

Appendix B: Progress on Corporate Plan Actions



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
1. Deliver the approved Community Health & Wealth Strategy and go-live with funding mechanisms to invest in initiatives identified and chosen by our communities.	Cllr Ferguson	71 Expressions of Interest were received via the August pilot, with 20 groups then being asked to submit a full application. Two training workshops were delivered by the team alongside Support Cambs to those submitting applications. The window closed at the end of September, and 17 out of the 20 applicants invited have submitted full applications. The outcome will be determined by the first panel meeting that is being held at the end of October.	↔	G	This has been a hugely collaborative piece of work with the community and voluntary sector to get to this stage, which has clearly demonstrated the approach being taken by the Council to tackle the root cause of issues from the ground up.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
2. Refresh our Social Value Procurement Policy to ensure our spend benefits local communities and ensure our work complies with recent changes to the Procurement Act 2024.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	A Social Value framework and Social Value Policy have been drafted and circulated for comment. These were discussed at a meeting of the working group at the end of September.	↔	G	Demonstrable progress has been made toward delivering the overall objective of embedding Social Value into the procurement process to benefit local communities.
3. Improve our evaluation of how we make a difference to local people ensuring we become even better at demonstrating impact	Cllr Ferguson	To support the delivery of our ambition, we now have a software tool that allows us to capture and quantify the impact of our work on health and wealth building. It is being implemented and will be used to track the impact of grants given to the community in Q3.	↔	G	We will be able to measure, quantify, and track the impact we have, and demonstrate back to residents the impact of our work.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
4. Deliver continued improvements to the One Leisure offer, enhancing existing facilities, implementing recommendations of the One Leisure Long-Term Operating Model and other beneficial opportunities.	Cllr Howell	The One Leisure Website update went live at the start of Q3, with no major issues and only minor tweaks required for other issues. The Huntingdon Gym & Changing Rooms upgrade has been completed. Ramsey Gym investment projects are underway and will be completed by 27th November 25. Huntingdon Sports and Health Hub is progressing to RIBA (architectural stages) stage 3 & 4 if approved at Cabinet on Tuesday 14th October. Work is underway to secure funding for an additional 3G synthetic turf pitch at St Ives Outdoor Centre outcome of the CIL bid will be given at Cabinet on 14th October 25 . Active Lifestyles is continuing to deliver weight management programmes for inactive adults and frailty in older adults activities in partnership with the local Primary Care Network and integrated neighbourhoods.	↔	G	The upgrades will supply better facilities and services for our residents, as well as more activities and options will be available for residents. Additionally, an improved OL digital will be offered to our customers and staff. Attendances are up 30% year to date for Active Lifestyles, and One Leisure is 5% ahead of 24/25.



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Enable

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
5. Work with partners to further skills and employment opportunities in the District: including direct delivery of funded schemes.	Cllr Ferguson	A further 36 months of funding is secured for WorkWell, with a focus on bringing businesses on board to better manage sickness absence in the workplace. A Joint event is to be held with South Cambs for businesses to be held in October. A number of applications relating to skills and employment are being considered for the CHAWS pilot round, including supporting residents who are neurodivergent.	↔	G	The confidence that the scheme has continuity and that the support is available for residents with varying needs, and who otherwise may risk being long-term unemployed.
6. Work with other organisations and businesses to maximise the impact they can have on the health and wellbeing of local communities. Our focus will be on piloting new approaches that can be embedded in future years	Cllr Ferguson	Following a recruitment freeze within NWAFT, we have not been able to appoint to the role for this work. Instead, we put an alternative proposal that has the same intentions to the CPCA, and this has now been approved.	↔	G	The work on building relationships and employment skills, pathways, and opportunities for local residents has commenced and will be developed as a model for other organisations to replicate.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
7. Focus on maximising physical activity in the district, and work to promote this across local partners.	Cllr Howell	The Leisure Built Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategies provide the framework to drive improvement to maximise physical activity in the district. Work is ongoing to implement the action plan from the two strategies, with a potential transformative project in Huntingdon being the first to be put into motion. Officers have been responding to planning applications, with a potential £1.6m being negotiated for formal sports provision. Work is also ongoing on a £800k capital grant to improve facilities in St Ives. The Active Lifestyles service has delivered 1,602 sessions in Q2 compared to 1,251 in the same period last year. The average for 2025/26 is 510 per month, compared to 409 for the same period last year. Active Lifestyles has attended seventeen events in Q2, leading to over 720 contacts with residents.	↔	G	Facility refurbishment and improvements at One Leisure Huntingdon have been completed in Quarter 2, helping One Leisure to strong performance in Q2. Also, £100k of S106 has been passported to community organisations, ensuring the spend was achieved within deadlines and not returned to developers. Additionally, there have been 18,290 attendances at Active Lifestyles delivered activities in Q2 compared to 13,725 in 2024/25 – 33% improvement like for like and 34% increase year to date.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
8. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents to improve their quality of life through the promotion and delivery of relevant services.	Cllr Ferguson	The Residents Advice and Information Team continues to provide day-to-day services, and so does the Active Lifestyles Team. In addition, the WorkWell programme is helping residents into work each month by supporting residents from sickness to working, and as one of 15 national pilots, the positive news of an extension of this funding for 3 years demonstrates success.	↔	G	This action enables us to ensure help is available to those who need it, improving our residents' quality of life.



