

**Public  
Key Decision - Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Market Towns Programme – Spring Update 2022/2023

**Meeting/Date:** Cabinet  
20th June 2023

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing

**Report by:** Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All wards.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides the 2023/2024 Q1 update on the Market Towns Programme (MTP).

The MTP is an ambitious programme of economic led interventions to support Huntingdonshire's town centres recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic, whilst also looking forward to renewing and reshaping our town centres and high streets in a way that promotes growth, improves experiences, and ensures sustainability in the future.

The MTP is funded through a combination of external funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and National Highways. This update particularly highlights:

- Completion of final designs for the St Neots Market Square (Town Centre Improvements) and procurement of a contractor to deliver the scheme.
- Appointment of architects and technical advisers for the refurbishment of the Priory Centre, St Neots.
- Initiation of projects approved by the CPCA Board in March, concerning project delivery in St Neots, Huntingdon, and St Ives, in addition to the Ramsey Market Produce Hub project, funded via the Local Growth Fund.
- Completion of the Huntingdon, Ramsey, and St Ives masterplans.

### **RECOMMENDATION UPDATE**

Cabinet is asked to:

- Note progress regarding the projects (part of the Market Towns Programme) as highlighted above.

### **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on activity across the strands of the Market Town Programme.

## **UPDATE ON MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME**

### **ST NEOTS PROGRAMME:**

#### **Town Centre Improvements (Transport Projects)**

- 2.1. The final detailed designs for the Town Centre Improvements were completed during April. Considerable work has been undertaken to refine and improve the proposals over the last few months, factoring in feedback from residents and local stakeholders as part of both online and in person engagement activities. The final designs, which detail all the proposed works, are included within this link: [Cabinet Submission](#)
- 2.2. The formal procurement process to appoint a contractor to undertake the scheme was commenced on the 2nd of May 2023, it will conclude during August 2023. A significant risk to the scheme has been a lack of interest from the market. As part of our early engagement, we have carried out market testing through the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework and have identified that a minimum of three contractors are expected to submit tenders. This is incredibly positive and will help to ensure a competitive and successful procurement process is completed.
- 2.3. Every effort has been taken to mitigate risks. We have, for example, taken additional time to consider technical and cost challenges prior to the procurement process being launched. This has also included market testing with local contractors, to better understand how the work could be better phased, and the cost implications or benefits of this. Whilst this has extended the scheme schedule slightly, commencing construction in early Autumn, as opposed to late Summer, this additional work will be beneficial to the project on cost and delivery timescales.
- 2.4. In terms of phasing and delivering the works within the Market Square, it is important that we ensure the operation of the Charter Market is maintained. This also includes other specialist Markets, for example, craft and farmers, and other events which are organised by St Neots Town Council. The Council is working with partners to maximise the operation of these Markets and events during the construction period and minimise disruption as far as possible.
- 2.5. To ensure that we can accommodate both the continued operation of the Market(s) whilst undertaking construction work, HDC will continue to liaise closely with the Charter rights owners (Rowley Estates) and the current leaseholder for the Charter Market rights (Wendy Fair).

#### **Town Centre Improvements Communications Plan**

- 2.6. As we approach the commencement of construction works on site, we are acutely aware of the need to communicate effectively and regularly with residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to minimise any disruption to daily life. The team will make sure that the HDC website is up to date with information on the project and our bi-monthly newsletter will focus updates on

this project. One specific area we are focusing on is tree replacement, as this is a very topical issue which has caused problems for similar schemes elsewhere in the country.

- 2.7.** The tree removal is a Cambridgeshire County Council led and funded activity, which would have been required irrespective of the Market Square improvements. The removal is due to faults in how the trees were originally planted, which has resulted in the tree roots damaging the surrounding paving and creating a safety hazard for pedestrians. The trees will be replaced by semi-mature trees on both sides of the Market Square, in greater numbers than currently. It is critically important that we communicate effectively with members of the public as to why the trees are being replaced. To this end, we are preparing a communications strategy specific to the Town Centre Improvements, which will be shared soon.
- 2.8.** It should be noted that we are also steering away from referring to these works as the “transport projects” as we have been, as we feel that this does not accurately reflect the final scope of the projects. As such, we have retitled this scheme “Town Centre Improvements,” and this term will be used for all future communications.

