

Public
Key Decision – No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Health and Wealth Building Fund

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships – Thursday 5th June 2025

Executive Portfolio: Cllr Sally Howell, Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure

Report by: Claudia Deeth, Public Protection Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities & Partnerships) is invited to comment on the contents of the report and consider the following in respect of the progress made to date on the Community Health and Wealth Building Fund:

1. **Be a constructive critical friend** - are there areas that you feel need to be looked at.
2. Are there **issues that matter to local people and the local community we need to bear in mind**.
3. Are there **things we could be doing but are not currently part of the proposed approach**.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At the meeting of Full Council held in December 2024 where approval was sought for the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy and associated Fund, it was resolved that:

a) that the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy as appended as Appendix A to the report now submitted be approved; and

b) that the creation of a £750k Delivery Fund be approved for use over the next 3 years to support the delivery of the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy; noting the intention to bring detailed proposals on the mechanics of operation to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further input and review.

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to share with the Panel the progress that has been made in relation to how the delivery fund may operate and to provide the Panel with the opportunity to input and review the proposals being made.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It was recognised that in order to achieve what was set out in the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy, a delivery fund would be needed. Overview and Scrutiny expressed an interest in playing an active role in the development and review of the principles surrounding the application and allocation of the fund.
- 2.2 This report is the first step of engaging the Panel in the development of the delivery process and a commitment to continue to provide the opportunity for input and review.

3. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 3.1 The delivery fund has the opportunity to fund projects and initiatives that truly tackle issues at the heart of the problem. It is essential that the procedure for awarding funds is fit for purpose and can withstand challenge.
- 3.2 We are confident that the tool that has been commissioned to enable the impacts of funded projects to be measured is robust and will clearly evidence the value added.

4. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The timescales for delivery are detailed within the presentation.

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

[*\(See Corporate Plan\)*](#)

- 5.1 The first priority in the Corporate Plan is to improve the quality of life for local people. Our residents benefit from many services, that we and other

organisations deliver, but ultimately their overall quality of life will be driven by factors beyond the control of any single organisation.

- 5.2 The Corporate Plan commits the council to not just doing but also “enabling” and “influencing”. This fund presents opportunities to fund activity by partners best able to deliver outcomes, and to influence the delivery of others. There is an expectation that some funding will pass through to other delivery organisations or support joint activity, be that through Parish Councils, Community groups or others.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation sessions with residents took place during summer 2024 and two further consultation sessions are being held in June. The first session will be held with residents and the second with representatives from the community and voluntary sector. The purpose of the sessions is to establish that the priorities previously identified by residents remain the same and then with the community and voluntary sector representatives, develop principles for the awarding of the fund.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This process is being managed within existing resource.

8. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Good employment, having friends and being socially connected, being healthy and physically active are all proven to improve lives. The evidence shows that these factors contribute to quality of life for our residents and positively reinforce each other. The more you earn the longer you live. The more active you are, the happier you will be, and the less likely you are to suffer from low mood. People who have a wide network of friends, are happier and more independent, are less likely to need help from the state.
- 8.2 As a Council we work hard to create the conditions for Huntingdonshire residents to lead fulfilling, healthy lives. Supporting business investment and job creation. Sponsoring skills projects which link residents with these jobs. Running leisure centres and parks and providing outreach activities in communities to support physical activity. Providing financial support and income maximisation services for our residents and doing lots of this in partnership with the community.

9. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 We are hearing more and more from residents who are passionate about the environment that they are living in and the impact that climate change will have on future generations. Through this fund, there is an opportunity for the community and voluntary sector to respond to these concerns and develop projects and initiatives from the ground up that create a better Huntingdonshire for children and young people.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 10.1 Our Corporate Plan commits us to Improving quality of life and wellbeing for residents and the implementation of the fund enables us to deliver against this priority.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy and Fund - [Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 7:00 pm - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)