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Influence

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
9. Continue to work with statutory partners to secure improvements to transport options for Huntingdonshire, including active travel.	Cllr Sanderson	We continue to engage with CCC and CPCA on active travel matters. A bid was submitted in Q2 for National Highways designated funds by CCC via CPCA for 4 projects - 3 are for active travel links from St. Neots to Wyboston Lakes, and 1 is to Phoenix Park and Wyboston Lakes. The St. Ives Local Improvements are nearing finalisation. This project aims to reduce congestion on the main A1123 and A1096 corridors, including the improvement of bus journey times. Separately, the A141 and St Ives improvements are going out for consultation in Q3 (October).	↔	G	Through our work with CCC and the CPCA, we can help influence the delivery of transport improvements within the district, improving the mobility and quality of life of our residents.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
10. Embed the priorities of Huntingdonshire Futures across the work of the Council and Partners whilst influencing and enabling communities to do the same.	Cllr Conboy	A project to determine the value of establishing a self-designated landscape in the Great Ouse Valley in Huntingdonshire, working in partnership with the Great Ouse Valley Trust, is now complete. A business case is being finalised, and project sponsors will then agree on options and next steps. Huntingdonshire Futures grants 2025 focused on fostering Pride in Place in Huntingdonshire, building on the success of the 2024 scheme. 35 applications were received before the scheme closed early due to demand. 19 organisations from across Huntingdonshire were awarded small grants of £500 - £2,500, totalling circa £40,000. Most projects are now complete.	↔	G	Grants have enabled 19 community groups, charities, and Town and Parish councils to deliver activities and events in their communities. The events support Pride in Place, celebrating what makes Huntingdonshire and its communities special. Feedback highlighted how activity made people feel connected to their community and brought people together, and attracted new visitors.



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
11. Report regularly on progress on the delivery of an integrated financial vulnerability model between HDC and partners (PROJECT).	Cllr Ferguson	First multi-agency group meetings of professionals held, with an agreed approach of response, implement, and resilience. This work is being supported by the Crisis Resilience Fund, and the aim is to move communities from poverty to resilience. We intend to grow what we already do via the RAI Team, as this is a tried and tested model. Performance management measures will be agreed and implemented to demonstrate value and impact.	↔	G	This work has set a clear position of where we are now and where we need to be. It is imperative that we move our model from reliance to resilience, and this work will enable that to happen.
12. Act on opportunities for early intervention and regularly report on learning and impact.	Cllr Ferguson	The Service Design review is now completed, involving multiple internal services that work with/alongside RAI and CAB. This is to be presented, and the next steps agreed upon.	↔	G	Enables clear direction and ensures duplication is avoided. Ultimately resulting in the best outcomes for our residents.



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Activity type: Enable

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
13. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents at risk of experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. improve data sharing with the police to inform a targeted on-the-ground door-knocking campaign to help prevent crime).	Cllr Ferguson	We are working with the Police on a potential expansion of the successful trial to share data and help tackle the risks of serious violence in the District. The portal goes live in Q3, a little later than forecast due to other priorities for all partners in setting this work up.	↓	A	Working with partners allows us to make a bigger impact on the quality of life of local people, and preventing the risk of serious crime occurring would be a welcome contribution.
14. Prevent the causes of homelessness wherever we can by our own efforts but also by working with other partners to tackle the root causes where we can	Cllr Ferguson	The vulnerable young people pathway review has been completed, including sign-off by the Cambs Safeguarding Board. Roll-out is happening through a series of joint webinars. Reviews of the Care Leavers and prison leavers pathways have commenced and will be completed later in the year.	↔	G	Ensuring all pathways are up to date and effectively rolled out between partners will maximise early intervention opportunities, which contribute to homelessness prevention.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
15. Continue to support refugees and other guests, seeking to support good community relations and smooth transition into long-term residency or return home.	Cllr Ferguson	Schemes continue to operate successfully. We continue to have only met 21 of our 120 target bed spaces for asylum seekers, and no properties have been procured by MOD for Afghan Resettlement. We continue to offer and provide support where requested.	↔	G	Through effective management of the refugee cohorts, we have seen a reduced rate of use of Temporary Accommodation. This means no negative impact on budgets, but also no community tensions.
16. Deliver the recommendations of the review into Disabled Facilities Grants undertaken by Officers and Members in 2024/25.	Cllr Ferguson	A national consultation has now been completed, which provided an opportunity to highlight the issues brought forward as part of the review.	↔	G	To ensure that our funding is being used optimally.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Enable

