

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2023** 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 (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) meeting held on 2nd February 2023.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
(Pages 9 - 10)

To note responses received to questions asked at previous meetings.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

4. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 11 - 20)

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
01480 388169

5. WARM SPACES (Pages 21 - 30)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Warm Spaces report and presentation.

Contact Officer: L Smith
01480 388290

6. HEALTH INEQUALITIES PROJECT – TACKLING PREVENTION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (Pages 31 - 38)

The Panel is invited to comment on the progress of the Health Inequalities Project.

Contact Officer: L Smith
01480 388290

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 39 - 42)

- a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

22 day of February 2023



Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

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

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Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No: 01480 388008/e-mail 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 (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 2 February 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair.

Councillors T Alban, M J Burke, J E Harvey,
N J Hunt, M Kadewere, C Lowe,
S R McAdam, D J Shaw and G J Welton.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bywater and S J Criswell.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors S W Ferguson and S L Taylor.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

8. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st February 2023 to 31st May 2023.

9. BUSINESS RATES DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF POLICY

By means of a report by the Council Tax and Business Rates Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Business Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy was presented to the Panel.

Following an enquiry from Councillor Alban on whether available support differed for rural or urban communities, the Panel heard that a wide range of support was available for businesses and would be applied appropriately.

It was clarified to the Panel after questions from Councillors Alban and McAdam, that charity shops receive mandatory relief and therefore the scheme does not apply to them. It was further clarified that there are notable differences between the help available for nationally recognised charities and non-profit

organisations however work is done with such groups to ensure the correct support is given.

Following questions from Councillor Shaw, the Panel were assured that whilst the departments aim was to be cost neutral, the team undertake extensive modelling to ensure that there are clear guidelines in order to support local communities. The strategy gives structure to the package of support already available for businesses.

The Panel were advised that only standalone public conveniences could be considered for support in response to a question from Councillor Shaw.

Following the discussion, it was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the comments of Overview and Scrutiny be passed to the Cabinet for consideration when making a decision on the recommendations contained within the report.

10. ONE LEISURE AND BURGESS HALL PROGRESS REVIEW

By means of a report and presentation by the Interim Head of Leisure (copies of which are appended in the Minute Book) the One Leisure and Burgess Hall Progress Review was presented to the Panel.

Following a question from Councillor Burke, the Panel heard that the One Leisure Active Lifestyles team work closely with Health colleagues to redefine what good health looks like. This includes preventative work, rehabilitation classes and working with partners such as social prescribers. The Panel heard that relationships with health colleagues have developed over time and continue to do so to the benefit of residents. Councillor Burke praised the fantastic work undertaken by the service and noted that this highlighted the importance of partnership working.

The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Welton, that One Leisure Active Lifestyles classes covered a range of rehabilitation and maintenance classes, which were at a lower price point than regular fitness classes, it was noted that participants have the option to purchase a class pass at a discounted rate and that concessionary rates were also available. It was also noted that some cancer rehab classes were funded by the Hunts Network for the benefit of patients.

Councillor Alban observed the importance and success of Park Runs across the district and queried the status of the athletics track at the One Leisure Outdoor Centre. The Panel heard that

this facility is part of the Playing Pitch Strategy and is accredited by UK Athletics.

It was observed that due to an ageing population within the district, community based activities were thriving.

The Panel were advised that whilst an uptake in memberships is generally expected in January, the figures for this year had been better than anticipated. It was noted that One Leisure offers great value with the Platinum membership including gym, swimming, indoor cycling, fitness classes and off peak courts.

Councillor Shaw enquired how many users paid for sessions on a casual basis and the Panel were advised that this remained static alongside annual memberships. It was further advised that casual customers may benefit from a direct debit membership and that the team regularly undertook work to review this directly with customers.

Councillor Alban observed that some nationwide gym chains had moved into empty retail spaces both within and on the borders of the district and enquired how the team would react to this. The Panel heard that One Leisure have a wider offer than many national gym chains and also a large offer for families, however competitors would continue to be monitored for the benefit of future planning. It was further observed that One Leisure site locations offered the service security and afforded long term planning.

The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Hunt, that many links were established with young people including pre-schoolers and children with special educational needs as well as a programme working with home schooled children.

Councillor Harvey enquired how the underperformance of group exercise classes was being address, following which, the Panel heard that this area had been affected by a nationwide post COVID trend where users had found alternative ways to access this type of activity. The service has observed a shift in the demographic accessing this activity and continued to monitor this to see what adjustments could be made in the future.

Councillor Alban enquired how admission details had been ascertained and the Panel were advised that this would be shared to the Panel following the meeting.

The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Alban, that the Courts4Kids programme was available during school holidays and was promoted across a range of mediums.

The Panel thanked the team for their very detailed and insightful presentation.

11. 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.

