

HUNTINGDONSHIRE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING

3. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY.

- 3.2 The Panel discussed the Huntingdonshire UK Shared Prosperity Funding Report at its meeting on 7th December 2022.
- 3.3 Councillor Gardener queried whether the Active Travel Feasibility Studies was purely for cycleways, in response to which the Panel heard that all active travel suggestions were encouraged. The Panel heard about a specific example of the cycleway alongside the A1 from Brampton to Alconbury which did not link into Alconbury village, following which the Panel were assured that the lack of integration had been previously flagged with the County Council.
- 3.4 It was observed by Councillor Corney that the £150,000 earmarked for studies would not stretch far across the district, who then enquired whether any partnership working with local walking and cycling groups had been considered to ensure studies were not duplicated. The Panel heard that the Executive were keen to achieve viable routes for residents and partnership opportunities would be considered.
- 3.5 It was clarified to the Panel that the Council would be looking to support local businesses decreasing their utility costs following an observation from Councillor Cawley regarding the wording of the report.
- 3.6 The Panel heard that the Council would look to support local businesses through specialist advice and were developing an action plan to maximise funding opportunities to businesses in both the short and long term.
- 3.7 Councillor Gray stated that whilst broadly supportive of the thrust of what is overall hoped to be achieved, he had concerns over the lack of detail contained within the report, expressly concerns that all proposals were completely underdeveloped. It was further stated that greater detail alongside the business plans would be desirable before authority be delegated to others for decision making. The Panel were informed that external funding brought challenges of tight timescales but that this was something that the Executive were happy to reflect upon and come back with.
- 3.8 The Panel request that the Cabinet consider adding the following recommendation to their report
- To provide an update on the Huntingdonshire programme of activity to both the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet within three months.
- 3.9 With the addition of this recommendation, the Panel were happy to encourage Cabinet to endorse the remaining recommendations within the report.