### **The Old Falcon Inn**

- 2.9.** The Old Falcon Inn is a Grade II listed building and holds a prominent position in the Market Square. It is under private ownership and has been vacant for almost 20 years. The current owner is keen on bringing the building back into active use and, after significant engagement from the Council, wishes to work with us towards this goal.
- 2.10.** Our end goal in providing this support to the owner is to ensure the building is brought back into active use. We have adapted our approach from acquiring the property into an enabling role. These activities are consistent with the original outcomes sought as part of our Future High Street fund application.

### **Priory Centre**

- 2.11.** The Priory Centre project objective is to deliver a much enhanced and financially sustainable multi-use community facility. The Council has recently undertaken a procurement process to appoint an architect-led multi-disciplinary team to develop proposals for the refurbishment and improvement of the Centre. The competition attracted 19 high quality tenders. Following a comprehensive assessment exercise, involving direct interviews, we have selected a preferred bidder.
- 2.12.** We are now currently following procurement processes, which includes a 10-day standstill process before we can formally appoint the contractor. Once the contract is active, the appointed contractor will also be responsible for project managing the implementation of any works resulting from the designs prepared, including the procurement of a building contractor.
- 2.13.** The Priory Centre enhancement project will be funded by the Future High Street Fund (FHSF) and an allocation of funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy. As with all projects funded through FHSF, we are required to complete spending by March 2024. Consequently, we will be seeking to rapidly deliver an

initial phase 1 of works by this point. These phase 1 works may include less intrusive construction activity, which could, for example, include measures to increase the energy efficiency of the building which is a known issue.

- 2.14.** There are no time restrictions placed on funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy. Further phases of work can therefore take place after March 2024. Whilst the schedule for completion will be dependent on the type and extent of work, which is subject to confirmation, we are currently forecasting completion of all works by Summer 2024.

### **St Neots CPCA Legacy funding (masterplan phase 1)**

- 2.15.** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, the CPCA Board provided approval to HDC's Change Control request concerning new project proposals. These projects will be funded from the St Neots CPCA (legacy) masterplan phase 1 programme, which had an underspend of £260,000.

- 2.16.** The projects which were approved included:

- Development of a stage / entertainment area within the renewed Market Square, which can also provide a multi-use space, e.g., café seating.
- Public art within the town centre, to be developed as part of a local competition, managed by St Neots Town Council.
- Extension of wayfinding digital screens into St Neots (subject to confirmation overall programme proceeds).
- Co-retail space, providing an opportunity for the sale of products by local independent traders / product creators in a shared retail space.

- 2.17.** The full expenditure of £260,000 was reallocated to delivery of these projects. Work is now commencing on initiating these activities. Two of the four projects link to existing HDC led schemes; the stage area in St Neots Market Square and public art. The remaining two projects will be delivered directly by partners including St Neots Town Council and the St Neots Initiative. Work is now underway on initiating these activities. This includes the preparation of funding agreements with Project Partners and the approval of our own Grant Funding Agreement with the CPCA.

### **Huntingdon and St Ives funding allocation**

- 2.18.** In addition to the St Neots focused projects summarised above, approval was also provided by the CPCA Board in March to the Council's proposals concerning previously unallocated funding from the Accelerated Funding Programme. A total of £802,150 (including contingency) was confirmed for project delivery in Huntingdon and St Ives. The projects approved are:

- St Ives Broadway Cycle Link and Highways improvements
- Contribution to completion of the St Ives Bandstand community project
- Shop Front grant scheme in both Huntingdon and St Ives
- Expansion and improvement of the Cromwell Museum to improve visitor amenities and facilities
- A new Huntingdon Visitor Centre to promote the town centre, hosted within the Commemoration Hall.

**2.19.** Work is now progressing on initiating all these projects. We anticipate completion of the St Ives Band Stand by June 2023 and the Huntingdon Visitor Centre project by this coming Autumn 2023. The remaining projects will begin delivery in the next two months and will be completed in 2024/25.

