

Appendix C: Projects and programmes update



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
<p>Community Health Interventions</p> <p>i) Health Inequalities programme</p> <p>ii) Community Health Prevention Project</p>	<p>i) Continuation of delivery of 2022/23 programme and ‘project termination’ via sustainability plans for ongoing delivery of individual projects when fixed-term funding ends. Community activities across the district due to start: Hail Weston Stretch and Relax; Hilton Cooking on a Budget; Yaxley and Farcet Men's Shed and Issue One of the St Neots Directory.</p> <p>ii) Integrated Care System funding secured for 2023/24 programme for– those at risk of frailty and its consequences and those at risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Physical activities programme commenced for the summer holiday period. Other delivery being planned.</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>The programme consists of a broad range of community-based activities to improve health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Both programmes deliver evidence-based preventative interventions for frailty and CVD (Cardiovascular disease). The work will reduce number of residents getting into poor health in the long term, reducing pressures on the NHS due to reduction in fracture, frailty, dementia, and cardiovascular disease. Shorter term outcomes include improvement of strength and balance (frailty cohort) and amount of physical activity undertake per week (CVD cohort)</p>



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Financial vulnerability for residents programme	<p>Developing pilot project on support for those in Council Tax debt has generated greater understanding on range of offers available to the financially vulnerable.</p> <p>With partners we are developing a group of offers that can be deployed / offered in several ways. We are also exploring how all those working with the financially vulnerable can most easily link those in need with the support that is available but not always easily visible/accessed.</p> <p>Work has commenced with system partners to map providers of support to the financially vulnerable.</p>	G	<p>Better recognition of the contribution of various factors to overall resident outcomes.</p> <p>Closer working and learning between different organisations groups supporting residents, in particular HDC (Huntingdonshire District Council), Citizen's Advice Rural Cambs and Cambridgeshire County Council. A shared recognition that service offers need to be more accessible to those that might benefit from them has started work on how we might deliver those offers more seamlessly.</p> <p>Earlier engagement of residents with available support.</p>



Outcome: Improving Housing

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Longhurst Contract - HDC Surplus Sites (Affordable Housing)	Planning permission for Station Road, Warboys has delayed the project delivery. Local Planning Authority raised concerns around the submitted scheme, that needs resolution.	R	To increase the number of quality affordable homes for residents across the district.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Market Towns Programme	<p>iii) Made up of 9 projects, 3 of which are on track (Smarter Towns, St Neots legacy programme, Huntingdon & St Ives)</p> <p>iv) The other 6 projects have a planned return to green, with Ramsey Great Whyte Pedestrian and Produce Hub being the main project at risk, due to the river Culvert having weight restriction issues.</p> <p>v) Remaining projects (Ramsey Business Hub, Digital Screens, Old Falcon, Priory Centre and St Neots Transport Programme) are Amber due to delays with building materials/supplies, concerns around content management, existing budget allocation versus what is available, construction schedule and</p>	A	<p>Improvement to the local economic development of the 4 market towns in the district and creating increased high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents.</p> <p>Additional benefits to HDC of increased NNDR potential.</p>

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
	ongoing legal work to secure market lease, respectively.		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme	<p>vi) Made up of 7 projects, 2 of which are on track (Community based employment and skills provision & Vibrant Communities)</p> <p>vii) Business and IP Centres, Green Business Programme, Manufacturing Digitisation and Start up and Entrepreneurship programme at Amber status due to procurement and external supplier priority activities.</p> <p>viii) Active travel feasibility is in initiation stage, no current concerns, or issues.</p>	A	Improvement to the local economic development of the 4 market towns in the district and creating increased high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents.
Local Plan	<p>ix) Analysis of responses received on the Draft Land Availability Assessment Methodology consultation and preparation of a revised methodology to be tested on sample sites in July prior to finalisation.</p> <p>x) Analysis of responses received on the Draft Settlement Hierarchy Methodology, preparation of revised indicators and liaison with NHS and County Education partners for data provision.</p>	G	Enablement of providing a framework for the district to shape how land use and places will change and develop in the future. This will ensure all future development in the district is coordinated, prioritised and appropriate (e.g: socially, environmentally, economically) to ensure Huntingdon is a good place to live and work.



Outcome: Lowering our carbon emissions

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Biodiversity for all	Awaiting signed funding agreement from Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to deliver to 3-year programme of biodiversity improvements to both district owned, and town/parish owned land.	A	Demonstrating our progress, engaging with our communities across Huntingdonshire will inform/influence decisions that increase our percentage of biodiversity across the district.



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Riverside Park St Neots	Activity being managed through the Open Spaces Service Plan.	G	Improvement to aesthetics and access to Riverside Park.
Civil Parking Enforcement	Cost of signs and lines maintenance significantly higher than expected through CCC (Cambridgeshire County Council) provider and altered the viability of undertaking this work through the planned route. Timeframes remain unaffected. Other options for signs and lines to be assessed to enable successful outcome. Monthly reporting will highlight what is required to move this forward for the maintenance work.	A	The district will take on the ownership and responsibility of parking enforcement.

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
Hinchingbrooke Country Park	There have been delays with areas of work, such as the planning pre-application, commissioning the ground condition survey and working through complex details, such as the infrastructure required for electric vehicle charging points.	A	Increased facilities for residents at the Country Park, to encourage increased visitor numbers and enabling improved health and well-being for residents. Additional benefits to HDC of increased revenue from car parking and hospitality facilities.
Additional Funding for Energy Bill Rebate	Project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that people who do not have a contract with an energy supplier, but who have electricity costs, benefit from a £400 payment (416 Applicants - £166,400 distributed) • Make £200 grant payment to UK households that use alternative fuels for heating instead of mains gas completed (469 Applicants - £93,800 distributed) Project now successfully completed	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.
Planning Improvement programme	Structured delivery team in place following recruitment of a project manager and the service delivered two projects ahead of time (phase 2). Next period will focus on approval to begin discovery work – process mapping of all planning app pathways (front-to-end) across August and September.	G	Will allow all planning applications to be managed and reported on consistently. Will enable development of improved customer experience and increased income opportunities, creating additional capacity in back-office service activities.
Green Bins project	Key decision pathways underway with programme delivery elements in planning. These include automation of systems for scaling all payment options, FAQs, customer contacts,	G	To provide the Council with financial sustainability to continue to deliver essential services to all residents.

Title	Commentary on progress	Status	Impact of project/programme so far
	communications. Of particular importance is the delivery of Town/parish council and local community engagement sessions to identify and validate a number of schemes that can support lower income residents, who may not be able to afford a charge but can be supported to positively contribute to recycling garden waste.		
Council Tax Support Scheme review	Consultant services procured to support modelling of new scheme, which went to public consultation at the end of July and ends 10 th September 2023.	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.
Council Tax Support Fund (2023/24)	Council Tax bills reduced by £25 for those customers in receipt of Council Tax Support – completed in March 2023. DLUCH allow remaining funds to be used to support other vulnerable households in paying their Council Tax. Options for distribution of the remaining funding being assessed, and software to support delivery anticipated to be received in September.	G	Will support residents on lower incomes and ensure they do not get into crisis.
Customer Services Improvement programme	Project currently being scoped, and recruitment of Project director undertaken. Discovery work to be undertaken in October and continue over Q3.	G	Will allow all customer contacts to be managed and reported on consistently. Will enable development of improved customer experience via additional digital channels, creating additional capacity in back-office service activities.
HR system	Project requires final upgrade before completion.	G	Will allow all staff management responsibilities to be managed securely and consistently within a bespoke system.