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
17. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. identifying individuals who could benefit from support offered by the Resident Advice and Information team and reporting on outcomes).	Cllr Ferguson	We are collaborating with the Police on a potential expansion of the successful data-sharing trial aimed at addressing the risks of serious violence within the District. Although the portal is now scheduled to go live in Q3—slightly later than initially forecast—this delay reflects the need to balance priorities across all partners involved in establishing the initiative.	↔	G	Ensuring that the organisation is working with other partners will allow us to improve the quality of life of our residents to an even greater extent.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Influence

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
18. Lobby, and support campaigns, for improvements to the living conditions of local residents.	Cllr Conboy	Through the County bringing together partners, discussions are underway to identify what is already happening across the district to tackle the recommendations from the commission. We have highlighted that the Crisis Resilience Fund should not be used to create lots of new projects, but use what is already in place and working, and replicate this elsewhere.	↔	G	Ensuring that those most in need are aware of the support available to them and how to access it. Focusing on prevention, recognising that being reactive reduces the chances of positive outcomes for residents.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
19. Be an active partner working with others within health and social care to make sure projects and new initiatives are delivered within Huntingdonshire and maximise the positive impact felt locally	Cllr Ferguson	HDC is a key partner within the integrated care board and the North West Care Board. In Q2, a successful bid was made to the Government to be involved in the national pilots of local neighbourhood services based in GP areas. HDC also presented to the Board on the Community Health & Wealth Fund, and we are working with partners to deliver (and possibly fund) the strategy Alongside this, working with local GPs in neighbourhoods has progressed with impacts from Active Lifestyles and the Workwell Programme, leading to strong partnership working.	↔	G	Influencing key partners for the benefit of Huntingdonshire is a key approach in the Corporate Plan - and with an ageing population, it is vital we maximise the full benefit of the public health system.



Outcome: Improving housing

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
20. Develop a new Housing Strategy and Action Plan for 2025-26.	Cllr Wakeford	We now have the completed Housing Needs Assessment, which is part of the evidence for the review of the Local Plan. This will enable us to conclude the data gathering for the new strategy and provide an advanced draft by the end of Q3.	↔	G	This will enable the Council to have a Housing Strategy based on the most up-to-date information for the district and support the Council's Corporate Plan outcome of Improving Housing. At a practical level, it will enable the Council to have accurate information on the level and type of demand for housing.
21. Continue to use surplus Council owned sites to deliver affordable housing (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	A planning application was submitted for the first site in Warboys. It is anticipated that this should go to DMC in December 2025.	↑	G	This action will have the ability to support the Council's Corporate Plan outcome of Improving Housing within the District. The use of surplus Council-owned sites to deliver much-needed affordable housing is an important element of the plan and the Council's Housing Strategy.
22. Develop policy to support the use of civil penalties with regard to private sector housing enforcement.	Cllr Ferguson	The organisation is still waiting for information from the government to allow the policy to be developed.	↔	A	Once actioned, this policy will help drive better conditions in private sector housing, improving the living conditions of our residents.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
23. Implement the government's new Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act, review of supported exempt accommodation in the area and introduce licensing regulations.	Cllr Ferguson	We are still awaiting further guidance on the Act to enable us to implement the scheme.	↔	A	This action will support creating a better Huntingdonshire for Future generations by improving housing conditions.