The Panel were advised that the Climate Working Group would be assisting in the development of the Electrical Vehicle Strategy.

Chair

Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel – Questions requiring a response.

Minute No.	Item	Councillor	Question	Answer
22/10	One Leisure Progress Review	Cllr Alban	Further detail requested on breakdown of admissions figures	Due to the level of detail this information has been circulated to the Panel via email.

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

Prepared by: Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 17 February 2023
For Period: 1 March 2023 to 30 June 2023

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD E-mail: Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Ferguson	Executive Councillor for Customer Services	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 4

Councillor M Hassall	Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	Care of Huntingdonshire District Council St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07825 193572 E-mail: Martin.Hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	2 Grainger Avenue Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Pitt	Executive Councillor for Community & Health	17 Day Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DF Tel: 07703 169273 E-mail: Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	29 Burmoor Close Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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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).

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.

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 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.

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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.

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- 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 2022/23 Page 15 of 42	Grants Panel	1, 15 & 29 Mar 2023 12 & 26 Apr 2023 10 & 24 May 2023 7 & 21 Jun 2023		Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager Tel No: 01480 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		B Pitt & M Hassall	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Market Towns Programme - Spring Update	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	S Wakeford	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
Market Towns Programme - Spring Update (Part 2)***##	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Place Strategy	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Kate McFarlane, Corporate Director (Place) Tel No: 01480 388719 or email: Kate.McFarlane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	Performance & Growth
Corporate Plan	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Dan Buckridge, Business Intelligence and Performance Manager Tel No: 01480 388065 or email: Dn.Buckridge@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	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
Huntingdonshire UK Shared Prosperity Funding - Update	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023		Kate McFarlane, Corporate Director (Place) Tel No: 01480 388719 or email: Kate.McFarlane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Local development scheme***	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023	Report 1 of 4	Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel No: 01480 387104 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Settlement Hierarchy Methodology***	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023	Report 2 of 4	Frances Schulz, Senior Planning Officer Tel No: 01480 388432 or email: Frances.Schulz@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	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
Call for Sites***	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023	Report 3 of 4	Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel No: 01480 387104 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology***	Cabinet	21 Mar 2023	Report 4 of 4	Natalie Elworthy, Assistant Planning Policy Officer Tel No: 01480 388433 or email: Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Community Infrastructure Levy Funding Allocation***	Cabinet	18 Apr 2023		Claire Burton, Implementation Team Leader Tel No: 01480 388274 or email: Claire.Burton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	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
Local Plan Update Issues Engagement Paper***	Cabinet	18 Apr 2023		Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel No: 01480 387104 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Market Towns Programme - Summer Update***	Cabinet	20 Jun 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Mid Term Review of the Housing Strategy 2020-2025***	Cabinet	20 Jun 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	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
First Homes Statement***	Cabinet	20 Jun 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Community Infrastructure Levy Governance***	Cabinet	20 Jun 2023		Claire Burton, Implementation Team Leader Tel No: 01480 388274 or email: Claire.Burton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Tenancy Strategy	Cabinet	18 Jul 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 07874 887465 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford / S Ferguson	Performance & Growth

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Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title: Warm Spaces

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – 2nd March 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health

Report by: Chief Delivery Officer

Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

As set out in the Community (Transition) Strategy 2021-23, Huntingdonshire District Council are committed to supporting their residents through a positive and ongoing working relationship with local communities. There is an immediate and pressing need to provide support via the district's established community network throughout the cost-of-living crisis particularly throughout the winter months.

Warm Spaces have been recognised nationally as a network of community provisions that can offer people a safe and warm local facility, where they can gather for free and possibly enjoy refreshments and activities. Huntingdonshire District Council have worked with local communities to provide and promote a network of Warm Spaces across the district. An offer of guidance, financial support, and training was developed to ensure anyone using a Warm Space (volunteer or resident) is safe and well supported.

The Huntingdonshire network of Warm Spaces also provides an opportunity to engage and support residents before they get into crisis. Working with a wide range of internal HDC services and external partners, a prevention pathway of support was developed and a series of Social Solutions training was rolled out to Warm Spaces volunteers and professionals over December and January.

Building on the impact and model of community support provided by Warm Space, the intention from HDC is to continue to develop and grow this network, allowing local communities to meet the needs of their local residents in the most appropriate way.

