

Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Work Programme 2019/2020

Active Studies

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress	Interim Reporting Date
Lifelong Health – Part Two Identify ways in which the Council can improve the lifelong health of residents. Identify the benefits of a whole system approach for the Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ways of developing better health outcomes. Discuss with the CCG and Public Health in order to establish if collaboration between the Council, the CCG and Public Health is worthwhile. 	CCG CCC Public Health 'Friends of the Rec' Jayne Wisely Cllr J Palmer Cllr Mrs J Tavener	12th September 2019 – The Panel received the final report of Part One and agreed to continue the study under the guise of 'Part Two'. 14th October 2019 – The task and finish group met with Liz Robin, Public Health. 10th December 2019 – 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 & Town Councils and community groups in order to improve residents' physical activity and well-being.	04/06/2020

O&S (Performance and Growth)

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress	Interim Reporting Date
Wider Economic Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be confirmed		<p>During a discussion on the work programme at their meeting in October 2019, the Panel decided to review the topic Wider Economic Environment and identify potential areas of study.</p> <p>The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) has been preparing an Options Paper. Once the paper is completed it will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny.</p>	05/02/2020

Prospective Future Studies

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) idea	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
Health – What are the issues facing the young and elderly populations of Huntingdonshire. How can HDC, either with partners or on its own initiative, assist with the health and well-being of residents in the District.	1. Reducing isolation - reducing age-specific dependency rates by 1 per cent per year would reduce public expenditure by £940m per year by 2031 - reducing the rate of institutionalisation by 1 per cent a year could save £3.8bn.	Age UK	Identifying opportunities (particularly technology) to deliver key activities identified by Age UK, to address isolation: - Creating a new social link - Developing wider social networks - Meeting like-minded people through clubs and groups - Meeting people with similar needs and supporting each other - Using local services and facilities - Changing social attitudes so that users become accepted and valued as full members of the community in their own right.	Dependent upon outcome of bid for inclusion in CCC digital services programme – Spring 2018
	2. Improving mental health Contributes to addressing: - Worklessness - Homelessness - Poor health outcomes - Self-reliance	CCG	- Quantifying the cost and impacts of isolation - Recommendations for our services to address - Designing communities for the future	
	3. Reducing hospital admissions in over 65's	Sports England/Active Lifestyles/CCG	Identifying non health interventions that can support mental health – e.g. social referral, links to community activities, volunteering activities. - Opportunities to improve impact of DFG's? - Assisted collections. Investigate if having an assisted collection is an indicator that a resident may require a DFG.	

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) idea	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
Homelessness – Investigating the links between homelessness and housing supply. Finding triggers for homelessness. Discovering options and opportunities to reduce homelessness in Huntingdonshire.	1. Increase supply of affordable property.	Development Advisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closer partnership working with health - Establishing greater community resilience 	
	2. Reduce number of homelessness presentations.	Jon Collen / Helen Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engagement with Places for People/Luminus 	
	3. Increase number of homelessness preventions – solutions that prevent people losing their home	Jon Collen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Private Sector landlords to understand reasons behind end of AST and incentives to address - Looking to develop options to incentivise Private landlords to take social tenants. - Strategies around use of HMOs - Testing effectiveness of Trailblazer - Testing Homelessness pilot work - Looking at opportunities for partners to signpost and intervene - Taking evidence from best practice providers elsewhere 	
	4. Increase number of empty properties brought back into use		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Registered Providers to maximise housing stock utilisation and fit 	
Environment – What are the environmental (and lifestyle) quality issues facing Huntingdonshire,	1. Reducing air pollution	Chris Stopford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport options - Natural environment – exploring opportunities to enhance HDC country parks (Hinchbrook / Paxton Pits) 	
	2. Reducing long term flood issues	Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of Great Fen as a regionally significant habitat / tourism destination 	

O&S (Customers and Partnerships) idea	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
	3. The community role in grounds maintenance and cleansing	Neil Sloper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A14 and Cam Ox corridor – actively influencing Govt and key transport agencies on investment pipeline and funding options - Exploring the options and Council/communities appetite for scalable growth linked to new infrastructure and 'healthy places' with sustainable living choices 	
	4. Definition of 'Place' and 'People' vision for Huntingdonshire		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role of Neighbourhood Plans and Market Town Master Plans in promoting and directing employment and housing growth - Influencing long term utility provision – water/power 	

O&S (Performance and Growth)

