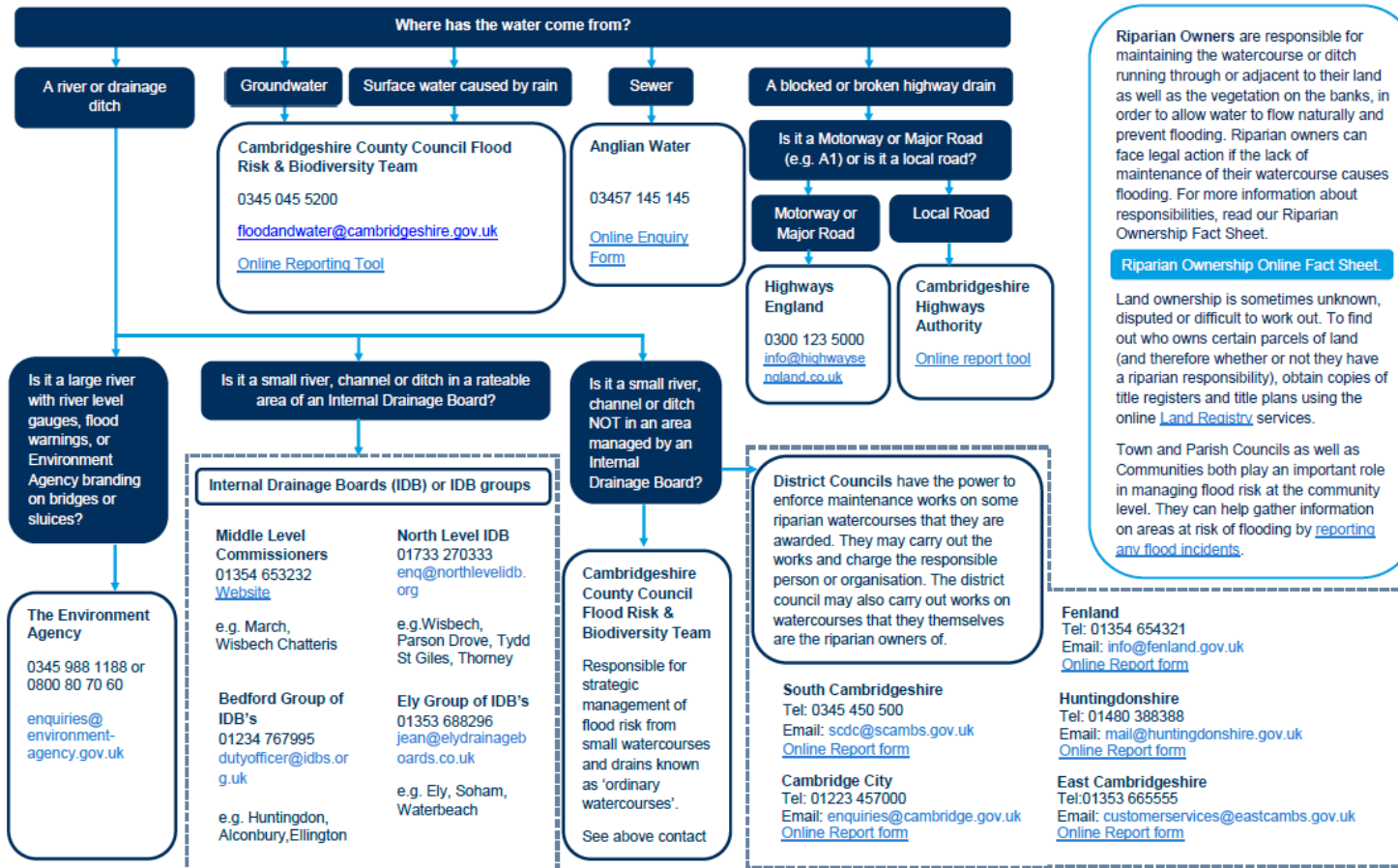
#### **How will we know if we have succeeded?**

1. We will see better outcomes for residents than seen in comparable areas that use a more traditional approach and proportionately less demand for 'crisis' services than in other areas. Our contribution to outcomes will increasingly be delivered via coordination and unblocking rather than direct delivery. – Having provided a helping hand.
2. We will see a stronger economic response with a close relationship between community need and support linked to the areas long term economic priorities. Not just jobs, good long term jobs. – Driving a strong economy.
3. We will have an area that self-reports growing satisfaction in Huntingdonshire as a place to live, and which supports them to be aspirational for themselves and their families. – Driving pride of place. Something we have already started to see in some of our communities.