RECOMMENDATION: The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the development of Warm Spaces in response to the cost-of-living crisis. A presentation will be made to the Panel at the meeting and a report has been produced with further information.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to update on the approach to support Huntingdonshire residents during the winter, through a network of safe and warm community facilities (Warm Spaces). Recognising that local community groups are best placed to identify the specific needs of their local residents and are able to respond quickly and appropriately, the District Council's role is to coordinate, support and promote the initiative rather than to directly deliver the provision.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The COVID pandemic identified a number of strengths across local communities, namely that they were best placed to respond to the immediate needs of their residents quickly and appropriately. The strong desire and ability for community enablement was evoked after the summer of 2022, recognising that many people will find themselves in significant financial hardships during winter, where the cost of everyday essentials (bills, food, etc), would increase faster than household incomes.
- 2.2. Although the data to support the cost-of-living crisis on local residents did not demonstrate a significant impact, the District Council chose not to wait until people were in crisis. As a response to the expected cost-of-living pressures, HDC along with many other Local Authorities, investigated how to support their local residents through a network of Warm Spaces.
- 2.3. Warm Spaces are commonly described as **'places where people can gather for free in a warm, safe, welcoming place and maybe enjoy a hot drink and some company'**
- 2.4. The model for a Warm Space was to utilise a community facility to offer drinks and/or food for local residents during specific timed sessions. They are predominantly run by volunteers, possibly with activities available to encourage residents to attend and to provide a focus for the time they are there. Community providers such as town and parish councils, churches, village hall committees and third sector providers are commonly the types of organisations offering Warm Spaces in their local areas.

3. WARM SPACES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- 3.1. Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting local communities to identify, address and respond to the needs of their local residents ie: with local people, by local people, for local people.
- 3.2. The model for Warm Spaces across the district places the District Council as the enabler and promoter of the provision rather than to directly deliver the facilities and volunteers. The HDC model allowed local communities to respond in the most appropriate way and also builds community sustainability, allowing groups to continue their local offers for as long as they are needed. This reduces the risk and limitation of being wholly and directly funded by HDC. As we begin to move out of winter we see a number of the Huntingdonshire Warm Spaces perpetuating beyond the initial crisis of cold weather.

- 3.3. Communities who identified a need for a Warm Space were responsible for leading the set up and running of the provision. While support from HDC was available it was at the discretion of the individual organisations about how to scale their Warm Space depending on the number of local residents attending. If the uptake was low the community would decide whether it was viable to continue.

There were three phases of delivery for Warm Spaces:

- 3.4. **Network of locations.** Community groups offering a Warm Space were required to complete a registration form (**Appendix 1**) to assure HDC they had the necessary controls in place to ensure the safety of all those attending the Warm Space ie: both volunteers and residents. Organisations are also required to detail their facilities along with the times and activities they offer.
- 3.5. Details of the Warm Spaces were published and promoted on the HDC [Warm Spaces website page](#). The current number of Warm Spaces listed across the district is 43.
- 3.6. **Support for the provision.** Organisations wishing to apply for funding were directed to the established grant application process of the [Community Chest Fund](#). The Community Chest funding panel agreed a cap of up to £500 per Warm Space to support with any additional overheads incurred. In addition, the panel agreed to meet more frequently than the current 4-week cycle to be able to manage the number of applications for Warm Spaces funding in a timelier way.
- 3.7. A programme of training was offered to support the volunteers in Warm Spaces. A range of short online training sessions were circulated to organisations ([suicide training](#), [safeguarding training](#)) with an offer of longer and more in-depth training being made available if/when volunteers identify a requirement in their provision based on the needs of the local residents.
- 3.8. **Prevention and Early Intervention.** Warm Spaces offer a unique opportunity to support residents who have emerging needs before they fall into crisis.
- 3.9. Building on a previously successful HDC project to identify key changes and life events that can trigger a crisis (a project funded by Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) in 2020/21), a prevention pathway of support was co-produced by working with a number of colleagues across a range of partner agencies and community groups (**Appendix 2**).
- 3.10. A training programme 'Social Solutions Training' was run over December and January to support professionals and volunteers working in Warm Spaces. The training combined Making Every Contact Count training (techniques on how to positively engage with residents) with a presentation of the prevention pathway of support. Attendees were trained on a wealth of information available via the [We Are Huntingdonshire](#) website and how to send a referral to the HDC Residents Advice and Information (RAI) team, on behalf of the resident. Once the referral was received the RAI team were able to provide more individual support and importantly spend time understanding and addressing the root causes of the presenting needs e.g.: a need for warm clothes for the children may be due to a sudden change in employability. The RAI team are trained to not only support with the immediate need (vouchers for clothes) but also the

longer term needs, building resilience and independence in the person (e.g.: employability skills and training).

- 3.11. To date the Social Solutions training has been delivered to 42 individuals, including volunteers in community groups, library staff, social prescribers and health care coordinators.
- 3.12. To date the Residents Advice and Information team have received 32 referrals with issues being identified as predominantly lack of food/finances. Residents have been supported with a range of offers including Household Support Fund (bed, oven, fridge freezer), claiming Personal Independence Payments, advice and claims for benefits, fuel vouchers and respite care.
- 3.13. Building on the success and impact of the Warm Spaces in Huntingdonshire the intention from HDC is to continue to provide promotion of their location and offers, offer regular support and advice/guidance to volunteers and to continue to roll out the Social Solutions training to more volunteers and professionals.