### **Digital Wayfinding**

**2.20.** In 2021, the Council, working with Connecting Cambridgeshire, secured £200,000 of funding to deliver a digital (wayfinding) screen project. Up to five digital screens were to be located in Huntingdon, Ramsey, and St Ives town centres. The overall purpose of the Digital displays was to support wayfinding through technology, and to promote shopping, events, and heritage attractions in these areas. The broad objectives of the system were to:

- Enhance the overall image of our market town centres as destinations, creating positive experiences for all users;
- Increase the confidence to walk and explore by better connecting places keeping information simple;
- Provide a digital wayfinding and information system that is beneficial to all town centre stakeholders and businesses;
- Provide a flexible suite of signage products that can maintain movement and disclose information progressively;
- Grow the number of visitors at key attractions, increasing spending, providing a boost to the local economy;
- Improve urban realm, sense of community, pedestrian safety, health, and environment.
- Future proofed to incorporate interactive mapping solutions where appropriate

**2.21.** During 2022, a decision was taken by the Council, not to take the scheme forward at that point. This was primarily due to concerns and unanswered questions regarding how the system would be managed and maintained. As a result of this, the Council incurred abortive costs of £10,000 and the contract with the intended supplier was cancelled.

**2.22.** The funds allocated to the Council, however, were specific to delivering a Digital Information system. If we do not proceed, the funds are returned. Recent discussions with local partners have identified interest in the project and a willingness to partner or lead on management and maintenance. This would address one of the most significant concerns regarding the project in terms of responsibility for this beyond the initial three-year contract, for which funding would be provided via the CPCA grant funding.

**2.23.** The period in which management and maintenance costs are funded from the initial capital investment is important. A longer period will help to ensure the scheme is a success and reduce the revenue funding required. Consequently, should the project proceed, we will include a requirement within the tender documentation for maintenance and management to be increased to 5 years. This will also include an option for removal at the end of this period, should it not be possible to fund the operation of the system beyond this time.

**2.24.** Town centres continue to be affected by the impact of covid and the closure of businesses, notwithstanding the long-term trend in online shopping. This system may provide an additional tool with which to support their recovery. The technology used is highly adaptable. It can be integrated with other technologies

including smarter town sensors (which also form part of our Market Town Programme), in addition to personal technology such as mobile phones or other connected devices. It can also be integrated with HDC web services and those of other local government partners. Further information regarding the digital screen and possible uses is included within Appendix B.

- 2.25.** As part of our review of this project, we have also contacted other local authorities who have used similar digital screens and technology. This has included Haverhill Town Council, who have operated a similar system since 2018. Haverhill's digital screens are primarily used to promote their local town centre, including arts and cultural events as well as shops and services available in their area. We have also contacted East Cambridgeshire Council who are about to go live with a system in Ely.
- 2.26.** At the time of writing this report it has not yet been possible to arrange meetings with these two Councils, Officers will provide an update as soon as possible to enable a final decision to be made under delegated authority.

### **Smarter Towns**

- 2.27.** The Smarter Towns project continues to be rolled out. Gateway routers required to support smarter town sensors have now all been installed in our major Market Towns. The initial installation of flood sensors in the river Ouse has been successful and is providing up to the minute data on water levels.
- 2.28.** Whilst this project was originally due to close by March 2023, it has been extended with the permission of CPCA to the end of Q2, 2023/24. This extension will ensure the Council is able to draw down all funds allocated to the project to maximise the scheme's benefits. To this end, additional sensors which focus on air quality and surface water are currently being investigated, with trial sensors due to be rolled out. These sensors would again provide up to the minute data on air quality and surface water issues in key locations such as transport routes and town centres, with the ability to link to Council web services and digital systems such as the Digital Wayfinding system (if agreed).
- 2.29.** Other organisations have also begun to express an interest in the system. This includes Cambridgeshire Police, who we are liaising with the Council, Connecting Cambridgeshire and our supplier, concerning potential Police applications for our smarter towns network.