**Outcome: Improving housing****Activity type: Enable**

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
24. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, which meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).	Cllr Wakeford	The Council continues to work with partner Housing Associations and Developers to deliver new housing, including affordable homes. Most construction tends to take place over the spring/summer months, and we therefore tend to achieve higher numbers of units in the last two quarters of the year. Officers are also looking to bring forward innovative opportunities to increase supply when the opportunity is available.	↔	A	This action will have the ability to support the Council's Corporate Plan with Improving Housing in the District. The delivery of new housing across all tenures is an important element of the plan and the Council's Housing Strategy.
25. Work in partnership to look at best practice and funding to improve housing conditions, including retrofit programmes in social and private housing.	Cllr Wakeford	As and when opportunities occur, the Council's Housing and Climate teams work in partnership to ensure there is take-up on retrofit and other housing programmes to enable the improvement of housing in the district.	↔	A	The continual improvement of housing within the district not only aligns with our Corporate Plan Outcome of Improving Housing, but also allows our residents to live in safer and higher-quality homes.



Outcome: Improving housing

Activity type: Influence

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
26. Work with Registered Providers to improve conditions in existing accommodation through regeneration schemes.	Cllr Wakeford	The Council is working with Places for People (P4P) on a regeneration project in Huntingdon. Residents have now been made aware, and discussions have commenced with Planning colleagues as part of a PPA. Regular quarterly meetings are now taking place with P4P to address issues that are identified by the Corporate Team. Awaab's Law comes into effect in October 2025 in relation to hazards around damp/mould and all emergency hazards, with further elements over the next 2 years. This will give greater ability by the Regulator of Social Housing and Environmental Health Teams to take action.	↓	A	Not only does this project ensure we are complying with statutory law, but it also ensures that our residents are living in homes that are safer and higher quality.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
27. Work with partners to address barriers to housing delivery and support housing delivery rates.	Cllr Wakeford	The Council is working with partner Housing Associations and Developers to deliver new housing, including affordable homes, in a timely manner. The housing and planning teams work closely together to ensure barriers to the delivery of sites with planning permission are considered and supported as soon as they occur.	↔	A	This action supports the Council's Corporate Plan Action in Improving Housing.
28. Work with Health and Social Care Providers to explore future models of housing, support and care, enabling people to live independently for longer.	Cllr Wakeford	The completion of the Housing Needs Assessment alongside the data from the County Council is informing the completion of the Housing Strategy, which will be used to shape future provision of housing across the District.	↔	G	Enabling people to live independently for longer improves the wellbeing of our residents.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
29. Produce sustainable housing guidance for developers that encourages sustainable construction methods and new homes to be of high environmental standards.	Cllr Wakeford	This work will centre on low-carbon construction, including off-site fabrication to align with Part L(2025), including improved insulation, triple glazing, solar PV, and heat pumps, and ensure compliance with Future Homes Standard (2025) for net zero-ready homes. It will also include the use of low VOC and prioritise lifecycle carbon assessments and sustainable transport integration, and aim for BREEAM excellent or Passivhaus opportunities.	↔	A	This action will support creating a better Huntingdonshire for Future generations by lowering carbon emissions and providing good quality housing.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
30. Promote Huntingdonshire as a destination for high value inward investment, prioritising businesses that are proactively reducing their carbon emissions, and produce an annual report on activity.	Cllr Wakeford	In Q2, the team continued to promote Huntingdonshire as a destination for high-value inward investment, prioritising businesses committed to reducing carbon emissions, in line with the Economic Growth Strategy 2025–2030’s focus on sustainable economic growth and protecting natural assets.	↔	G	These efforts have strengthened Huntingdonshire’s reputation as a sustainable, high-value investment destination, attracting interest from businesses committed to reducing carbon emissions and supporting long-term economic growth.
31. Deliver the business grants within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programme.	Cllr Wakeford	The team now has Digital Grants and REPF Grants open for businesses to apply. So far, we have approved two Digital Grants, with 21 applications currently live. Additionally, there are 20 live applications for the Rural Grants awaiting review and recommendation.	↔	G	So far, the grants have supported businesses with funding, driven strong engagement, and are helping build capacity for growth and innovation in the local economy.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
32. Establish the Economic Growth Strategy and Action Plan.	Cllr Wakeford	The EGS has now been approved and is available on the Invest in Huntingdonshire website. Actions have been allocated to team members based on their roles and expertise, and work is underway to deliver these in partnership with key stakeholders and businesses.	↔	G	As a result, delivery of the EGS is now progressing in a more focused and coordinated way, ensuring clear accountability and stronger collaboration with partners and businesses.
33. Delivery of the Market Town Programme and their High Street projects. Ensuring their promotion to drive additional economic and social activity.	Cllr Wakeford	In St Neots, work continues on the Priory Centre and is proceeding well, and we continue to support the owner of the Old Falcon to bring forward the planning application that was considered earlier in the year. Projects in Ramsey are progressing well in partnership with the Town Council. Although this is slightly behind schedule, it is expected that the first element of the project will be delivered early in 2026, commencing with the car park. Other projects within the programme are progressing well across all Market Towns.	↔	A	The Market Towns Programme supports the aim in the Corporate Plan of Forward Thinking Economic Growth.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
34. Continue the update to the Local Plan, including updating evidence bases in line with National Planning Policy, particularly where it relates to Economy, Environment and Housing.	Cllr Sanderson	In terms of the Local Plan, the Preferred Options version will be presented to Cabinet on the 21st October, and the papers will be circulated on the 14th October. The Local Plan is still on target for delivery.	↔	G	Work is well underway to complete the local plan and is informed by our public consultations. The evidence base is growing and being published online.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Enable