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN/COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The model used to deliver Warm Spaces directly supports activity that will deliver **Priority 1 – Improving quality of life for local people** of the HDC Corporate Plan 2023/26, across all levels:

Improving the quality of life and well-being of the general population

We want the highest possible quality of life for the people of Huntingdonshire. It will be a place which attracts employers and visitors, and that residents are proud to call home. We will be evidence-based, responsive and support the foundations of a good life, such as personal independence, prosperity, social connection, community and good health.

Keeping people out of crisis*

We will identify the root causes that lead people into crises and find ways to prevent them. We will do this through our own actions. We will also work in partnership with residents, businesses, community groups, charities and our public sector partners.

Helping people in crisis

Where a crisis has already happened, we will work holistically to understand the issues, the cause of these issues and what opportunities exist to address them. We will seek to prevent multiple personal crises becoming entrenched and unmanageable by addressing root causes.

CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The development of Warm Spaces has multi-agency support providing key stakeholders ie: members of community groups, Town and Parish Councillors, Hunts Forum, Think Communities, Health services and a range of internal HDC services, the opportunity to inform and influence the model.
- 5.2 The model remains iterative and will be continually evaluated to reflect the support provided by the organisations offering Warm Spaces, the partners supporting and the needs of the local residents.

- 5.3 HDC has established a network of colleagues working to deliver Warm Spaces across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This has supported the transparency of offers from each district, shared learning and good practice and to support residents who live along district borders.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is current project support resource in place to maintain the administration of Warm Space. It is anticipated an additional project management resource will be required to develop the prevention pathway support HDC is able to offer to the local communities. The suggested funding for this would be through the use of earmarked reserve funding to support vulnerable residents.

7. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To brief Overview and Scrutiny Panel members on the district's offer of Warm Space support for our residents as a response to the cost-of-living crisis.

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: WARM SPACES REGISTRATION FORM

APPENDIX 2: PREVENTION PATHWAY OF SUPPORT TO RESIDENTS

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Community (Transition) Strategy 2021-23

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s117477/5.%20Community%20Transition%20Strategy%202021%202023%20Covering%20Report.pdf>

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Name/Job Title: Liz Smith – Chief Delivery Officer

Tel No: 01480 388290

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APPENDIX 1 – Registration form for Warm Spaces

SECTION 1

These are the details we will publish to the residents of Huntingdonshire about your Warm Space

Name of Organisation:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Location of your Warm Space (please include postcode to help people to find you):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Email address for enquiries:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Phone number for enquiries:

Choose an item.

Social media links for updates on Warm Spaces:

Click or tap here to enter text.

List of facilities available:

- Accessible toilets
- Accessible access in and out of the building
- Fully accessible access throughout the building
- Changing facilities
- Car park
- Free wi-fi access
- Available power sockets for people to use
- Kitchen
- Facilities to make hot food/ drink e.g.: kettle/ microwave
- Secure building
- Hearing loop
- Screen or television
- Access to free activities e.g.: board games, jigsaws, drawing and colouring resources

Other (please specify)

Click or tap here to enter text.

Will your Warm Space be staffed?

Choose an item.

How many people can you accommodate in your Warm Space (including volunteers)

Click or tap here to enter text.

SECTION 2

Please tick to confirm you have these in place to ensure the safety of those attending you Warm Space.
By ticking the box your organisation is accountable for ensuring these can be presented if requested:

ESSENTIAL – these must be in place for HDC to publicise your Warm Space on their website

- Public liability insurance
- Gas testing for the facility - in date certification
- Fixed wire test records - in date certificate(s)
- Fire Risk Assessment - in date certificate
- First aid kit - available and in date
- Buildings risk assessment - in date

If you are an organisation that currently provides food, we will display your Food Hygiene Rating as published on the Scores on the Doors website [Scores on the Doors : Huntingdon](#)

DESIRABLE – these do not need to be in place for HDC to publicise your Warm Space on their website, but are recommended good practice

- Employers Liability Insurance
- Legionella risk assessment - in date (where appropriate)
- Asbestos risk assessment - in date (where appropriate)
- DBS Checked staff (where staff have regular unsupervised contact with children or vulnerable adults)
- Safeguarding trained staff (where staff have regular contact with children or vulnerable adults)
- First Aid trained staff

Information useful for organisations offering Warm Spaces

- You can check where the nearest defibrillator is located on the Defib finder website [Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you.](#)
- You should make sure there are no personal details for individuals displayed in your Warm Space unless you have consent to do so
- the priority services register for UKPN this allows users that are at risk to receive priority service in the event of a power cut <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services/about-the-priority-services-register>
- If you are needing additional funding to cover **costs up to £500** for setting up or running your Warm Space you can check your [eligibility here](#) and then apply for a grant here [Community Chest Fund – Application Form \(huntingdonshire.gov.uk\)](#)

SECTION 3

Please provide details of your Warm Space opening times along with any organised activities you are running

Day	Time	Activity	Costs
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

SECTION 4

Please confirm contact details for communication between HDC and your organisation (**these details will not be published on the website to residents**)

Contact name:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact email address:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Contact phone number:

Click or tap here to enter text.