### **Ramsey Produce Hub**

- 2.30.** The Ramsey Market Produce Hub is a significant project for which we recently secured over £1.1M of funding for delivery. The project will deliver a facility within the Great Whyte area which will provide small independent traders and start up retailers with a low-cost base to operate from. This may include the sale of retail products and or a limited provision for food and refreshments. The project will be delivered alongside improvements to the public realm, for which an earlier allocation of funding totaling £0.3M was secured.
- 2.31.** We are undertaking a technical feasibility (engineering based) mini study to consider structural challenges and solutions relating to the proposed facility's location. Specifically, we wish to ensure before we progress detailed designs,

that the location is feasible. There are engineering and technical challenges to overcome concerning the proximity of the river culvert underneath the Great Whyte. This study will confirm the deliverability of a scheme in this location and will also inform more detailed design proposals to be subsequently developed.

- 2.32.** It should also be noted that we are reviewing the potential for alternative locations and/or facility types, should the original proposed facility location not be considered viable.
- 2.33.** A car parking capacity study is also being commissioned. This study will focus on the demand, capacity and potential reprovisioning of parking spaces removed to provide space for the Hub building in addition to wider car parking capacity requirements. The study will also consider how parking requirements may impact on concept proposals outlined within the Ramsey town centre masterplan.

### **Huntingdon, St Ives, and Ramsey Concept Masterplans**

- 2.34.** All town centre masterplans have now been finalised. Significant additional work has been undertaken to respond to feedback from local communities. Updates have been made to the documents to reflect specific feedback concerning proposals from residents, businesses, and Town Councils. Presentations summarising engagement feedback and masterplan updates have been provided to all three Town Councils, all of which have been well received.
- 2.35.** Over the coming weeks we will be seeking to publish and promote the documents and consider how we can best use the documents to maximise the potential benefits in each of the locations, including identifying external funding opportunities.
- 2.36.** The Council is also currently reviewing how the documents are presented and titled. The original aspiration for Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives was to provide a vision for these areas. It may be more appropriate going forward to consider these documents as Visions for each respective area, as opposed to masterplans. We feel that this change would also more accurately reflect the conceptual nature of the documents as opposed to 'masterplan,' which implies a more fixed approach.

### **Vibrant Communities**

- 2.37.** The Vibrant Communities scheme, funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), has commenced. A total of £155,000 was allocated to HDC; £135,000 is revenue and £20,000 is capital. The revenue funding is allocated to Town and Parish Councils based on population.
- 2.38.** Town and Parish Councils were invited to briefing meetings in February and were required to complete a simple proforma that outlined their proposed (revenue funded) activities. The deadline for draft plans was the 24th of March, and the deadline for final plans was 7<sup>th</sup> April. All 14 Councils have submitted proformas with activities that comply with the revenue funding criteria. A high-level summary of proposed activities can be viewed within appendix A. Each Council has now been issued with purchase orders amounting to their funding

allocation and delivery has commenced. The funding will be available for the remainder of the 2023/24 Financial year.

- 2.39.** Regarding the £20,000 capital funding, two projects were identified: the refurbishment of notice boards and transfer to a community interest company in St Neots and the purchase and installation of sound and event equipment for use in Huntingdon Town Centre by Huntingdon BID (Business Improvement District). Both projects will be completed by the end of May 2023.
- 2.40.** It should be noted that this project will move across to the UKSPF Programme and will not form part of the MTP and future reports going forward.



## FINANCE UPDATE:

- 3.1. The overall sources of confirmed funding for the MTP are shown below in Table 1. All funding identified below has been secured and is subject to contractual obligations and must be spent within the agreed guidelines and allocations only.

