

Corporate Plan 2018 – 2022

Huntingdonshire is already one of the best places to live in the country. We have good strategic transport links, a diverse workforce, below average unemployment, prosperous towns, active and engaged communities, a wide range of leisure options, a well-cared-for local economy and many, many other benefits.

We want to create an environment within which Huntingdonshire and its people can thrive. We want to protect and enhance the natural beauty of the area, ensuring that new development creates sustainable places where people want to live.

The Council is one part of a complex structure of public sector service providers and, in the context of public sector reforms and new ways of working, the need for collaborative partnership working is ever-increasing. We know we cannot deliver our vision alone and no single organisation has all the answers. We are taking the lead on work with partners such as the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, to help bring in investment and attract people to live and work here.

We remain committed to addressing the area's 'grand challenges' (Good Start, Good Health, Good Work, Good Place), which are now linked to our Corporate Plan, as well as a range of 'wicked issues' which present risks to the area, its people and the Council's ability to deliver its vision. We will continue to be reactive to emerging issues as we address wider economic and environmental challenges and we will involve and support our residents and businesses in adapting to these challenges.

These include the national and local implications of Covid-19, with the pandemic and lockdown restrictions having significant impacts on our people, our businesses and some of our medium-term objectives. While it is still too early to fully understand the lasting effects on the area, both our emergency response and our recovery activities are aimed at minimising negative impacts and taking opportunities to "build back better". Our [Covid Recovery Programme](#) covers the specific activities and projects being delivered in direct response to the pandemic.

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out a programme of activity to deliver growth and investment in the local economy whilst at the same time delivering quality services to residents. However, in the current climate we need to remain prepared to reallocate resources to react to new circumstances and to support evolving recovery plans.

Where we can properly plan for the future prosperity of our residents, find sensible solutions to tackle the things that matter to our residents and more proactively engage with the communities of Huntingdonshire; we will do so. We will do all these things because we are an ambitious **place** with huge potential and we always strive for the best outcomes for our **people**.

The Corporate Plan shows you our objectives, the work programmes we have put in place, the actions we will take and how we will measure our performance.

Vision: We want to support a safe and healthy environment, deliver economic growth, provide value for money services and create opportunities for the people of Huntingdonshire

People (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

Our Work Programme

- Enabling people to live independently through the provision of adaptations and accessible housing
- Providing great, accessible green spaces, countryside, leisure and cultural facilities and opportunities for recreation and health
- Ensuring new developments have sufficient public green open spaces including play provision
- Facilitating and providing opportunities for positive activities that support residents' health and wellbeing needs
- Supporting, enabling and facilitating individuals to improve their health and well-being through self-care
- Working with partners to improve health and reduce health inequalities
- Prioritising accessible, high quality, well maintained open space, walking and cycling facilities on new housing developments
- Meeting the housing and support needs of our population

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Work in partnership to provide greater leisure and health opportunities to enable more people to be more active, more often
- Provide financial assistance to people on low incomes to pay their rent and Council Tax
- Ensure that the principles of earlier interventions aimed at preventing homelessness are embedded within public sector organisations and other stakeholder partners
- Adopt a new Homelessness Strategy and a new Lettings Policy
- Identify and implement solutions to eradicate the need to place homeless families in B&Bs

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

We will measure our success in the following ways:

- Number of homelessness preventions achieved (cumulative year to date)
- Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date)
- Average number of days to process changes of circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date)

More people taking part in sport and physical activity:

- Number of individual One Card holders using One Leisure Facilities services over the last 12 months (rolling 12 months)
- Number of individual One Leisure Active Lifestyles service users (cumulative year to date)

Providing more opportunities for people to be more active:

- Number of sessions delivered by One Leisure Active Lifestyles (cumulative year to date)

People participating more often:

- Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions – swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall, pitches and Burgess Hall (excluding school admissions) (cumulative year to date)
- People participating more often: One Leisure Active Lifestyles total attendances (cumulative year to date)

People – Develop a flexible and skilled local workforce

Our Work Programme

- Ensuring the full range of sufficient skills are available to support the Enterprise Zone
- Creating stronger links between businesses, education and training
- Working with businesses to establish current and future skills needs

People – Develop stronger and more resilient communities to enable people to help themselves

Our Work Programme

- Supporting community development and enabling the voluntary and community sector to develop
- Working with communities to build resilience
- Increasing and supporting the development of levels of volunteering

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Support community planning including working with parishes to complete Neighbourhood Plans
- Develop our asset-based approach to working with partners to improve opportunities for residents in the Oxmoor area, taking actions to increase community resilience and reduce demands and pressures on partner organisations
- Work with Recognised Organisations and other community organisations to increase volunteering

Place (Good Place/Good Work):

**We want to make Huntingdonshire a better place
to work and invest and we want to deliver
new and appropriate housing**

Place – Create, protect and enhance our safe and clean built and green environment

Our Work Programme

- Ensuring that our streets and open spaces are clean and safe

Our Work Programme

- Working closely with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Collaborating with partners, providers and stakeholders in an enterprising fashion to enhance community resilience and build sustainable opportunities for people

