



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 12 June 2023

Democratic Services

Edwina Adefehinti
Interim Chief Officer Legal and Governance
Monitoring Officer

10:00 AM

72 Market Street
Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB7 4LS

**Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon
PE9 3TN**

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest

At this point Members must declare whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, or other interest in any of the items on the agenda, unless it is already entered in the register of members' interests.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chair

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee

3 Housing and Communities Committee - Draft Minutes 13.03

1 - 6

4	Public Questions	
	Arrangements for asking a public question can be viewed here - Public Questions - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)	
5	Affordable Housing Programme - Update on Implementation	7 - 16
6	Community Homes Support	17 - 28
7	Community Homes Grant Applications	29 - 44
8	Sustainable Land Use Advice	45 - 48
9	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	49 - 58
10	Climate Action Plan	59 - 78
11	Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework	79 - 82
12	Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee Agenda Plan	83 - 86
	Exclusion of the Press and Public	
	To determine whether the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, as the following item of business has an exempt appendix and the discussion may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act; information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).	
13	Housing Loans Update	87 - 98
14	Date of next meeting: Monday, 10 July 2023	

COVID-19

The legal provision for virtual meetings no longer exists and meetings of the Combined Authority therefore take place physically and are open to the public. Public access to meetings is managed in accordance with current COVID-19 regulations and therefore if you

wish to attend a meeting of the Combined Authority, please contact the Committee Clerk who will be able to advise you further.

The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee comprises the following members:

For more information about this meeting, including access arrangements and facilities for people with disabilities, please contact

Clerk Name:	Joanna Morley
Clerk Telephone:	
Clerk Email:	joanna.morley@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Housing and Communities Committee Minutes

Meeting: Monday 13 March 2023

Venue: Civic Suite, Huntingdonshire District Council

Time: 10.00 am - 11.00 am

Present:

Councillor Anna Bailey - East Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Lewis Herbert - Cambridge City Council

Councillor Bridget Smith - South Cambridgeshire District Council (Chair)

Councillor Alison Whelan - Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Jackie Allen - Peterborough City Council

Apologies:

Councillor Marco Cereste - Peterborough City Council

Councillor Tom Sanderson - Huntingdonshire District Council

Councillor Denise Laws - Fenland District Council

Councillor David Ambrose-Smith - East Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Chris Boden - Fenland District Council

Part 1 - Governance Items

91. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest and Announcements

Apologies received from Councillor Denise Laws, Councillor Tom Sanderson, Councillor Chris Boden, Councillor David Ambrose-Smith substituted by Councillor Anna Bailey and Councillor Marco Cereste substituted by Councillor Jackie Allen.

Councillor Anna Bailey declared a non-statutory pecuniary interest in item 2.2 on the agenda 'Housing Loans Update' as she was the Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council and the East Cambridgeshire Trading Company was set up by East Cambridgeshire District Council in March 2016.

Councillor Lewis Herbert declared a non-statutory pecuniary interest as he was a Future Homes Manager for Allia, a project to create module home communities for people previously homeless or rough sleeping.

92. Minutes of the Housing and Communities Committee meeting on 16 January 2023 and Actions

The minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

The action log was noted.

93. Public Questions

No public questions were received. A comment was received from the Lead Member for Housing on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was read out at item 2.2 on the agenda and can be found at appendix 1 of the minutes.

Part 2 – Programme Delivery

94. Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update – March 2023

The committee considered a report that updated members on the progress of affordable housing programme.

In discussing the report:

- A member commented that the programme had received a hard press and that the successes of the programme should be celebrated. She thanked the outgoing Director of Housing and Development and his team for their hard work in relation to the delivery of the programme.
- A member also paid tribute to the work of the Housing team but stated that he could not accept the previous members interpretation of the programme being a success as the Combined Authority had effectively lost £40 million funding from the previous Mayors revolving fund, which equated to 1,000 affordable homes, as the loans had not been approved by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). He referred to his comments at past Combined Authority Board meetings in relation to this matter.

It was resolved to note the report.

