

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Market Town's Programme Update (MTPU)

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Growth)
10th July 2024

Cabinet – 16th July 2024

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration & Housing

Report by: Regeneration & Housing Delivery Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report provides the Summer 2024 update on the Market Towns Programme (MTP).

The MTP is an ambitious programme of economic led interventions to renew and reshape 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.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is asked to:

- Confirm and endorse the extension of the Shop Front Grant scheme on a district wide basis.
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Place) in Consultation with the Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration & Housing to approve and initiative delivery on new Market Town focused projects and/or reallocate funding within existing programme activities, utilising funding generated from efficiency savings and/or underspend elsewhere within the MTP, should such savings be realised before the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RAMSEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

- 2.1. The Ramsey sub programme comprises of three linked activities, which includes:
 - The pedestrianisation of a focused area within the Great Whyte area of Ramsey town centre, positioned between Ramsey Library building and the new Ramsey Town Council Civic Centre. The objective of which is to provide an improved local environment, more capable of hosting events and activities such as the town market.
 - The development of up to six 'shop in a box' small retail units in this pedestrianised location. The units will be used to enhance the retail and cultural offer to residents and visitors, complementing but not duplicating existing retail or service choice.
 - Improvements to the Mews Close car park, including resurfacing and re-marking of bays, for the purpose of mitigating the loss of parking facilities within the proposed pedestrian area and providing an overall improved facility.
- 2.2. The Council is working closely with Ramsey Town Council in the design and development of all three linked activities. Ramsey Town Council, for example, has expressed an interest in managing and operating the 'Shop in a box' units upon completion.
- 2.3. In support of this, the Council has recently commissioned retail advisers to provide guidance to both the Council and Town Council in relation to the 'Shop in a box' project. This contractor will help to develop a business plan for how the retail units will be marketed and managed.
- 2.4. Furthermore, the retail contractor will work with existing local traders to provide training and guidance to help improve business performance and provide support to new or aspiring traders who may wish to occupy the new shop units. This element of the Ramsey programme is funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.5. In terms of the wider programme focused on all activities in Ramsey, the Council has recently completed a feasibility and options assessment. This assessment has identified a variety of options in which the three projects can be delivered. The feasibility report is included within appendix A.
- 2.6. The Council has consulted with Ramsey Town Council on the different options produced as part of this assessment and will be using this to develop these proposals to a more detailed stage. At which point, the Council and Ramsey Town Council will consult with residents and businesses on their views. The exact schedule for the consultation is yet

to be confirmed, however we are currently aiming to undertake this during Summer 2024.

- 2.7. Subject to the completion of a successful consultation, the Council will target the commencement of improvements to the Mews Close car park by the end of 2024. The two remaining and most significant projects will be delivered during the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

3. HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES PROGRAMME

The Broadway, St Ives

- 3.1. Work towards developing and initiating this scheme has accelerated significantly since the last reporting period. Two Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) consultations have now been completed, with specific attention given to ensuring the views of residents and businesses have been considered fully.
- 3.2. Additional investigatory work was also undertaken during May 2024 which required parts of the Broadway to be temporarily restricted for parking. These investigations have resulted in further amendments and improvements to the scheme design.
- 3.3. Final approval for the scheme to be progressed was made by Cambridgeshire County Council on the 4th June 2024. Work on the scheme is now scheduled to begin during the second half of July and are programmed to be underway for a period of 40 days.

Cattle Market Living Wall, St Ives

- 3.4. This is a potential new project for which the Council would utilise existing contingency funding from within the Market Towns Programme budget as this ceases to become necessary to hold, to undertake exploratory work to consider what could be delivered to improve the aesthetics of this area for the benefit of the community including local businesses and the town's visitor economy. Local Ward Councillors have assisted to identify an issue concerning existing fencing which marks the boundary between privately owned property and St Ives Bus station.
- 3.5. The existing fencing (which backs onto the rear of 'The Courtway at St Ives') is made of corrugated metal, is unattractive and in poor condition. The location of this fencing is immediately next to the Bus Station waiting areas and impacts on the attractiveness of this area seen by many visitors upon first arrival to the town. The Council is therefore seeking to design and deliver either improved fencing and/or a Living Wall type facility to improve the local environment at this location.
- 3.6. Council Officers will work with the Town Council and local neighbours and other stakeholders to develop designs which can form the basis for wider consultation. This work would begin during July 2024, and depending upon

specific design works could be implemented as quickly as late Autumn, if supported by the local community.