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
Housing – Increasing quality of housing developments and increasing supply of Affordable/Social housing – specifically in the villages.	1. Increase in the number of affordable houses built in the District – positively impacting on the quality of developments	Andy Moffat Cllr Corney (a builder by trade)/ Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the effectiveness of rural exception sites and 60/40 policy - Explore viability assessment mechanisms to ensure proper value is created from development sites - Review of CIL charging regime and utilisation of funds 	
	2. Reduce voids of all types, inc empty homes and RP turnaround times	Homes England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relationships with RPs (Registered Providers) and options to increase pace and tenure type of supply plans 	
	3. Increase the availability of social housing	Registered Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilisation of HDC non-operational land assets to increase supply and generate 	

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
Wider Economic Environment – How to best position Huntingdonshire as an attractive place to do business	4. Reduce Council spend on Homelessness	Andy Moffat / Clive Mason CA Business Board / Company CEOs – reasons for locations choices and future workforce aspirations	system savings (eg reduction in B&B spend. - Improving infrastructure on developments to enhance liveability, including digital, environmental – flooding etc, energy use, health land and space for wildlife. Supporting positive transport choices, and community self-reliance.	
	5. Enhanced infrastructure and liveability on developments		- Creation of an Investment prospectus for Huntingdonshire - Input into a Local Industrial Strategy - Digital infrastructure and Connected Cambridgeshire roll-out across market towns	
	1. A Local Industrial Strategy for Cambridgeshire within which Huntingdonshire is prominent		- Better Business for All pilot initiative matching regulatory services to advice and promotion - Roads and rail infrastructure investment deal with Govt / CA - Business rates retention and utilisation of AW Enterprise Zone NNRD receipts - Role of strategic sites such as Alconbury Weald in delivering floor space and clusters	
	2. GVA (Gross Value Added) net increase		- Sector analysis - what are the indicators of existing success and productivity. Sectors to nurture and attract. - Understanding locational advantages of Huntingdonshire and investment decisions of business leaders to stay/relocate here.	
	3. Increase in business rates receipts and invest to accumulate utilisation thereof (subject to Govt regs)		- Scope and mechanisms for HDC interventions in infrastructure/redevelopment programmes	
	4. Increase average earnings and percentage earnings derived in Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire			
	5. Opportunities to enhance the Councils industrial portfolio and Corporate Investment Strategy in facilitating,			

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Objective test ideas	Advisor potential	Suggested Scope	Progress
Skills - Increase in educational attainment, and achievement of key skills.	retaining and securing new business opportunities			
	A package of 'Deals': - HDC & Govt/CA - HDC and Local Councils - HDC and communities - An increase in key skill areas. - An increase in educational attainment.	Andy Moffat John T Hill - CPCA CA Business Board / Company CEOs – reasons for locations choices and future workforce aspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Authority strategy impacts, particularly advancing recommendations from CPIER. • Alignment to future skills and sectoral demand identified through EMSI study. • Role of EDGE programme and wider Combined Authority skills and business support advisory services. • Relationship to CPBS 'Grand Challenges' outcomes. 	

Closed Studies

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress	Outcome
Lifelong Health – Part One Identify ways in which the Council can improve the lifelong health of residents. Identify the benefits of a whole system approach for the Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify what the main health issues facing the residents of Huntingdonshire are (and if there are any problem areas). To discover what leisure activities/provision residents enjoy and/or want. Identify what leisure provision/facilities are most effective. (Investment shouldn't be made in a particular facility if the benefits are minimal.) Discuss with the CCG in order to establish if collaboration between the Council and the CCG is worthwhile. 	CCG CCC Public Health Jayne Wisely Cllr J Palmer Cllr Mrs J Tavenor	<p>10th January 2019 – The Task and Finish (T&F) Group met and reviewed the scoping document. Based on the Group's discussion the scoping document is being revised. The revised scoping document will be presented to the Group at their next meeting for approval.</p> <p>7th February 2019 – The T&F Group met and agreed the scoping document. Members planned out the next steps of work and agreed to focus on collaboration with Parish Councils.</p> <p>20th March 2019 – Members visited Little Paxton Parish Council to view their physical activity equipment and learn how they engage with the community. Members had a further meeting on 4th April to discuss key learning points of the visit.</p> <p>8th July 2019 – The T&F Group visited Yaxley Parish Council and discovered what leisure facilities there are and how they engage with the community.</p> <p>31st July 2019 – Members met to discuss their findings, agree the content of the final report and discuss future work programming.</p> <p>12th September 2019 – The Panel received a final report which outlined the Group's recommendations and proposed timetable for future study work.</p>	<p>Members agreed the recommendations within the report and agreed to conduct further study under 'Part Two'.</p> <p>The report was presented to Cabinet for comment in October 2019.</p>