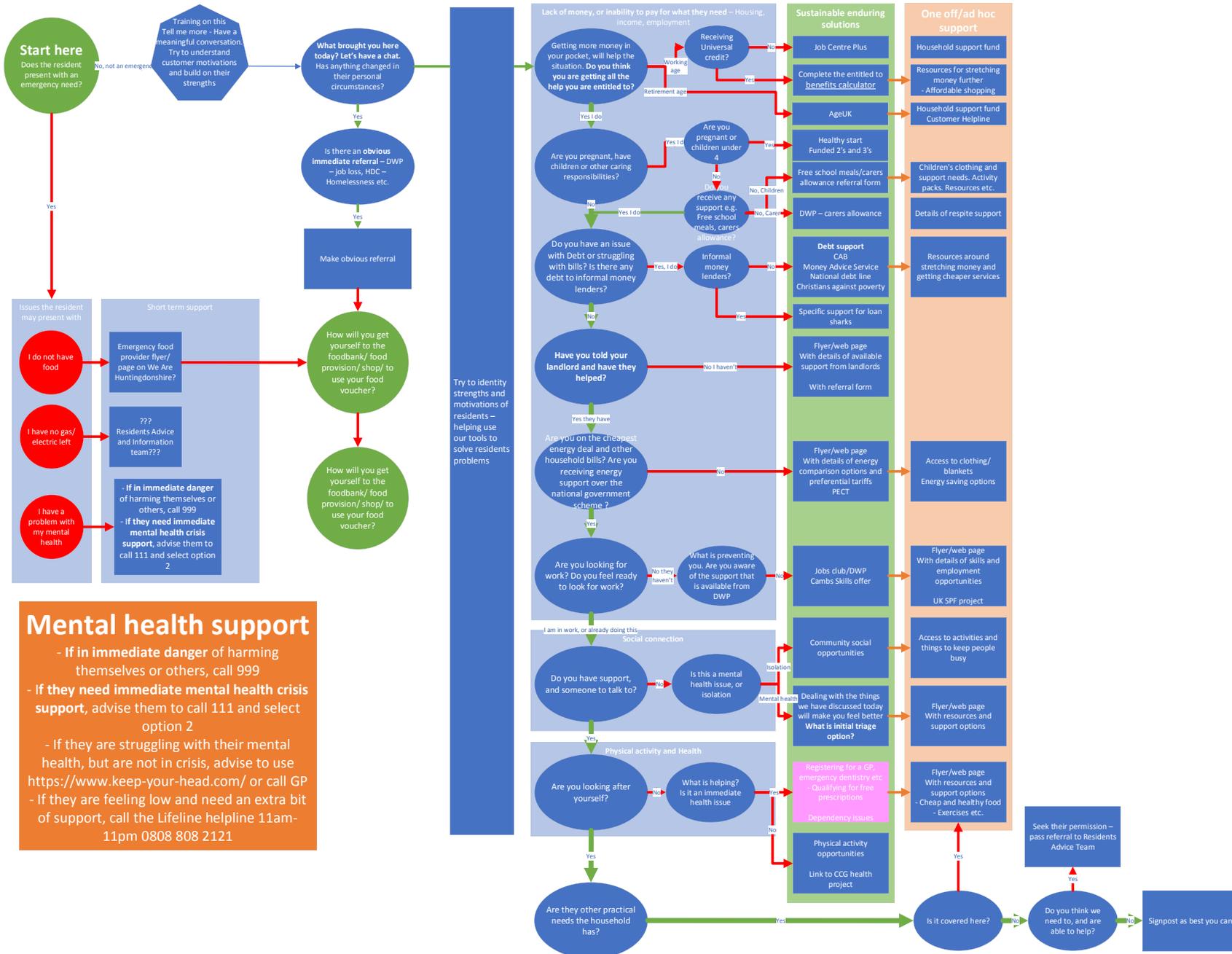
Many thanks for completing and returning your registration form. Once we have received your details we will publish your Warm Space on the district map here Warm Spaces - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk and add to the list of locations here Warm Spaces Locations - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Please allow 5 working days for your details to be live on the HDC website.

Thank you again for offering support to our residents at such a challenging time and we will use the contact details listed under Section 4 to provide updates and ideas to support your local community over the coming months.