# Appendix 1 – A simplified explanation of complex responsibilities. Cambridgeshire’s flood response.



## Investigating and Regulating Flooding: Who manages what?



Riparian Owners are responsible for maintaining the watercourse or ditch running through or adjacent to their land as well as the vegetation on the banks, in order to allow water to flow naturally and prevent flooding. Riparian owners can face legal action if the lack of maintenance of their watercourse causes flooding. For more information about responsibilities, read our Riparian Ownership Fact Sheet.

[Riparian Ownership Online Fact Sheet.](#)

Land ownership is sometimes unknown, disputed or difficult to work out. To find out who owns certain parcels of land (and therefore whether or not they have a riparian responsibility), obtain copies of title registers and title plans using the online [Land Registry](#) services.

Town and Parish Councils as well as Communities both play an important role in managing flood risk at the community level. They can help gather information on areas at risk of flooding by [reporting any flood incidents](#).



## Appendix 2

### Huntingdonshire Community Strategy Action Plan

#### Supporting the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Service Board (CPPSB) **Four Grand Challenges:**

Good Place

Good Start

Good Health

Good Work

All workstreams

Action	Why	What	How	By When	Who
<b>1.0 <u>Strong governance and alignment</u> - Develop and implement a Huntingdonshire Place Based Board</b>	A holistic view of needs and coordination of response informed by the needs of different communities is central to the Community strategy approach, enabling targeted activity.	Establishment of a Huntingdonshire place-based board to commission evidence and monitor delivery across partners and to serve as the areas Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety partnership.	To circulate a Terms of Reference and establish the new Board.	By December 2021	Oliver Morley (OM)/ Joanne Lancaster (JL)
<b>2.0 <u>Explore system solutions with local partners</u> - Pursue external funding opportunities to continue development of a multi-agency Place based Intelligent Community Signposting Tool</b>	Residents often struggle to know where to go for help, or what help is out there. Users and partners have recognised the value of a simple tool to solve user problems and signpost between partners.	To pursue a next phase of the project delivered in conjunction with MHCLG, by seeking to expand the project to include top tier partners in Health and the County Council.	Discussions with CCG and CCC already underway.	Bid decision by December 2021	OM
<b>3.0 To continue to actively support the</b>	The Resident Advice Team has been	The development of a	Engagement with partners and bringing	December 2021	Claudia Deeth (CD)

<b>Clinically Extremely Vulnerable - Further develop and establish the long-term sustainability of the Resident Advice Team</b>	instrumental in enabling us to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents, using partners networks to address underlying issues.	sustainable funding model across partners which seeks to embed a problem-solving approach as financially sustainable business as usual activity.	forward of proposals.		
<b>4.0 <u>Establish a Covid Recovery evidence base</u> - Support and contribute to the creation of a Community Impact Assessment (CIA).</b>	Evidence and Insight are core to being able to identify and work to respond to need.	To work with the performance team and partners to support the establishment of a refreshed CIA, and ongoing performance metrics.	Engagement and input. Contribution of data already compiled.	December 2021	CD/OM /Neil Sloper (NS)/Liz Smith (LS)
<b>4.1 <u>Establish a Covid Recovery evidence base</u> - Contribute to and adopt relevant recommendations as identified within the Community Impact Assessment.</b>	As above	As above	As above	June 2022	CD/OM
<b>5.0 <u>Foundation Building and leveraging in resources</u> - Work with Hunts Forum to finalise and implement the accreditation scheme for community and voluntary sector groups. Recruit and sustain</b>	A strong community approach builds on a strong, well resourced and vibrant community sector. We will work closely with Hunts Forum to support the growth and continued	Joint working and engagement with the community sector which supports the scheme but also demonstrates the clear value of going through the	Engagement and ongoing community sector meetings.	October 2021	OM/CD

consistent levels of volunteers that support a variety of offers.	development of the community sector.	accreditation process.			
<b>6.0 Support our most vulnerable - Develop a model that sustains the provision of surplus food to community fridges and food banks and reduces the amount of food waste going to landfill</b>	Emergency Food need has grown across the area. We are keen to support the desire to reduce food waste, and support those in need.	Map food need, and work to develop offers in areas of need. Support funding bids, and donations to enable longer term sustainability.	Secretariat support to community food network. Collation of data, and support for funding bids.	Ongoing	Amand a Turner (AT)/CD /OM
<b>6.1 Support the establishment of more resident led community fridges that also focus on healthy eating and cooking on a budget.</b>	As above	As above	Support with the identification of sites, funding opportunities and establishment of partners to run the fridges.	Ongoing to December 2022	AT/CD/OM
<b>6.2 Further develop the Food Network to enable the sharing of best practise and to target resources in areas of most need</b>	As above	As above	As above	Ongoing to December 2022	AT/CD/OM
<b>7.0 Seek to identify and respond to the 'moments of truth' in residents' lives - Create a District Council workforce that can confidently</b>	Residents do not recognise boundaries between services. At times service demand will be an indication of a further underlying cause.	An ongoing review of areas where we can improve outcomes and remove duplication.	Reviewing data and revising processes, and providing training where evidence suggests business cases/or	Ongoing to December 2022 Pilot assessment July 2022	OM/ John Taylor (JT)/CD /Tony Evans (TE)