**Table 1: Overall MTP funding sources and status**

<b>Market Towns Regeneration</b>				
<b>Funding sources</b>	<b>£ Grant secured</b>	<b>£ Spend to date</b>	<b>£ Grant balance</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>St Neots Regeneration</b>				
Future High Street Funds (MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) now DLUHC)	£3,748,815	£1,242,699	£2,506,116	Progress on spending commitment and activity is reported to DLUHC quarterly.
HDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	£4,829,943	£0	£4,829,943	As per HDC cabinet decision. Schemes which have a mixture of funding sources inc CiL (Community Infrastructure Levy), will utilise time limited funds before CiL.
CPCA	£3,100,000	£145,764	£2,954,236	As per Funding Agreement (Dec '21). Expenditure has commenced; however, the majority of funds will be used in Q3 and Q4 2023/24.
National Highways	£3,493,218	£0	£3,493,218	Funding agreement finalised January 2023. Drawdown of funding from NH (National Highways) will be in three tranches, scheduled for December 2023, May 2024, and November 2024.
CPCA Masterplan phase 1 St Neots *	*£609,655	*£305,099	*£304,556	CPCA Board approval has been provided. Grant funding agreement has been executed and signed.

<b>St Neots Regeneration Sub-total</b>	£15,781,631	£1,693,562	£14,088,069	
<b>Huntingdon, St Ives &amp; Ramsey</b>				
CPCA Masterplans & Accelerated Funding	£2,759,256**	£1,957,106	£802,150	CPCA Board have now confirmed approval to rollover of funding of £802,150 into 2023/24 and 2024/25. A new Grant Funding Agreement has been provided to HDC.
<b>Sub-total</b>	£2,759,256**	£1,957,106	£802,150	
<b>Staff revenue (external) funding – in support of MTP programme</b>				
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£221,000	£0	£221,000	Funding confirmed. Expenditure profiled for Q3/Q4 in 2023/24.
<b>Sub-total</b>	£221,000	£0	£221,000	
<b>Ramsey Market Produce / Retail Hub</b>				
Local Growth Fund (CPCA)	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525	Funding awarded December 2022. Expenditure will commence once proposals for capital works are finalised.
<b>Sub total</b>	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525	
<b>PROGRAMME TOTAL</b>	£19,915,412**	£3,650,668	£16,264,744	

\*This programme was previously managed separately and has now been incorporated into the MTP.

\*\*This figure excludes £240,744 of CPCA (Accelerated Project) funds which were not required for delivery towards projects which have been successfully delivered. Approval to roll over these funds or develop new proposals was not permitted by CPCA. The total (funding source) figure has therefore been adjusted to reflect this position.

## COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 4.1. The Panel discussed the Market Towns Programme – Summer Update Report at its meeting on 7th June 2023.
- 4.2. In response to concerns from Councillor Gardener, the Panel heard that a communications plan was being developed to ensure St Neots residents were proactively communicated with regarding the planned works to trees in the Market Square. Councillor Harvey's suggestion of using the old wood as part of the planning art projects for the areas was noted. Following a question from Councillor Jennings, the Panel were advised that the County Council would be making a contribution towards the cost of the removal of the trees and that there was a working assumption that the replacement trees would remain their liability.
- 4.3. Following a question from Councillor Pickering, the Panel were advised that plans were progressing in respect of the Old Falcon property and that more detail would be brought to a future report.
- 4.4. In response to questions from Councillor Martin around capital funding in section 2.39 of the report, the Panel heard that the two projects were chosen due to the timescales and availability of funding available.
- 4.5. Following an observation from Councillor Wells, who praised the amended terminology from Masterplan, the Panel heard that the aim was to clear up confusion surrounding the terminology and to allow for clarity moving forward.
- 4.6. The Panel heard, in response to a question from Councillor Martin, that all funding opportunities would be maximised and that delays in procurement were due to ensuring both material cost and availability resulting in a deliverable scheme. The Panel were further assured that the Council would benefit from the Eastern Highways Alliance Framework ensuring deliverability.
- 4.7. Councillor Blackwell expressed concerns over the continuation of the Digital Wayfinding project, following which , the Panel were assured that this project and the installed machines would continue to be monitored with an exit strategy contingency should this prove necessary. The Panel were further assured that whilst decisions could be made on this project outside of the democratic meeting cycle, the Cabinet would, where feasible, seek to loop the Panel in to the decision.
- 4.8. Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision on the recommendations.