Cromwell Museum expansion, Huntingdon

- 3.7. The Council continues to work with Huntingdon Town Council and Cromwell Museum Curator concerning the expansion and improvement of the Cromwell Museum. As reported previously, funding has been allocated from the Market Town programme to the potential acquisition of a property by the Town Council on behalf of Cromwell Museum.
- 3.8. The existing Museum building is constrained in terms of space for exhibitions and visitor facilities. The new and larger premises would be intended to be used as the main Cromwell Museum exhibition space with the existing Museum retained for educational purposes.
- 3.9. Whilst the Market Town programme is providing funding for the purpose of acquiring the new premises, its conversion and refurbishment would be subject to securing significant funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other relevant funding programmes. Acquisition of a building would enable detailed proposals for this to be drawn up and place the Museum in a stronger position to access such funding.
- 3.10. An agreement to purchase the new building has been reached in principle by the Town Council. However, before the purchase can proceed the District Council is providing additional support to Cromwell Museum to better understand the investment required to undertake interim remedial work required to the building in addition to the costs for full refurbishment and conversion, which will form the basis for any future funding applications.
- 3.11. Final approval by the Town Council to proceed with the acquisition is subject to completion of this work. In the event that Huntingdon Town Council do not wish to proceed with the acquisition, the Council will seek to identify alternative activities within the scope of the programme which can be delivered within the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Former Cinema premises, Huntingdon

- 3.12. The Council has begun discussions with Huntingdon BID (Business Improvement District) concerning the former Huntingdon Cinema at All Saints passage. Huntingdon BID has expressed an interest in the property, which is owned by the Council, with a view to bringing it back into productive commercial use as a boutique style cinema with complementary facilities including food and drink.
- 3.13. This enquiry is at an early stage and may not proceed beyond initial discussions. However especially in light of longstanding community interest in the future of the building, the Council considers it is helpful to report discussions at this point. For a project such as this to progress it would be necessary for Huntingdon BID or a partner, they might identify to

secure significant funding from grant or commercial sources to refurbish the building and to initiate operation.

- 3.14. Whilst the Council and Huntingdon BID do not underestimate the level of difficulty in enabling a project such as this, if successful this would significantly contribute to supporting the evening economy and cultural activities within Huntingdon town centre. It may potentially also provide Huntingdon BID with a supplementary income with which to support wider town centre activities.

4. SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 4.1. The Council continues to deliver the Shop Front Grant scheme, across Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots and Ramsey. The total value of the scheme is £260,000, of which £102,259 in grants have been awarded to date. The overall position on grants town by town is summarised below:

	Huntingdon	St Ives	St Neots	Ramsey	Total
Applications	14	11	17	4	46
Award numbers	10	9	3	2	24
Reject numbers	2	2	10	1	15
To be reviewed	2	0	4	1	7
Grant award	£50,957	£25,040	£19,862	£6,400	£102,259
Total cost of works	£60,724	£34,575	£21,157	£9,643	£126,099
Completions	5	6	N/A	N/A	11
Paid Grants	£21,076	£13,962	N/A	N/A	£35,039

- 4.2. As we are now into the last nine months of the scheme it is necessary to plan for the closure of the scheme and designate a final application deadline. This is so that we can be confident that schemes which have been awarded funding can be fully delivered before the CPCA funding deadline of 31st March 2025.

- 4.3. The Council also wishes to make sure that we have utilised all the funds available by this point and delivered the maximum benefits possible. Consequently, now we can demonstrate successful delivery of grants in the market towns and a significant period of application opportunity to businesses in their centres in line with the original purpose of the funding, we have agreed with CPCA that is appropriate to launch a one-time

extension of the scheme to locations outside of the four main town centres on a district wide basis to conclude the scheme.

- 4.4. This wider district scheme will be open to any independent businesses within the district, but outside of the town centre boundaries. A maximum grant award of £5,000 will be offered (to consider the wider coverage, potentially less prominent locations and the amount of funds remaining) – the maximum £10,000 award will still stand for the town centre scheme – subject to funds remaining. Successful awards in the scheme so far have shown the optimum combination of value and impact can be achieved with significantly smaller grant amounts than the maximum amounts.
- 4.5. The existing scheme terms and conditions will remain the same – for example, applicants will still need to provide three quotes for their planned works, grants cannot be paid for retrospective works and monies are paid on inspection of the completed scheme and evidence of expenditure being provided.
- 4.6. Funding will continue to be offered on a first-come first-served basis, and the wider district scheme applications will be reviewed in September 2024, in order of when they were submitted.
- 4.7. Both town centre and wider district schemes will be formally closed to applications on the 1st of September 2024. This will allow up to six months for all funded projects to be delivered.
- 4.8. The extension to the scheme supports the positive feedback the Council has received in administering the shop front grant scheme with Huntingdon BID and recognising that there are businesses that are not located within the towns that could benefit from this funding.