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
35. Support our market towns and town centres as hubs of economic and social activity.	Cllr Wakeford	We have committed to extending the town centre footfall monitoring contract for a further two years. Alongside this, we have been working with BIDA to deliver a number of UKSPF projects, including a local gift card initiative and retail support for Christmas 2025. In addition, we have wrapped another empty shop on St Ives High Street. All of these activities have been promoted through our Discover Huntingdonshire website and Instagram page.	↔	G	As a result, we are supporting town centre vitality, helping local retailers attract more visitors and spend, while strengthening the visibility of Huntingdonshire's high streets through coordinated promotion.
36. Support the visitor economy and culture sector including CPCA Local Visitor Economy Partnership.	Cllr Wakeford	As a part of the LVEP application submission process, HDC and others have been asked to demonstrate staffing capacity and financial resilience. CPCA are meeting with Visit England next Wednesday in October, and they would like to see some parts of the LVEP application.	↔	A	It is positive that conversations are being held; however, we are still unclear about the role the district will play and how this will align with the timelines in place.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Influence

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
37. Work with the CPCA and partners to support skills development and opportunities.	Cllr Wakeford	The team is supporting the council with an apprenticeship event in Q3 2026 during Apprenticeship Week. They are also working with Form the Future to explore two additional programs with local schools and CRC, utilising UKSPF-related funds.	↔	G	This will help provide tailored support to local schools and, in turn, to local children, with the goal of encouraging them to seek employment locally or pursue careers that are in demand within the community.
38. Work with partners to secure investment and growth in Huntingdonshire, maximising the opportunities presented through Local Government Reorganisation and additional devolved powers.	Cllr Wakeford	During Q2, we have continued to position Huntingdonshire as a prime location for investment and growth. Following UKREiiF, we engaged with several key businesses to promote opportunities within the district	↔	G	As a result of this activity, we have strengthened relationships with investors and raised the profile of Huntingdonshire – particularly Alconbury Weald – as a key site for growth and long-term economic opportunities

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
39. Influence delivery of infrastructure including East West Rail, A428, A141 Strategic Outline Business Case and future Transport Strategies.	Cllr Wakeford	Engagement with officers for the East West Rail scheme is ongoing, including briefings and workshops on the latest design proposals following the third non-statutory consultation in November 2024. For the A428 project, National Highways is providing officers with regular updates as construction progresses. The third non-statutory consultation for the Fens Reservoir launches in October (Q3) and will run until 10th December 2025. Specialist Officers are reviewing the latest design proposals, which include more detail on the potential pipeline routes through the District. For the East Park Solar scheme, the NSIP has now been formally submitted to PINs. If accepted, the project will enter the pre-examination. A141 consultation underway in Q3.	↔	G	The planning team has been helping with business cases and has been influencing the development of these key infrastructure developments, helping to ensure our residents have access to high-quality transport infrastructure.

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40. Support and engage in the development of the Local Growth Plan as it is developed by the CPCA, highlighting the inward investment and growth priorities and opportunities for Huntingdonshire	Cllr Wakeford	The Economic Development team has contributed to multiple drafts of the CPCA Local Growth Plan, ensuring Huntingdonshire is recognised as a key growth area and that major developments are positioned as gateways into sector-specific opportunities.	↔	G	As a result, Huntingdonshire's strengths and strategic sites are better reflected in regional planning, increasing visibility with investors and partners.
41. Run and attend a programme of events to promote the profile of Huntingdonshire as a place to invest, grow and deliver economic growth.	Cllr Wakeford	We delivered a sold-out CEO Breakfast at the start of September, attended by over 50 businesses who networked with the wider team. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce to host a joint event in the new year and continue to attend local networking meetings in St Ives and St Neots. In addition, we are running Business Booster drop-in sessions in Ramsey in partnership with the Town Council.	↔	G	As a result, we have strengthened local business networks, created new opportunities for collaboration, and raised the profile of Huntingdonshire as a supportive place to do business.

**Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions****Activity type: Do**

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
42. Maximise opportunities to expand the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel where there is a business case to do so.	Cllr Kerr	HVO implementation across the entire HDC fleet is now fully rolled out, the CO2 emissions will be reduced by around 82%, aligning with our corporate goals and climate strategy aspirations of net zero by 2040.	↔	G	CO2 emitted from HDC vehicles will be reduced by 82%, allowing our residents to live in a district which is low in emissions.
43. Maximise decarbonisation of our fleet where there is a business case to do through a fleet strategy.	Cllr Kerr	To ensure that our fleet emits as little carbon as possible, it is being decarbonised to use HVO fuels. This project is completed. Additionally, drivers share best practices to try to drive as efficiently as possible.	↔	G	An 82% reduction in CO ₂ emissions from HDC vehicles will help create a healthier, low-emission district for our community
44. Minimise use of fossil fuels for energy where there is a business case to do so.	Cllr Kerr	The project to implement HVO across the HDC fleet is now completed. Only some machinery, such as strimmers, and specialist machinery, are still using fossil fuels.	↔	G	This will significantly reduce the emissions from the HDC fleet, improving the quality of air for our residents and helping us become a greener authority.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
45. Showcase and encourage community action to lower carbon emissions.	Cllr Howell	An internal HDC Climate Champions group has been formed for quarterly Climate initiatives, an annual climate conversation taking place in November, partnership with Citizens Advice to examine the partnership with HDC's 5 thermal imaging cameras. Submissions for Huntingdonshire Business Awards are completed and shall be announced on 20th October.	↔	G	Climate initiatives will promote and encourage behaviour and consideration to lower carbon footprints. Annual climate conversation has 65 attendees registered and 15 stallholders covering businesses, Council's local plan and regeneration, and community groups. Recognising businesses for carbon initiatives will allow promote positive Climate action within the industry and strengthen the partnership between Climate and the local economy.
46. Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact.	Cllr Conboy	The action regarding identifying emissions from HDC IT data centres was completed in early 2025.	↔	G	The action regarding identifying emissions from HDC IT data centres was completed in early 2025.
47. Delivery of Climate Awareness Training across the Council.	Cllr Howell	This action is now completed. All staff have access to online climate training through the Learning and Development Portal.	↔	G	Awareness of the Climate training has been promoted through internal communications. This training is 30 minutes long, which is a huge time saving compared to being out for a day through carbon literacy training.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
48. Maximise use of solar of Council operational buildings (PROJECT).	Cllr Howell	The action to maximise the use of solar of Council operational buildings was completed in Q1	↔	G	The action to maximise the use of solar of Council operational buildings was completed in Q1
49. Improve household recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reducing food waste through implementation of household food waste collections (PROJECT).	Cllr Kerr	The project is on track with the rollout of the service still planned for April 26. The additional vehicles have started to arrive on site and communications began to residents during Q2.	↔	G	This project will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will help to reduce food waste, reducing the amount we send to landfills each year.



Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions

Activity type: Enable

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
50. Support community projects that reduce carbon emissions. Net Zero Villages (PROJECT).	Cllr Howell	Bid for HNDU Funding Round 15 submitted. 8 out of 11 of the Net Zero Villages projects are now completed. 3 press releases surrounding the project have been completed, plus social media posts to show updates were completed during Q2.	↔	G	If successful, this will allow £70-90K consultant fees to conduct a study to ascertain what would be needed to establish a heat network in Huntingdon. Letters of support have been received from the Director of Finance at the ACES Trust, the Director of Finance at Cambridgeshire Police, and the Director of the NHS NWAFT Trust. Warboys Parish Council, recipient of the Net Zero Villages grant, is giving a keynote speech at the annual climate conversation.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
51. Enabling community action and engagement to achieve greater biodiversity. Biodiversity4All extension to pilot urban nature corridors and natural flood prevention (PROJECT).	Cllr Howell	The St Ives Project - The Graduate Ecologists were unable to complete the report before their contract ended. The Project Manager has informed the CPCA that there will be a delay and that they will look to complete the report. The Natural Flood Defence Project - Two sites confirmed and a positive response from a land owner. The next step is to commission a Hydrological survey for Spring Common and conduct a site visit for the Potential Riparian Buffer Zone north of St Ives.	↓	R	The impact is that the Project Manager will have to devote attention and time to completing the report, but does might not have the relevant skills to be able to deliver everything that was hoped for with the project.

**Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions****Activity type: Influence**

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
52. Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	A Social Value framework and Social Value Policy have been drafted and circulated for comment. These were discussed at a meeting of the working group towards the end of Q2.	↔	G	The proposed framework and policy will introduce requirements to include social and environmental value in tender processes to an extent that is proportionate and relevant to the subject matter of the contract.
53. Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	Cllr Howell	The organisation is a key partner of the Huntingdonshire Business Awards, including 3 awards that focus on sustainability.	↔	G	This will improve visibility and exposure for businesses addressing their carbon footprint, which will signal to the general public that HDC is strongly committed to decarbonisation, but emphasising the point that businesses need to be successful to benefit them and their residents, to then allow carbon reduction considerations



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

Activity type: Do

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
54. Refresh our Commercial Investment Strategy to support informed and impactful investment.	Cllr Mickelburgh	The Refresh to our Commercial Investment Strategy was completed in Q2 and has now been approved by Cabinet.	↔	G	This will work to ensure our investments are both impactful and ethical, enabling us to better help our residents.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
55. Delivery of the Workforce Strategy Action Plan equipping the workforce with skills for the future whilst attracting, retaining and nurturing talent (PROJECT).	CIlr Davenport-Ray	The Leadership Development programme continues. The Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Salary Sacrifice Scheme is in the launch phase, with two suppliers selected. Free Health Kiosks, Escape Pain sessions, and blood pressure checks were available in Q2. Pensions Awareness Week saw an LGPS advisor support 32 staff, and communications were shared outlining available support. Incremental progression forms were finalised and shared following staff feedback. Succession planning proposals are being drafted, and the MHFA group has been reviewed and closed, with alternative support groups and a new staff benefits and wellbeing page promoted. The Hybrid Project Group has issued manager surveys and is awaiting final feedback. An ED&I paper has agreed on the formation of a dedicated group, and the staff survey has been launched.	↔	G	The sickness absence overall trend has been going down since the project started. In Q2 2024, 9 days were lost per FTE, compared to Q1 2025, where this number was 8.4 per FTE. Additionally, stress is no longer the number one reason for sickness