## **5. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS**

- 5.1 There are several risks associated with delivering an ambitious programme of this size and complexity, the notable risks are:

### **5.1.1. Budget management risk**

The projects that sit within the MTP are at various stages and therefore, as work progresses to detailed level, cost reliability and accuracy increases, the level of risk is more certain. We will continue to review the individual projects' viability and programme impacts, identifying any areas of risk, as the scheme progresses. The construction industry has seen materials and labour costs significantly increase in cost over the past 18 months. Inflation continues to increase. Therefore, as we move from design into delivery any decisions on proposed options will require agreement that they can be funded within the approved Market Towns programme budget. Mitigation: We will continue monitoring the programme funding profile and anticipated spending against budgets, updating to Cabinet quarterly. We have also sought to engage with Contractors as part of an early-stage pre-procurement process to assess 'buildability' and a sense check of construction costs based on current market activity. The MTP team continue to provide regular updates to funding bodies, briefing them on estimated costings, risks, issues, and inter-dependencies.

### **5.1.2. Programme Timescales risk**

This is an ambitious programme of delivery, with the funding for St Neots of £3.748m from the FHSF required to be spent by March 2024. The CPCA funding of £3.1m also has a deadline of March 2024, they recognise the strategic importance of this programme, and it is anticipated there will be some flexibility in the delivery timescales. National Highways have also indicated that they expect funding of £3.49m within the 2024/25 fiscal year. Mitigation: The detailed programme plan covering feasibility, design, and delivery phases, will be continually reviewed ensuring focus remains on hitting funding milestones, claim dates and delivery milestones. The MTP team continue to provide regular updates to funding bodies, briefing them on progress, risks, issues, and inter-dependencies.

### **5.1.3. Programme Resources risk**

The MTP requires different skills, expertise, and external technical support at various stages of project delivery. The programme itself has multiple projects which must be managed simultaneously identifying all interdependences across the programme. There is significant internal and external stakeholder management and detailed consultation with partners and resident/ business groups. This could result in competing priorities across organisations that will require careful consideration. Mitigation: As part of the project, a detailed resources plan and communications strategy with stakeholders has been developed to ensure the management of expectations and information being shared promptly. The HDC's website is regularly updated with the progress across the core programme sites, more time is being invested in engaging stakeholders, a greater presence on social media and revamping of the newsletter.

### **5.1.4. Reputational Risk**

The MTP is a high priority for the Council, so monthly reporting, governance and timely decision-making are critical to ensure the programme is successfully delivered. Mitigation: The programme governance and reporting lines will be continually monitored to ensure that the key programme milestones are managed and achieved. A full MTP programme risk register is in place along with individual project risk registers. Given the size and complexity of the MTP

it features on the Council's Strategic Risk register, along with the mitigating actions.

## **6. LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2026**

- 6.1. The delivery of the MTP is aligned with the principles and key objectives of the Corporate Plan which sets out the Council's objectives.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The Council, based on previously successful funding bids and Cabinet decisions, has entered into and received several grant agreements (for approval) with associated delivery and outputs frameworks, in the current quarter. All Funding Agreements and contracts are subject to review by the HDC legal team and senior officers and members as appropriate. Project Officers will continue to engage with legal advisers as necessary.
- 7.2. This programme will require ongoing legal input to support the further development of project options and scheme delivery, this will include the Ramsey Market Produce Hall, Old Falcon Inn, and Priory Centre, in addition to grant funding agreements for several projects, which are current under review. Other areas include future land and property advice relating for example to leasehold acquisitions and may be required should there be any contractual disputes. Noting there are none currently within the programme.