5. DIGITAL INFORMATION SCREENS – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 5.1. Work is proceeding satisfactorily toward the delivery of the Digital Information Screens across all four market towns. We are working with our contractor (Trueform) towards installation of the screens across eight locations during 2024.
- 5.2. The screens will require Advertising Consent from the Planning Authority, and applications have now been submitted for this purpose.
- 5.3. Agreement has been reached with Town Council partners in terms of connectivity for the screens and option confirmed for the town map style to ensure most functional / user friendly version offered. During July we will schedule further discussions with each Town Council and other project partners such as Huntingdon BID to consider and review screen content so that this can be sourced and provided to Trueform.

6. SMARTER TOWNS – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 6.1. The Smarter Towns project was designed to deliver a Low Energy or low energy network capable of supporting connected devices and sensors.

This project has now concluded with the installation of Lorawan networks in key locations across the district. Sensors which have been deployed has included flood sensors on the River Oust to provide an early warning system. These networks link to a wider Cambridgeshire network which has been developed by Connecting Cambridgeshire.

- 6.2. Whilst the initial pilot stage is completed, a small amount of funding is still available. Consequently, we are investigating ways in which to supplement and deploy further sensors that may support the Council's work. For example, the Council currently deploy a network of footfall cameras on time-limited funding, the purpose of which is to help provide an indicator of the economic health of our town centres.
- 6.3. As technology is constantly improving, the Council is investigating as part of a potential Smarter towns 2 project if replacement footfall sensors can be deployed via a Lorawan network more efficiently and at a lower cost. Should viable and lower cost options for this be identified, we will seek to deliver new sensors in target locations by the end of the calendar year. This may be on a pilot basis, should this be considered successful we will seek to plan in wider expansion before the project formally closes in March 2025.

7. ST NEOTS

Priory Centre

- 7.1. The Council's objective in delivering the Priory Centre scheme is to enable a radically improved community and cultural facility, which is financially sustainable in the long term.
- 7.2. Working in partnership with St Neots Town Council, developed a set of initial scheme proposals, which were publicly consulted on during December 2023. These proposals received widespread public support and formed the basis for a 'detailed' scheme which has since been produced.
- 7.3. This detailed scheme consists of internal and external improvements, the latter of which is the subject of a live planning application, consisting of a new building on the northern end of the Centre, alongside other improvements, and additions such as new dormer roof units.
- 7.4. Approximately 80% of the proposed works to the Priory Centre do not require formal planning consent. Work towards improving and refining these elements will continue up to the appointment of a contractor for the scheme.
- 7.5. The procurement process for a scheme contractor has been underway since June 2024, beginning with the drafting of tender documentation. Procurement will be managed as part of a two-stage process. The first of which is to identify contractors with the capability to deliver the scheme, the second stage will be specific to the project requirements.

- 7.6. The target date for the appointment of a contractor is September, with work on the scheme commencing no later than October. Works are expected to take 12 months to complete, as previously announced. However, we will reinvestigate scope to shorten the closure period through efficiency planning, with the contractor once they are in place.

Planning Application Status

- 7.7. The planning application for the scheme, focusing on the north end extension and changes to the roof of the Priory Centre was submitted in March. This application has received several objections. The most notable of which included the following:

- Historic England – impact on the conservation area and the setting to nearby listed buildings
- Environmental Agency – concern highlighted regarding the level of reporting on surface water drainage measures into adjacent River.
- Near Neighbour – objection to scheme on basis of loss of privacy and heritage impact
- Conservation Team, Huntingdonshire District Council – objection raised concerning impact on conservation area and local character.

- 7.8. A full list of consultee comments can be viewed **here**.

- 7.9. Considering the objections specifically highlighted above, it has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority to extend the period for determining the planning application. This will provide additional time for the Project team to review the objections and to initiate a dialogue with those objecting. The purpose of which will be to adjust the planning application to meet concerns, where these are considered appropriate and proportionate to the proposals.

- 7.10. Work on refining and improving those parts of the scheme which are not reliant on planning consent will continue throughout this period and up to the point a contractor is appointed. This includes, for example, agreeing a specification for the interior decoration and equipment provision for items such as audio-visual infrastructure.