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
56. Continue our Customer Services improvement programme to ensure that our customers are always at the heart of what we do (PROJECT).	Cllr Ferguson	The telephony channel customer satisfaction survey has now been established. We are working on data accuracy of Survey and refining the setup. We would like to start reporting on results in Q4. A new forecasting model has been established to align resourcing with customer needs.	↔	G	Customer satisfaction survey will now gives the team an opportunity to continuously improve customer service based on customer feedback. Additionally, demand-led resourcing resulted in 3% reduction in the call abandonment rate compared to the same Quarter last year.
57. Progress the Development Management Improvement programme informed by the Local Government Association Peer Review to deliver continued efficiency in the planning service (PROJECT).	Cllr Sanderson	Development Management staffing levels have now returned to full capacity. A review of the case management software is underway, supported by consultancy from the provider to ensure optimal efficiency and full utilisation of all licensed modules. As this work progresses, a comprehensive process review will also be conducted. Bespoke training delivered by the software provider will build in-house expertise, enabling the removal of reliance on a 3rd party contractor. This will reduce costs and strengthen service resilience by minimising single points of failure. Additionally, Power BI dashboards are being developed.	↔	G	The impact of staffing levels means the DM service can run at full capacity.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
58. Progress delivery of Civil Parking Enforcement across the District to enforce on-street parking activity (PROJECT).	Cllr Kerr	Civil Parking Enforcement commenced August 2025 following designation by Department for Transport	↔	G	In the 4-week warning period in August, 111 Off-Street Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) and 806 On-street Warning Notices were issued. September saw the move from Warning Notices to PCNs, with 218 Off-Street PCNs and 696 on-street PCNs issued.
59. Build the enhancements to visitor facilities at Hinchbrooke Country Park (PROJECT).	Cllr Howell	RFQ is now complete, and two submissions have been received, both in the process of scoring, with a decision to be made by 13th October. Both contractors have suggested a longer timeline for completion, with interviews to be held in Q2. We will have a clearer view of the completion date once a contractor has been selected. Meetings with key stakeholders have been held, and the stakeholder e-letter has been drafted and is ready to send once the contractor is selected.	↓	A	Key Stakeholders have been informed, and the team is working towards a solution on procurement to ensure delivery is on budget and timely.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
60. Implement the recommendations and suggestions made from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge, continuing to drive transparent continuous improvement.	Cllr Ferguson	To date, 33 out of 37 actions have been completed with the evidence base reported to Overview & Scrutiny in September. Of the remaining four, which are still in progress, two are reporting as within target, and two are within tolerance of the targets. The Q2 update is currently going through the governance cycle and will be reported to Overview & Scrutiny in November.	↔	G	The Corporate Peer Challenge supports Priority 3 of the Corporate Plan - Doing our Core Work Well. It ensures the council focuses on key learning and development areas identified through external peer review. Outcomes include: - A continuous improvement programme informed by peer review - A strengthened approach to engagement - A renewed approach to governance, compliance, and risk
61. Extend the use of benchmarking data to identify opportunities for transformation.	Cllr Ferguson	This quarter has seen the launch of the Transformation Data Analysis Tool to Heads of Services and Directors. Once the tool is endorsed and feedback is implemented, it will be launched across the Council in Q3 as part of the mid-year Service Planning review for 2026/27. This project has been slightly delayed, and is now back on track for delivery.	↓	A	Once endorsed, this tool will be used to identify deeper analysis of benchmarking results and transformation opportunities.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
62. Expand the use of unit costing within priority service areas to demonstrate productivity and opportunities for transformation.	Cllr Ferguson	This projects has been slightly delayed due to the development of the Transformation Framework due to be presented to scrutiny members early Nov 25. The available unit cost information is now being collated and recorded in a Unit Costing Library ready for applying in Q3.	↓	A	The unit costs information will be used as a key set of data for identifying transformation opportunities as part of the Service Planning review process, due to be completed in Q3.
63. Identify opportunities to use Artificial Intelligence in a targeted way to support transformation and efficiency in compliance with emergent legislation.	Cllr Ferguson	Staff continue to use AI to help deliver day-to-day services. Examples include summarising meetings or drafting documents. We are intending piloting the AI to summarise conversations with customers in the Call Centre to reduce 'wrap-time' for advisors in Q3. In addition, the arrival of the CDIO in 3C ICT has introduced a stronger level of input into our approach and strategy - especially in ensuring compliance within a complex and changing technical environment.	↓	A	Using technology effectively will make the Council more efficient, but this must be done safely and securely to ensure data is used appropriately.
64. Listen to local residents and respond to their input on service delivery.	Cllr Conboy	Council has supported the joint countywide engagement activity for LGR.	↔	A	The feedback from the engagement activity will be an insight for the development of relevant LGR business cases.

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
65. Engage proactively with Local Government Reorganisation to ensure the priorities, opportunities and efficiencies for our communities are maximised	Cllr Ferguson	Proposals for submission have been developed at pace within the team and are on track for decision-making in November. Regular stand-ups and workstream meetings are held to ensure that Officers from across the Council are engaged with the content. HDC has been proactive in sharing information with neighbouring councils, and there are regular catch-ups set up with partner councils to align timelines. Members have been engaged with regularity to ensure information is shared in a timely manner.	↔	G	The actions to set up various workstreams across the Council have been positive and have allowed content to be reviewed by Officers on time and updated swiftly. Member engagement has had a positive impact, with regular updates on progress and new information as the proposals have progressed. The project is on track to deliver a finalised submission for the 28th of November.

**Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services****Activity type: Enable**

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
66. Enable our outstanding volunteers in our parks, nature reserves and elsewhere to continue to improve the quality of those spaces.	Cllr Howell	Friends Groups are encouraged as they help us to manage sites and to attract more volunteers. The Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve are funding an Apprentice Ranger to work with volunteers at Paxton Pits.	↔	G	Priory Park Friends Group is helping by training up additional site checker volunteers. The Apprentice Ranger has started at Paxton Pits and, once trained up, will enable even more volunteers to be recruited.



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

Activity type: Influence

2025/26 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 2	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
67. Our well-run Council will act as a model for our peers.	Cllr Conboy	We continue to show good delivery of services with multiple demonstrations of this in Q1 - the launch of Health and Wealth Fund, LGA Review Challenge update, delivering an event focused on water use, and many other events and positive service delivery demonstrate this. Q2 has also seen HDC officers working to support LGR, and many case studies from HDC will be used in all possible submissions to the Government.	↔	G	Demonstrating our impact will enhance our reputation with residents, businesses, and other key partners.