<p>recognise the early signs of a resident needing help and respond appropriately. Officers fully understand the impact that their decisions have on the wider organisation as well as the customer.</p>	<p>Great progress has been made in some areas such as Housing in looking holistically at these needs. This approach will extend this using the tools and network established through this approach. Better outcomes at lower costs.</p>		<p>service improvements exist.</p>		
<p><b>8.0 Implement six community based and led job clubs.</b></p>	<p>Employment is a foundational aspect of self-reliance and contributes positively to almost all other outcomes. Solutions that link effectively to local employment and local knowledge are liable to significantly enhance the DWP offer.</p>	<p>Support local community groups to access external funding, and support with best practice learning and signposting.</p>	<p>Engagement from the Community Development Team.</p>	<p>June 2022</p>	<p>CD/OM</p>
<p><b>9.0 Pilot a sports equipment loan scheme to residents via accredited community/ voluntary sector groups</b></p>	<p>Those engaged in regular activity are more likely to benefit from positive outcomes in other parts of their lives. This project will support our ambition to become a more active district by supporting those</p>	<p>A loan scheme supported by the recovery project activity.</p>	<p>Co-produced with the community partners, as we have seen with current book loan and activity pack schemes beginning with Hinchbrook e park.</p>	<p>Initial pilot December 2021  Ongoing proposals March 2022</p>	<p>Jayne Wisely (JW)/Helen Lack (HL), CD</p>

	who struggle to access resources.				
<b>10.0 Work with community groups to welcome and support the integration of any Afghan Refugees into Huntingdonshire</b>	As with all new starts strong alignment of employment, education and support offers offer the best prospect for the individual the organisation and the broader community	Align activity across agencies to provide a joined up package to any refugees welcomed to Huntingdonshire.	Practical support arrangements with community at the heart of the package	Ongoing	CD, Jon Collen (JC)
<b>11.0 Develop community led initiatives that tackle mental health issues and avoid crisis situations by creating an alternative to NHS led treatment.</b>	Mental Health challenges are a contributory factor to many other poor outcomes – such as job loss and eviction. We will seek to support community initiatives to try and boost wellbeing – including promotion of activity programmes, social contact and time spent in the open air.	Supporting the continued development of community projects that may not be titled mental health projects, but which are known to boost resilience and wellbeing, including physical activity, social contact and gardening and outdoor activities.	Use of data to identify needs, and to work to co-develop offerings, which are supported where possible with grant funding and support for external bids.	Ongoing	NS, LS, JW, CD, OM
<b>12.0 Re-visit the ‘Keeping Aspirations high’ initiative within identified primary schools and pilot 6 schemes.</b>	High aspirations encourage self-reliance and drive positivity. We will work to re-establish the previous pilot to link schools that will benefit with local employers to support children.	Ongoing engagement to seek to reduce the fall off in ambition as children age. Opportunity for children to benefit from commercial knowledge of	Cohorts of aspiration leads engaging on annual basis with participating schools.	In place by September 2022	CD

		employment opportunities.			
<p><b>13.0 Common Sense service delivery</b> - Work with partners and in particular CCC Social Services, to explore the development of multi-agency wrap around early intervention community led approach to reduce the number of formal care packages, including children on a Child Protection Plan.</p>	<p>These arrangements are amongst some of the most expensive and disruptive to positive outcomes that we see. Opportunities to seek to support alternative delivery would benefit everyone.</p>	<p>Evidence points to a sense of purpose, and social connections being key factors in positive outcomes for vulnerable residents. We will explore programmes such as community mentor and support programmes, and voluntary and employment opportunities to test if we can support positive outcomes.</p>	<p>Working closely with County colleagues, the Police and community groups to identify support for those who would benefit from it, at the early stages of need.</p>	<p>Initial proposals June 2022</p>	<p>CD/OM</p>

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

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Cabinet Feedback: Overview and Scrutiny  
Flooding Task and Finish Study

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and  
Partnerships) – 2nd September 2021

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor J Neish, Executive Councillor for  
Strategic Planning

**Report by:** Cabinet

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

To provide feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) on the outcome of Cabinet's deliberations on the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study.