Energy Feasibility Study

- 7.11. One of the most important objectives in developing proposals for improving the Priory Centre has been the building's energy efficiency and sustainability. The current Priory Centre is a product of its time (late 1970's and early 1980's) and is highly energy inefficient, with single pane windows throughout and a lack of appropriate insulation.

- 7.12. The design proposals seek to address this by replacing all windows in the Centre and building thermal insulation into the building's fabric wherever practicable. This will be a significant improvement and will complement the

Council's Climate Strategy by supporting the agenda towards decarbonisation.

- 7.13. The Council has also investigated the potential to transition to electric rather than gas in the kitchen equipment used at the Centre. However, as part of our assessment of the building and its infrastructure, we have identified a critical issue concerning electrical capacity to the site, which would prevent any significant increase in electrical usage for the building and its nearby area.
- 7.14. The solution to this capacity issue would be through the development of a new electricity transformer in the area. This is a significant cost which we suggest cannot realistically be absorbed by the Priory Centre project alone without excessive scaling back of the project and what it can deliver for improvements to the structure and usability of the building. It is also unclear whether a transformer could be accommodated in the immediate area, noting the heritage constraint's or whether this would be deliverable within the project schedule.
- 7.15. Services provision in the building (e.g. plumbing) will be upgraded to ensure complete readiness for lower-temperature less carbon-intensive heating systems such as a heat pump. However, the existing conventional heating was recently installed (when an older broken down boiler needed urgent replacement prior to the building works) and is in good working order. This represents significant embedded carbon, and heat pump technology continues to improve. We have established that continued use of the existing boiler is practicable despite works around it. There are also potential opportunities for a more innovative and efficient heating solution at the site location than an air source heat pump that only serves the Priory Centre itself.
- 7.16. To maximise the benefits we can realise against the scheme objectives within the current funding envelope, the Council is therefore now envisaging maintaining dual fuel gas and electricity supply including the gas boiler in the short term, transitioning into less carbon intensive systems ending gas use beyond that. We will investigate less carbon intensive heating system options in partnership with other properties within the Priory Quarter, including the Oast House, and also the library should Cambridgeshire County Council wish to partner with the Council as well.
- 7.17. Consequently, the Council has commissioned an Energy Centre feasibility study for the wider site. This study will consider the optimum energy solutions and how these can best be delivered, including the electricity transformer. This report will be completed by August 2024. The report's findings will provide the Council and its partners with the information we require to make informed decisions and support funding applications to deliver these improvements.

Old Falcon

- 7.18. Over the past few months there has been a series of detailed surveys carried out on the Old Falcon and new designs are currently being

developed to bring the building back into use. The project team are currently finalising the programme with architects and various consultants and intend to carry out a public event during the summer.

7.19. The Council are working well with the owner to bring forward a new planning application for the Old Falcon which both parties will submit in a joint application in the Autumn 2024. Following planning submission and subject to the necessary statutory approvals, the owner will then bring forward the new proposals.

7.20. The Old Falcon project team are working closely with the wider Market Towns programme team to ensure a comprehensive approach for the Market Square.

Town Centre Improvements

7.21. Works are being completed in line with the overall project schedule to January 2025. At the outset of works, we endeavoured to prioritise the completion of the Market Square early for the purpose of enabling the Christmas lights switch-on event to proceed as normal in November 2024, while being clear this could not be guaranteed or relied upon.

7.22. Due to an unmarked cast iron main being discovered unexpectedly within the Market Square, we will not be able to provide the entire Square to event organisers by this point. The cast iron main has not been claimed by any utility company and consequently we are unable to determine if it is live. We are therefore proceeding with caution and for safety reasons the mains will be excavated by hand rather than machinery, which naturally takes more time and will impact our ability to complete the Market Square works entirely by the early date of November 2024. We estimate two thirds of the square will be complete and usable by that point, but the remaining third will need to remain fenced off for ongoing works.

7.23. Whilst the Town Council has determined the Christmas lights switch-on will not proceed in its normal way in the Market Square, they are developing an alternative programme of festive events spread across the town centre so that this important time for the community and our local economy can continue to be celebrated.

Public Art

7.24. This project is funded from the Market Towns Programme budget and is being delivered directly by St Neots Town Council. The role of the District Council in the project is to monitor project delivery by the Town Council and to report progress to the CPCA as the funding body.

7.25. Following the completion of tender process the Town Council has engaged The Neotists to act as a partner in delivering the St Neots Art Project. The Neotists will be leading on three sections of work which will see the delivery of the community artwork project. The Neotists will be reporting back to a Town Council working group at each stage, with the Council retaining the sign-off of themes, designs, and the final installation.

