

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WEALTH BUILDING STRATEGY AND DELIVERY FUND

10. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 10.1 The Panel discussed the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy and Delivery Fund at its meeting on 5th September 2024.
- 10.2 Councillor Hassall expressed his view that he believed the money reserved for the fund would be better invested into Business As Usual operations within the Council. He felt that prioritising and getting the basics right, residents and communities would both benefit and that third party funding would be better placed to fund the ambitions of the Strategy. The Panel heard that the Strategy and Fund would be fulfilling a recommendation identified by the Corporate Peer Challenge, to properly appropriately resource the delivery of the Hunts Futures Strategy and it was observed that the available money would be used as seed funding to create a lasting legacy for the district and would be a good investment for the funds.
- 10.3 Councillor Hunt expressed his support for the Strategy and felt that it could have a meaningful impact on local communities. The Panel heard that following the approval of the Strategy, a programme would be developed to add more detail and criteria and that this would be presented back to the Panel in the new year.
- 10.4 Councillor Shaw also expressed his support for the Strategy and observed that if the Council were aiming to use local suppliers and businesses whether those businesses were also required to source locally to ensure investment remained within the district where possible. The Panel heard that the Council were aiming to maximise opportunities with local businesses and would be influencing their partners to do the same, with the example of the redevelopment of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital being give as an example which could bring huge benefits for the local economy both during redevelopment and also once established. Following a further question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel heard that the Council were working with partners to encourage local recruitment for local jobs.
- 10.5 Councillor Bywater, welcomed the approach and the progress that has been made over recent years, observing that the kind of adaptability and change this will support are positives, and expressed his support for the Strategy.
- 10.6 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.