### **Recommendation:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) is

### **RECOMMENDED**

to note the contents of this report.

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

- 1.1 The Cabinet considered the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study at its meeting on 15th July 2021. This report provides feedback on the Cabinet's deliberations.

## **2. THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS**

- 2.1 In the absence of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) whom had previously confirmed his attendance to present the report, the Cabinet agreed to consider the findings of the study rather than to delay its consideration in September. The Chairman of the Panel arrived shortly after the conclusion of the Cabinet's meeting.

- 2.2 The Cabinet endorsed the following recommendations:

- a) to agree to publicise links to flooding advice through the District Council's own communication channels and forward the advice to all Town and Parish Councils;
- b) to support the principle that the Council works with the County Council to support the establishment of local flood groups as a means to develop community resilience against future flooding and as an important additional source of information for forecasting flooding;
- c) to endorse the suggestion for a study to be undertaken by a group of technical experts to understand fully the causes of floods linked to climate change, to look at the issue of cumulative impacts and to make a series of recommendations to feed into the next SPD document review, ensuring the refreshed document responds to changing realities and technology;
- d) to work with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners to create a case conference system to evaluate technical advice on flood mitigation on those most complex applications,
- e) to collaborate with partners on the development of a joint drainage and waste water management plan, and
- f) to endorse the Council's support in assisting the County Council in its project to map local water courses and call for this mapping activity to begin with Huntingdonshire.

## **3. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING**

- 3.1 On behalf of the Cabinet, the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning, wishes to convey his thanks to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the report.



3.2 He has also requested the Panel to be mindful of having realistic expectations from the report on what the Council can achieve and influence in respect of the recommendations approved by the Cabinet. As portfolio holder for Emergency Planning he will continue to exert influence on those agencies and authorities who have specific responsibilities for reducing the effects of flooding within the District.

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

4.1 There is a constitutional requirement for the relevant Executive Councillor to provide a written response to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

#### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study - Cabinet, 15th July 2021.](#)

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

### Performance and Growth

#### In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Transport Strategy	Councillor S J Criswell Councillor I D Gardener Councillor P L R Gaskin Councillor M S Grice	Corporate Director Place	Study has not commenced.
Asset Management Strategy	Councillor I D Gardener Councillor D A Giles	Jackie Goldby/Justin Andrews	<b>1st February 2021</b> – Members met with the Interim Commercial Estates Manager and provided input and feedback into the Strategy.  <b>Next Step</b> The Strategy will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny in Autumn 2021.

#### Completed

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Housing Strategy to 2025	Councillor A Roberts Councillor S Wakeford Councillor D Wells Councillor Mrs S R Wilson  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment and make suggestions on the emerging Housing Strategy.</li> </ul>	David Edwards/Liz Bisset	<b>6th August 2020</b> – A meeting took place with Members; the Interim Corporate Director (Place), David Edwards and Liz Bisset. The vision for the strategy was outlined and Members had an opportunity to comment and make suggestions.  <b>7th October 2020</b> – The Housing Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny.

			<b>22nd October 2020</b> – The Cabinet approved the Housing Strategy and the accompanying one year action plan.
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## Customers and Partnerships

### In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Digital Strategy	Councillor D M Tysoe Councillor R J West	Tony Evans	<b>Next Step</b> The Digital Strategy will follow the completion of the Core Service Strategy.
Climate Change Strategy	Councillor T D Alban Councillor Mrs S R Wilson One Vacancy	Neil Sloper	<b>18th October 2020</b> – The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) attended the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Government Association Scrutinising Climate Action Webinar on 18th September.  <b>Next Step</b> The remit for strategy development has not been established.
Flooding Review	Councillor Mrs S J Conboy Councillor S J Corney Councillor I D Gardener Councillor D M Tysoe Councillor R J West  Compile and review evidence (quantitative and qualitative) relating to the December 2020 flooding events, to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Understand what happened.</li> <li>2) Review the response.</li> <li>3) Consider future prevention/mitigation.</li> </ol>	Corporate Director Place	<b>28th January 2021</b> – The Task and Finish Group met and began the review.  <b>25th February 2021</b> – Quinton Carroll, Hilary Ellis, Sue Grace and Emyr Price of Cambridgeshire County Council attended the meeting and answered Members' questions.  <b>11th March 2021</b> – Paul Burrows and Phillippa Hulme of the Environment Agency attended the meeting and answered Members' questions.  <b>July 2021</b>