O&S (Customers and Partnerships)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress	Outcome
Tree Strategy Working Group Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mrs J Tavener (Lead) • Cllr B Banks • Cllr J W Davies 	At the O&S Panel (Communities and Environment) meeting in September 2017, Members agreed to establish a working group with the aim of refreshing the Tree Strategy and scrutinising the Action Plan.	Andy Moffat Tamsin Miles Adrian Sargeant	<p>5th September 2017 – O&S Panel (Communities and Environment) established the Tree Strategy Working Group.</p> <p>6th February 2018 – Councillor Mrs J Tavener updated Members on the progress of the Working Group.</p> <p>12th July 2018 – The Panel received an update from Councillor Mrs J Tavener.</p> <p>February 2019 – The Arboricultural Officer (Planning) and the Arboricultural Officer (Operations) began liaising with the Working Group in order to review and update the Council's Tree Strategy.</p> <p>3rd October 2019 – The final report was presented to O&S. In addition, the Arboricultural Officer (Planning) gave a presentation on the next steps of the Tree Strategy Revision.</p>	The Tree Strategy Working Group was dissolved. A revised Tree Strategy will be presented to O&S in March 2020.

O&S (Performance and Growth)

O&S (Performance and Growth)	Summary of Scope	Advisors	Progress	Outcome
<p>Delivery of Affordable Housing <i>(Accelerating the delivery of Affordable Housing across Huntingdonshire communities primarily through Rural Exception Site mechanisms)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of affordable houses built in the District – positively impacting on the quality of developments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore methods that maximise the effectiveness of the Council's approach to achieving additional affordable housing provision beyond allocated sites. To advise on a strategic programme and range of mechanisms to promote and secure rural exception sites (RES) appropriate to settlement scale and need across the District. To explore how RES sites can best be promoted locally, including the role of Ward Members and Parish /Town Councils. 	<p>Andy Moffat</p> <p>Cllr Corney (a builder by trade)/Developers</p>	<p>8th January 2019 – The Panel reviewed and agreed the scoping document.</p> <p>12th February 2019 – The Task and Finish Group met and reminded themselves of the scoping document. Members also discussed the documents presented to them and considered them when planning future work.</p> <p>12th March 2019 – Mark Deas, Cambridgeshire ACRE, was in attendance to discuss the work of the organisation and the mechanism of Rural Exception Sites (RES). Members are keen to discuss with Housing Associations their development plans for Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>23rd April 2019 – Mark Hanson, Cross Keys Homes and Ian Jackson, Longhurst were in attendance to discuss RES and opportunities to accelerate the supply of affordable housing.</p> <p>30th April 2019 – Nigel Finney and John Walton of Luminus were in attendance to discuss ways that HDC and Luminus could accelerate the delivery of affordable housing in Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>1st October 2019 – The final report was presented to O&S.</p>	<p>The report was presented to Cabinet for comment in October 2019.</p>

Ideas

Topics
<p>Health – What are the issues facing the young and elderly populations of Huntingdonshire. How can HDC, either with partners or on its own initiative, assist with the health and well-being of residents in the District.</p> <p>Evidence Local Authority Health Profile 2018 published by Public Health England. We have three key indicators where we perform significantly worse than the national average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Killed and seriously injured on roads- Alcohol-specific hospital stays (under 18s)- Excess weight in adults (aged 18+) <p>Not significantly worse, but underperforming national average</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hip fractures in older people (aged 65+) <p>We have a number of projects already underway or receiving support which are directly contributing to these outcomes (Ramsey Think Healthy / Live Healthy project). Support for activity through our leisure centres and for community initiatives such as Park Run. With a new run supported to start in St Neots this year. One Leisure Active Lifestyles Team creating opportunities for social engagement, particularly ageing population, through its class programmes, particularly 'Right Start'</p>
<p>Homelessness – Investigating the links between homelessness and housing supply. Finding triggers for homelessness. Discovering options and opportunities to reduce homelessness in Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>A large amount of work is happening in this space already, as a key corporate priority. Our own net spend on Homelessness is has more than doubled since 2015/16. This is in line with national figures. Housing affordability is an issue locally. With private rentals being very limited within the rates that national benefits pay. Huntingdonshire's average house price increased by 36% in four years from April 2014 and the average household would now need to borrow 7.1 times its income to purchase the average house based on median values.</p>
<p>Environment – What are the environmental (and lifestyle) quality issues facing Huntingdonshire,</p> <p>Evidence 2036 Local Plan and associated studies, particularly Infrastructure Delivery Plan</p> <p>Combined Authority strategies and CPIER report</p>
<p>Affordable Housing – Increasing quality of housing developments and increasing supply of Affordable/Social housing – specifically in the villages.</p>

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