APPENDIX 2 – Prevention pathway of support

Warm Spaces Proposed decision tree for support



Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title: Health Inequalities project – Tackling Prevention through Community Engagement

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – 2nd March 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health

Report by: Health Inequalities Project Manager

Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

In March 2022 a funding opportunity was made available to all District Councils in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authority to deliver local schemes supporting the strategic aims of the Integrated Care System (ICS). The funding was awarded to support local communities and community engagement initiatives related to improving the health inequalities across the district.

Funds were awarded to HDC to initially deliver a project to enable the recognised group of organisations (accredited Recognised Organisations - ROs) that HDC worked closely with during the pandemic to inform, co-design and evaluate initiatives that would address health inequalities hyper-locally.

This innovative way of working puts communities in control with support from HDC. In addition to funding local projects, support in the form of additional resource, was put in place which includes a Project Manager and a Communications Executive.

A mid-project review confirmed 15 community groups across the district have committed to delivering health inequality projects. The groups have consulted with their communities and have defined proposals to start activities/initiatives to address the identified needs.

This report provides the background to the project, progress so far and describes the intended impacts. It also poses the possible opportunity of using this approach by the council to other priority areas of work and how this aligns with the Community (Transition) Strategy 2021-23, which states that Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting residents through a positive and ongoing working relationship with local communities.

RECOMMENDATION: The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on the progress of the Health Inequalities Project. A presentation will be made to the Panel at the meeting and a report has been produced with further information.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to detail how Huntingdonshire District Council has delivered the project to address localised health needs, funded by the Integrated Care System, with particular reference to the enablement of community-based organisations to determine and address wider determinants of health.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In March 2022 a funding opportunity was made available to all District Councils in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authority to deliver local schemes supporting the strategic aims of the Integrated Care System (ICS). The funding was to support local communities and community engagement initiatives related to improving the health inequalities across the district.

- 2.2. HDC have long held a commitment to contributing to health outcomes, and to work in partnership with our local communities. This project sits within HDC's own vision of 'Improving quality of life for local people' and compliments the Community Transition Strategy and the Health and Leisure Strategy.

- 2.3. The successful Huntingdonshire District Council proposal builds on the foundations of the strong community network that emerged during the pandemic.

- 2.4. During the pandemic Hunts Forum, supported by HDC, embedded a localised accreditation of Recognised Organisations (ROs)* across the district with 14 community and voluntary organisations being awarded. This project uses these organisations as the framework on which to build, through a process of community engagement and co-production. It aims to support organisations that are deeply embedded in their neighbourhoods to empower residents to develop, and own, solutions to the unique challenges they face by building sustainable infrastructure (through networks, knowledge and information). (**Hunts Forum has since launched its 'Good to Go' accreditation which superseded the Recognised Organisations accreditation*)

- 2.5. The delivery of the Health Inequalities project aligns to the ICS design principles for new activities and schemes through their principles of:

- **Think Local** – everything should be done as near to where people live their lives as possible
- **Keep it Simple** – For both residents and staff remove all unnecessary layers that add limited value.
- **Do it Together** – Partners integrate to get better results, including voluntary sector and small providers.
- **Prove It** – Use evidence to show the impact of what you are doing.

- 2.6. In addition, the HDC design principles are incorporated into the design and delivery of the project:

- **Additionality** – how the funding creates additional value over and above the cost of implementation e.g.: enduring legacy, and developing new skills or providing opportunities that can be built on further
- **Scalability** – designing activities that can be replicated in other locations or other audiences, so we learn from success and challenges

- **Localism** – sourcing the things we need, in terms of goods and services, from the local community or within the district as a priority. Made locally, delivered locally, owned locally.
- **Sustainability and Enablement** – building provision that is enduring and owned by the local community through the support and advice provided by the council i.e.: a facilitating and enabling role rather than leading
- **Transparency** – to share learning and progress and to build trust with the local communities

3. HDC HEALTH INEQUALITIES PROJECT

3.1. The process used by the ROs was set out in 4 phases:

1. Consult with residents about what type of provision would address their neighbourhoods' specific health needs.
2. Set up, develop and communicate targeted community-based health improvement activities, in response to neighbourhood consultation and regional data.
3. Collect baseline data and follow up data to evaluate whether the intervention has been successful.
4. Use the learning to build interventions that are sustainable and scalable.

3.2. The support provided to the ROs by HDC was:

- Dedicated Project Manager and Communications Executive both for 12 months
- Provided direct payment funding of between £2.5 & £5K to participating ROs to cover existing resource/staff costs to support this work
- Made available £125K initiative funding for new or extended activities to address local health inequalities.

3.3. A direct payment was made to the participating ROs of £2,500 - £5,000 based on area size and assessment of need on receipt of a signed Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU set out the terms of agreement between the RO and HDC which included:

- **The undertaking of an analysis of the local health needs** via community consultation,
- **Working to identify how these needs can be met** through co-designing and co-developing sustainable local provision,
- **To deliver regular monitoring and evaluation activities** to assess the success and impact of the provision and share good practice.
- **To understand the impacts and successes** by working in co-production with residents and the district council to capture the innovations through case-studies and reports, enabling the learning to be shared with other ROs in the district, county or nationally.