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Adopt a plan and deliver increases in nature – protecting and increasing biodiversity within our parks and open spaces
- Deliver programme of waste minimisation activities to encourage people to reduce, re-use and recycle

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

We will measure our success in the following ways:

- Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti or flyposting (cumulative year to date)
- Number of missed bins per 1,000 households (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of household waste recycled/reused/composted (cumulative year to date)
- Number of complaints about food premises (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of licensed taxi/hackney carriage/private hire vehicles that meet 'Euro 6' low vehicle emission standards (latest position at end of each quarter)
- Total number of appeals allowed as a percentage of total number of planning appeals decided (cumulative year to date)
- Number of cost awards against the Council where the application was refused at Development Management Committee contrary to the officer recommendation (cumulative year to date)

Place – Accelerate business growth and investment

Our Work Programme

- Supporting new and growing businesses and promoting business success
- Supporting the delivery of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone
- Supporting economic growth in market towns and rural areas
- Promoting inward investment

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Develop a Regeneration Plan

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Work with partners across the Cambridgeshire economy to deliver the ambitions of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review / Local Industrial Strategy

Place – Support development of infrastructure to enable growth**Our Work Programme**

- Facilitating the delivery of infrastructure to support housing growth
- Influencing the development of the Highways and Transport Infrastructure Strategy

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Continue to work with partners and influence the Combined Authority (CA) and secure support and resources to facilitate delivery of new housing, drive economic growth and provide any critical infrastructure
- Support the implementation of 'Prospectuses for Growth' for St Ives, Huntingdon and Ramsey and the St Neots Masterplan
- Continue to provide active input into and work with partners on key transport developments, including the A428, East-West Rail and A14 improvements
- Work with partners to develop Oxford-Cambridge Arc (Ox-Cam) growth corridor proposals and maximise the opportunities this can offer locally

Performance Indicators for 2021/22**We will measure our success in the following ways:**

- The amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding committed for infrastructure development (cumulative year to date)

Place – Improve the supply of new and affordable housing, jobs and community facilities to meet current and future need**Our Work Programme**

- Planning and delivering the provision of decent market and affordable housing for current and future needs
- Ensuring an adequate supply of housing to meet objectively assessed needs
- Ensuring there are the right community and leisure facilities to support new housing developments

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Maintain a five year housing land supply (5YHLS) and ensure that the Housing Delivery Test in the National Planning Policy Framework is met
- Devise and implement strategies to use Council assets to support the delivery of affordable homes

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

We will measure our success in the following ways:

- Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)
- Number of new affordable homes delivered (cumulative year to date)
- Net growth in number of homes with a Council Tax banding (cumulative year to date)

Becoming a more Efficient and Effective Council

Our Work Programme

- Implementing our Transformation Programme
- Where possible, migrating customers to online services as the service of choice
- Maximising income opportunities, where appropriate
- Increasing the use of Information Technology to maximise efficiencies
- Identifying new opportunities for income generation
- Having an engaged and motivated workforce
- Ensuring our Medium-Term Financial Strategy is focused on strategic priorities
- Continuing to reshape the way the Council works to realise our savings target and improve performance

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Actively manage Council owned non-operational assets and, where possible, ensure such assets are generating a commercial return for the Council

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Develop the Council's approach to data and business intelligence to support efforts to improve organisational efficiency including the development of unit cost and value metrics to measure service performance
- Develop the Council's approach and methodologies for business change, service design, user research and designing digital services to enable effective change management within the organisation
- Develop a Workforce Strategy including options for best use of apprenticeship levy

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

We will measure our success in the following ways:

- Total amount of energy used in Council buildings (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of Business Rates collected in year (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of Council Tax collected in year (cumulative year to date)
- Number of magistrates court appeals against licensing decisions which have been upheld against the Council (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage satisfaction with ICT support services from feedback received (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of invoices from suppliers paid within 30 days (cumulative year to date)
- Staff sickness days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) (cumulative year to date)
- Income generated from Commercial and Operational Estate Rental Income (cumulative year to date)

Becoming a more Customer Focused Organisation

Our Work Programme

- Ensuring technology is used effectively to maximise our interaction with customers
- Involving customers in significant changes to services
- Gaining a better understanding of our customer needs and ensuring all customer engagement is meaningful

Key Actions for 2021/22

- Develop our understanding of customer and resident needs and demands
- Expand how we offer online and out of hours access to our services via the customer portal and other solutions
- Introduce a new electronic pre-application planning advice service

Performance Indicators for 2021/22

We will measure our success in the following ways:

- Percentage of calls to Call Centre answered (cumulative year to date)
- Customer Services customer satisfaction rate (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of Stage 1 complaints resolved within time (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of Stage 2 complaints resolved within time (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage reduction in avoidable contacts (cumulative year to date)
- Percentage of households with customer accounts generated (latest result)
- Percentage of all council services that have an end to end digital process (latest position at end of each quarter)

Councillor Ryan Fuller, Executive Leader –

“I will never stop championing what a great place Huntingdonshire is and I want to see us continue to thrive.

The Council’s vision is ambitious but achievable. As a provider of vital services, we will strive for the best and will always be there for our most vulnerable residents.”