			<p>The final report was presented to the Panel and Cabinet.</p> <p><b>Next Step</b> Cabinet feedback will be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.</p>
Strategic Review of Markets	<p>Councillor B S Banks Councillor S J Corney Councillor Ms A Dickinson Councillor Mrs A Diaz (also the Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment, Councillor Mrs M L Beuttell)</p> <p>To conduct a Strategic Review of HDC Markets and produce a Vision statement and a Strategy.</p>	George McDowell	<p><b>5th November 2020</b> – The Panel received a report and suggested scoping document for the Strategic Review of Markets. Members agreed to endorse the approach and aims as set out in the scoping document and appointed five O&amp;S Members to join the Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment in conducting the Strategic Review.</p> <p><b>18th February 2021</b> – The review commenced and Members discussed the survey.</p> <p><b>23rd March 2021</b> – Members reviewed the survey and provided feedback.</p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 – Members reviewed the results of the survey and provided feedback.</p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Members agreed that a survey of market traders would be undertaken over the summer.</p>

Waste Strategy	Councillor Ms A Dickinson Councillor D A Giles Councillor Mrs S Smith Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Neil Sloper	<p>Study has not commenced.</p> <p><b>Update (provided on 24th November 2020)</b> – The delivery of HDC’s Waste Strategy is linked to two other strategies. The first is DEFRA’s Resources and Waste Strategy. This strategy determines any changes to waste collection practices and the options available for the collection of household waste. This has been delayed until spring 2021.</p> <p>The second is the RECAP (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership) Waste Strategy, which is the parent strategy to HDC’s Waste Strategy. The partnership has conducted modelling work with DEFRA to look at the impacts and alternatives of different approaches to waste and recycling collection models but is unable to continue the work until DEFRA’s strategy is clear.</p> <p>The delay in the delivery of DEFRA’s Strategy has had a knock-on effect for the expected date of RECAP’s Strategy, meaning that the delivery of HDC’s Strategy has been delayed until January 2022.</p>
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<p>Lifelong Health – Part Two</p>	<p>Councillor S J Criswell  Councillor Mrs A Dickinson  Councillor K P Gulson  Councillor Mrs S Smith  Councillor Mrs J Tavener  Councillor Mrs S R Wilson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify ways of developing better health outcomes for residents.</li> <li>• Identify the benefits of a whole system approach for the Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Oliver Morley</p>	<p><b>12th September 2019</b> – The Panel received the final report of Part One and agreed to continue the study under the guise of ‘Part Two’.</p> <p><b>14th October 2019</b> – The Task and Finish Group met with Liz Robin, Public Health.</p> <p><b>10th December 2019</b> – Following the presentation of the Part One report to Cabinet and the meeting with the Director of Public Health, the Task and Finish Group met to refocus the scope of the study. The study will now focus primarily on collaboration with Parish &amp; Town Councils and community groups in order to improve residents’ physical activity and well-being.</p> <p><b>13th January 2020</b> – The Task and Finish Group received a presentation from Active Lifestyles and assessed the interaction the service has with Parish &amp; Town Councils and community groups.</p> <p><b>28th January 2020</b> – Alyce Barber, Community Development Officer, attended and informed Members of her work with projects that helps build social contact, builds support networks and addresses mental health issues.</p>
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			<p>Members will also discuss the evidence that links an individual's mental health with physical health.</p> <p><b>12th February 2020</b> – The Task and Finish Group received and discussed a number of case studies.</p> <p><b>26th November 2020</b> – The Group met and conducted an evidence review. Members recognised that the health issues discussed were around before the pandemic, however they have been affected by it. Despite this, it was decided that any health plan for the District should look beyond the pandemic and be a post Covid-19 plan. The Group decided that the recommendations should be focused on the following themes: access to healthy food, mental well-being and physical health.</p> <p><b>Next Step</b> – A final report is in the process of being drafted.</p>
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**Completed**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Membership &amp; Scope</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Healthy Open Spaces and Play Strategy	Councillor Mrs A Dickinson Councillor K P Gulson Councillor Mrs S Smith Councillor Mrs J Tavener Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Helen Lack	<b>11th March 2020</b> – A meeting took place with Working Group Members, the relevant Executive Councillors, Helen Lack and Sarah Wheale-Smith of PleydellSmithyman so that Members

			<p>could give their views on the draft Strategy.</p> <p><b>29th July 2020</b> – A second meeting took place with Working Group Members, Helen Lack and Sarah Wheale-Smith of PleydellSmithyman. Members were shown the executive summary and a full draft of the Strategy.</p> <p><b>8th October 2020</b> – The Healthy Open Spaces Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny.</p> <p><b>22nd October 2020</b> – The Cabinet endorsed the Healthy Open Spaces Strategy and 10 year action plan.</p>
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