3.4. Key to this project was that communities identify and meet their own needs. ROs were supported to efficiently assess and understand the level of need in their local area supported by the project manager.

3.5. **Analysis of Local Health Needs** - Recognising that ROs know the most effective ways to consult with their communities, each conducted a community consultation. Methods included surveys (online and in person), community

events, a forum of town organisations, youth bus and conversations at existing activities.

- 3.6. **Co-design & Co-development** – The consultation data and local demographic and health data provided by HDC was used to define proposals to address the health needs each RO has identified. A fund of up to £7,500 per RO was provisionally identified to facilitate these proposals.
- 3.7. Regardless of demographic ROs have all identified '**improving wellbeing**' as a priority in their local areas. This is reflected in regional and national data, exacerbated by the pandemic closely followed by the cost-of-living crisis. Addressing wellbeing is a precursor to residents being able to take action to improve their health and being more receptive to making changes that will potentially prevent the escalation of health issues in later in life.
- 3.8. ROs have proposed a wide variety of potential solutions. These fall into 5 main categories:
- Physical initiatives
 - Creative initiatives
 - Healthy Eating initiatives
 - Mental Health initiatives
 - Information Sharing
- Examples of the initiatives being delivered across the district can be found in Appendix 1
- 3.9. Having a named person(s) in the RO has allowed strong relationships between community groups and HDC to develop. Support so far includes:
- **RO Support** - Regular meetings with each RO involved in the project (face to face & online) and quarterly group meetings with all ROs to encourage networking and share ideas.
 - **Communications** - Social Media promotion and webpage for the project regularly updated. Frequent promotion of good news stories via press releases.
 - **Providing Local Data** – General population data (split by gender and age), deprivation data (split across employment, housing and health), health condition data (split across conditions e.g.: obesity, diabetes, dementia, hypertension etc)
 - **Information Gathering/Sharing** - Sharing relevant health related news / initiatives, attending events where required. Regular 'newsletter' update to share successes and provide advice and guidance.
 - **Linking ROs with relevant support/commissioning organisations**
- 3.10. **Monitoring & Evaluation.** ROs will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative monitoring and assessment methods, including attendance registers, case studies, photographs and videos.

- 3.11. **Understanding the impacts and successes:** ROs will complete a project evaluation which will enable HDC and the ICS to evaluate the impact of the project against the expected benefits.
- 3.12. In addition to addressing local health needs/inequalities this approach has also delivered additional benefits:
- Increase capacity/skills of community groups and volunteers
 - Build stronger relationships between HDC and community groups
 - Objectively evaluated the impact of small amounts of funding to address very specific, localised needs ensuring it is efficient, well-founded and cost effective and the process can be adapted to other council priorities.
 - Provided further insight into the heart of the varied and unique communities that make up Huntingdonshire which could inform future planning and strategic aims.
- 3.13. The role of HDC has been as an enabler and facilitator for the local communities, as well as the working directly with the ICS to ensure the overall funding terms are satisfied. Regular written updates are provided to the ICS and progress presentations are shared authority wide at quarterly meetings, with the intention of informing future delivery models. A lessons learned document has also been shared with the ICS.
- 3.14. Recent discussions with the ICS (in February) are suggesting a second year of funding will be made available to district councils to continue to address health inequalities at a local level. Process, reporting requirements and budgets have yet to be confirmed but all districts across the Authority have been able to demonstrate positive impact for their schemes, to the satisfaction of the ICS, and therefore to validate further funding through this model.

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN/COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The model used to deliver the Health Inequalities Project directly links to the priority areas of work, as set out in the HDC Corporate Plan 2022/23, for two of the Council's objectives: **Supporting the Needs of Residents** and **Strengthening our Communities**.
- 4.2 In addition, the model directly supports activity that will deliver **Priority 1 – Improving quality of life for local people** of the HDC Corporate Plan 2023/26

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The development of the Health Inequalities Project has multi-agency support. It provides key stakeholders i.e.: members of community groups, Town and Parish Councillors, Hunts Forum, Think Communities, Health services, schools, Primary Care Networks, ICS and a range of internal HDC services, the opportunity to inform and influence activities that will directly improve outcomes for residents.
- 5.2 HDC reports regularly to the **ICS 'Community and Prevention: Collaboration Group'** which is a network of colleagues across the CPCA who deliver projects funded by this grant. This network allows for sharing of ideas and solutions and transparency across the county.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications from this report

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This project has funded HDC staff support until 31st June 2023. It is likely that many of the projects initiated by this fund will last longer and the transition of project work into the community will be supported by the project manager, while in post.

8. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To brief Overview and Scrutiny Panel members on the district's Health Inequalities Project to support our residents to address localised health inequalities, build community resilience and prevent health issues from escalating.

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES BEING DELIVERED

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH HDC TO DELIVER THE HEALTH INEQUALITIES PROJECT

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Community (Transition) Strategy 2021-23

<https://applications.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s117477/5.%20Community%20Transition%20Strategy%202021%202023%20Covering%20Report.pdf>

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APPENDIX 1

EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES BEING DELIVERED

The green initiatives have submitted proposals and have had funds allocated. The yellow activities are currently in the submission process.

Proposal	Addressing
Specialist youth worker to work with young people to address wellbeing and mental health issues at weekly youth club.	Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing
Extend the offer at the Green End Club by introducing some movement and wellbeing activities. Provide volunteers and staff with mental health first aid training. Foodbank Recipe Book, Health Talks	Keep older residents more active for longer, wellbeing, public awareness,
Dementia Café and intergenerational activities to promote awareness and understanding.	Dementia, wellbeing
Health Walks, Community requested exercise classes, art/craft club	Getting the inactive more active, wellbeing
Train village volunteer to offer 'Love to Move' strength and balance classes, wellbeing/social activities for the isolated.	Keep older residents more active for longer, mental health/wellbeing
Cooking on a Budget, Youth Cricket, Community Cafe	Cost of living crisis, mental health/wellbeing, encouraging youth participation in sport
Yoga and Artist led Art Classes	Getting the inactive more active, community cohesion and reducing isolation
Cookery Classes/Healthy eating, weekly community sports sessions, organisational support	Healthy eating, getting the inactive more active
Strength and balance course, swimming/aqua classes.	Keep older residents more active for longer, wellbeing, getting the inactive more active
Young People's Mental Health with particular reference to the home schooled	Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing
Classes to promote use of outside gym equipment, Tai Chi and Yoga	Keep older residents more active for longer, wellbeing, getting the inactive more active
Men's Shed	Mental Health and wellbeing
Information sharing, signposting to existing activities – St Neots Community Forum	Reducing inequalities regarding access to services and activities that will promotes healthy lifestyles and wellbeing
Project 1 - Hobby Hub for 50 participants. Artist led to promote wellbeing and joint working. Project 2 - Hobby Hub/warm space. Project 3 - Men's Shed.	Wellbeing and mental health
Information sharing, signposting to existing activities	Reducing inequalities regarding access to services and activities that will promotes healthy lifestyles and wellbeing

APPENDIX 2:

List of recognised organisations (ROs) working with HDC to deliver the health inequalities project:

- Brampton Community Hub
- CARESCO
- Godmanchester Timebank
- Hail Weston Parish Council
- Hemingford Hub
- Hilton Parish Council
- Houghton & Wyton Timebank
- Huntingdon Community Group
- Kimbolton Parish Council
- Love's Farm Community Association
- Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
- Somersham & Pidley Timebank
- St Neots Community Support
- Social Echo - Yaxley
- St Ives Town Council - St Ives Cares

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Performance and Growth

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Review of External Appointments to Outside Organisations	Cllrs S Cawley, S J Corney, I D Gardener and S A Howell	TBC	<p>Summer 2022: Terms of Reference have been established. Questionnaire has been sent to all relevant boards and organisations. Regular meetings are established from September.</p> <p>September 2022: Evidence and information gathering underway.</p> <p>November 2022: Information gathering completed.</p> <p>February 2023: Report presented to O&S Panel and Cabinet</p> <p>Next steps: Plan regular review to monitor implementation of recommendations.</p>
Market Towns Programme	TBC	TBC	<p>February 2023: DSO to ascertain viability for a working group to be established in line with the existing project or as a standalone.</p>

Environment, Communities and Partnerships

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Climate	Councillor T D Alban Councillor J Kerr Councillor C Lowe Councillor D Shaw	Neil Sloper	November 2022: Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. Next Steps: Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed. Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development.
Climate Subgroup Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development	Councillor T D Alban Councillor J Kerr Councillor C Lowe Councillor D Shaw	George McDowell	February 2022: Initial meeting held Next Steps: Regular meetings to be established.
Flooding	n/a	Oliver Morley	Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on how effective the measures which were put in place in July 2021 following a Flooding Task and Finish Report have been. Summer 2023: An update will be presented to the Panel.

Warm Spaces	n/a	Liz Smith	<p>Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on the Warm Spaces Project.</p> <p>November 2022: The Warm Spaces Project was presented to the Panel.</p> <p>Spring 2023: An update on the Warm Spaces Project will be presented to the Panel following the winter season.</p>
Roman's Edge Lettings Plan	n/a		<p>TBC: An update will be presented to the Panel.</p>

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