## **8. EQUALITIES**

- 8.1. [OBJ] The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 8.2. Good planning and effective regeneration can improve environments and opportunities for communities experiencing disadvantage. Planning which does not engage with or consider the needs of local communities is unlikely to improve their life chances and may further entrench area-based disadvantage.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL**

- 9.1 The Council has a duty to ensure we continue to promote an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire following the impacts of COVID 19. We also have a duty to deliver sustainable place making. In December 2021, the Council adopted a core set of environmental principles. In October 2022, the Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion that recognises that the current cost of living and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In February 2022 Council formally recognised the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency, adopted the Council's Climate Strategy underlining the organisations commitment to:

- setting a positive example through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040
  - an enabler supporting action within our communities and across our partners
  - an encourager to those that live, work, and visit Huntingdonshire to take climate action and reduce carbon emissions
- 9.2.** OBJThe Council has direct control of only a tiny proportion of all the carbon emissions within Huntingdonshire, but we can adopt a key role to influence the district, demonstrating good practice whilst setting policies and strategies to influence businesses and communities to tackle climate change whilst enabling sustainable living and growth. These principles are embedded within the MTP.

## **10. APPENDICES**

### **Appendix A:**

A summary of the proposed projects from each Town and Parish Council, as part of the (UKSPF) Vibrant Communities programme, in addition to the total funding allocation to each area.

<b>Council</b>	<b>Summary of Projects</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>
Brampton	Summer Fayre	£5,000
	Christmas Fayre	
	Coronation Picnic	
Buckden	Village events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
	Village Fete	
	Buckden Scarecrow Festival	
	Christmas lights and market	
Fenstanton	Public picnic to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
Kimbolton	Street Party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles	£5,000
Little Paxton	Village adventure days in Little Paxton playing field	£5,000
Somersham	Coronation picnic-in-the-park	£5,000
	Christmas lights switch-on	
Warboys	Remembrance Sunday service	£5,000
	Christmas light switch-on	
	Coronation fete & Big Help Out (volunteering activities)	
	Feast Week (funfair, street market, live bands, competitions)	
Godmanchester	Christmas Market	£10,000
	Craft market	
	Summer Porch Museum event	
	Promotional activities for 5 local halls	
	Coronation planting project	
Ramsey	Great Whyte dines out	£10,000
	Great Whyte clean-up event	
	Stage events on the Great Whyte	
	Promotional activities for heritage sites, clubs, bus tours, and local clubs & businesses	
	Cultural events (art exhibitions, antiques roadshow, outdoor cinema)	
Sawtry	Picnic-in-the-Park' Coronation celebration	£10,000
	Cultural events (outdoor cinema, live performances, workshops)	
Yaxley	Christmas promotional activities for local businesses	£10,000
	Arts and Cultural events in Middletons Recreation Ground	
	First Aid Training for residents & local volunteers	

	Calendar photography competition (competition where 12 winning photos will be used to create a Yaxley Calendar that will be sold locally with the proceeds going back into the club for the following years competition)	
	Vintage festival	
Huntingdon	Town Centre Environmental Summer Decorations	£20,000
	Town Centre Summer Evening Markets	
	Outdoor Summer Performances	
St Ives	Farmer's Market birthday celebrations and Harvest festival celebrations	£20,000
	Multicultural Day Inclusive Celebration Event Warners Park	
	Breaking of the fast Ramadan corn exchange	
	Comedy Fringe – Corn Exchange with performances throughout the day	
	Norris Museum Exhibition for Landmark Archaeology Finding opening day	
	King's Coronation	
	Heritage Open Day	
	Snowman festival	
Bandstand opening event		
St Neots	Family theatre sessions at St Neots Museum	£20,000
	Day of music on the Square - St Neots Museum	
	Tug of War sporting event	
	Summer Saturday morning activities on the Market Square	
	Serious Bake-Off event	
	St Neots festival	
	Enhanced Christmas experience	
	St Neots Christmas Farm and Craft Markets	

## Appendix B

Attached.



## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to Cabinet (FHSF (Future High Street Fund)) 13th February 2020 can be found [here](#)

Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - EXEMPT

Report to Cabinet (Market Towns Accelerated Programme) 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 can be found [here](#)

Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 23<sup>rd</sup>. February 2021 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Spring 2022 Update to Cabinet, 17 March 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Summer 2022 Update to Cabinet June 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Autumn 2022 Update to Cabinet September 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Winter 2022 Update to Cabinet December 2022 can be found [here](#)

Market Towns Programme Spring 2023 Update to Cabinet March 2023 can be found [here](#)

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Pamela Scott, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager

Tel No: 01480 388486

Email: [Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)