

## **COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)**

### **COMMUNITY TRANSITION STRATEGY**

- 4.1 The panel discussed the Community Transition Strategy at its meeting on 7th October 2021.
- 4.2 Councillor Criswell noted that Huntingdonshire District Council and the voluntary sector had worked well together to form a cohesive and swift response to the Covid-19 crisis. He observed that the relationship with town and parish councils was not always as robust but was hopeful that the proposed strategy would address this and create stronger partnerships for the future.
- 4.3 This sentiment was seconded by Councillor Banks, who stated how impressed he was with the involvement of the volunteer organisations and that the strategy provided an opportunity to form closer working relationships with parish and town councils to provide more resilience for the future.
- 4.4 Councillor Alban echoed this and was impressed at the rapid growth in community resilience across the district over recent years, he hoped that this could now be harnessed and developed to allow for stronger communities in the future.
- 4.5 Councillor Tysoe observed that whilst local government responsibilities and functions can be complicated, residents aren't interested in the bureaucracy, they are more focused on achieving the end result, this strategy should help to achieve this.
- 4.6 Following a comment from Councillor D'Souza on data usage, the Corporate Director (People) reassured that the value of human contact can't be replaced but there are some who prefer the anonymity of digital. It was also noted that core to the strategy is the better use of data and technology enabling ongoing engagement and dialogue with residents which will result in the kind of common-sense service delivery for residents aspired to in the strategy.
- 4.7 The panel welcomed the report and encourage the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.