7.26. The three stages are as follows:

- Stage 1: Research, engagement, theme, and location development
- Stage 2: Materials, design, and concept stage, followed by public engagement/consultation.
- Stage 3: Implementation, from planning permissions through to manufacture and installation

7.27. The Project is currently in stage 1 and the Neotists, working with a local company have delivered workshops with key community groups and residents to discuss and develop themes and locations. Public surveys have also been run to gather opinions, thoughts, and feedback to inform the nature of the artwork.

7.28. Research around these themes is nearing completion and this will be pulled together and suggested final themes and locations brought to the Council. A summary of the survey results and the workshops is included in Appendix B and C.

8. FUNDING

9. FINANCE UPDATE

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
1. St Neots Regeneration			
Future High Street Fund	£3,748,815	£2,395,862	£1,352,953
Community Infrastructure Levy	£4,830,000	£0	£4,830,000
CPCA	£3,100,000	£150,477	£2,949,523
National Highways	£3,493,218	£2,188,261	£1,304,957
CPCA Masterplan phase 1 (legacy)	£260,000	£69,862	£190,138
Funding totals	£15,432,033	£4,804,462	£10,627,571

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to dare	Balance
2. Huntingdon & St Ives			
CPCA Masterplans & Accelerated Funding (*post change control March 2023)	£802,150	£229,764	£567,385
Funding totals	£802,150	£229,764	£567,385

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to dare	Balance
3. Ramsey			
Local Growth Fund	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525
UKSP (revenue)	£221,000	£31,022	£189,978
CPCA Accelerated Funding (legacy)	£295,000	£32,585	£262,415
Funding totals	£1,669,525	£63,607	£1,605,918

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
4. Programme total			
All funding sources	£17,903,708	£5,097,833 (£1,147,581 increased expenditure versus April update).	£12,800,874

10.COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 10.1. The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

11.KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

BUDGET MANAGEMENT RISK

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. One of the most significant elements of the MTP was the St Neots Town Centre Improvements. The tender process for this resulted in costs being confirmed at a significant cost saving compared to previous estimates. This has lowered the risk for this project and the programme overall significantly.
- 11.3. The Priory Centre project does present an elevated risk level in cost terms currently. As another construction-based scheme it is likely to be affected by the significant inflation this sector has experienced in the two years. Whilst inflation has reduced, we will continue to review the state of the market and develop measures to reduce costs should it be necessary such as value engineering.

PROGRAMME RESOURCE RISKS

- 11.4. 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.
- 11.5. 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.

REPUTATIONAL RISKS

- 11.6. 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. A further key element is having in place a well-planned Communications Plan. This is monitored weekly and designed to be proactive, looking ahead several months for potential

issues for which communications and publicity are important tools for resolving.

- 11.7. Further to this, 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.

LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 11.8. The delivery of the MTP is aligned with the principles and key objectives of the HDC Corporate Plan, specifically it links to:
- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations, through Forward Thinking Economic Growth

12. CONSULTATION

- 12.1. Within the reporting period, it should be noted that a statutory consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Priory Centre planning application. This has resulted in the Planning Application determination being extended to July, initially, to assess and respond to comments and objections which have been received.
- 12.2. A non-statutory consultation is being planned for the end of Summer 2024. This is in relation to emerging project proposals concerning the Ramsey town centre enhancement programme.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.3. This programme contains multiple projects where legal advice and guidance is required as part of project delivery. Project Staff will liaise with the Legal Services Manager as required to ensure appropriate legal oversight and advice if provided when relevant.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 12.4. The MTP Project team is currently fully resourced in staffing and budget terms to deliver the MTP programme as set out.

EQUALITIES

- 12.5. 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.

12.6. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL

12.7. 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 2023 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.

12.8. The 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.

LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A: [Ramsey feasibility study stage 2](#)

Appendix B: [St Neots public art survey](#)

Appendix C: [St Neots public art workshop summary](#)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report to Cabinet (FHSF (Future High Street Fund)) 13th February 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 28th July 2020 – EXEMPT.
- Report to Cabinet (Market Towns Accelerated Programme) 18th March 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 23rd. 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](#)
- Market Towns Programme Autumn 2023 Update to Cabinet October 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2023 Update to Cabinet December 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2024 Update to Cabinet April 2024 can be found [here](#)

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Pamela Scott, Regeneration & Housing Delivery Manager
Tel No: 01480 388486
Email: pamela.scott@huntingdonshre.gov.uk