95. Housing Loans Report

The committee received a report that gave an update on the current position concerning receipt of loan repayments that were required to fund the Affordable Housing Programme.

A comment was received from the Lead Member for Housing on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was read out by the Chair and can be found at appendix 1 of the minutes.

Introducing the report officers updated the committee on a number of points including:

- The financial balance sheet at appendix 1 of the report showed an outstanding balance of £13,521,511 as at 21 February 2023 for the loans at the former MoD site, Ely, and Histon Rd, Cambridge.
- The project at Histon Mews, Cambridge was progressing. The independent monitor suggested the project would now complete in July 2023 and the agreed redemption date of the loan facility was 7 May 2023. Forecasts showed that not enough units would be completed for sale by 7 May 2023 to fully repay the loan and interest by the due date. In this scenario the penal rate of interest under the facility agreement would be applied and the Combined Authority would need to consider commencing an action against the borrower whilst the development was nearing completion.
- The project at the MoD site in Ely showed a balance of £5,908,378 on 21 February 2023 which showed a reduction of £563,975 since the report to committee in January 2023. The project cash flow was behind forecast with six completions expected before 31 March 2023 leaving twelve units unsold, so it was unlikely that the loan would be repaid from sales proceeds. East Cambridgeshire Trading Company had confirmed that arrangements were in place to utilise a facility arranged with East Cambridgeshire District Council to ensure the loan was repaid by 31 March 2023.

In discussing the report members:

- Requested that the Audit and Governance report on the Housing Loans be circulated to the committee. **ACTION**
- The member representing East Cambridgeshire gave a further update on the MoD scheme at Ely. She confirmed that of the 15 shared ownership properties, 13 had been exchanges and completed and there were 3 remaining. She clarified that ECTC had paid £1.8 million to the CPCA in interest and this had not been covered in the report and that it would be interesting to see how much in total the CA received in interest on the loans in total. The Chair commented that she expected that this would be covered in the audit report once the housing loans programme had been reviewed.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the current position in respect of outstanding loan repayments required to fund the 2021- 2022 Affordable Housing Programme.

96. Community Housing Support

The committee considered a report that set out a proposal to renew an arrangement with Eastern Community Homes that provided a support facility to people that express interest in progressing a community housing development scheme.

Introducing the report officers updated the committee on a number of points including:

- The arrangements with Eastern Community Homes were coming to an end on 31 March 2023 and the officer recommendation was to discontinue the support arrangement based on the position that no further submissions for funding had been received and no further community homes had been delivered as part of the initiative as this did not demonstrate value for money.
- Since the publication of the report Eastern Community Homes had informed the Combined Authority that there were two further applications for funding in progress. Officers had reviewed the potential funding applications and advised that they did not look to be feasible.

In discussing the report:

- The Chair stated that mindful that the Combined Authority were under close scrutiny from DLUHC in relation to the affordable housing programme and needed to be cautious of supporting schemes that did not provide value for money, when money was tight. She explained that if the committee were to agree with the officer recommendation, then the leaders strategy group could look at where best the funding could be reallocated.
- A member requested that the community groups that would be affected by this decision be given an opportunity to have a say in reviewing arrangements for support going forward and sought for the decision to be deferred for a committee cycle to allow this to happen. He stated that there was still potential for some sites to be brought forward and he felt that there was not enough evidence to make the decision now and the CA should ask Eastern Community Homes to review and come back with a better offer. The Chair queried how a deferment of the decision could be managed. Officers explained that a new agreement could be drawn up for the interim period and approved by the Director under delegated authority.
- A member stated that she felt that there was a fundamental misunderstanding of how community housing worked and that East Cambridgeshire had tried and tested mechanisms in place to support community land trusts. She stated that community land trusts had formed part of the devolution deal and that the CA board in late January 2023 had reconfirmed their commitment to community lead development in its Business Plan and budget. She explained that there was no national funding pot for this type of support and that the funding, however small, was crucial in order to provide technical guidance to these groups and that working with communities could take time.

She stated that the recommendation in the report had come out of the blue and had not been discussed at a leaders strategy meeting.

- A member explained that there were real advantages in using real CLTs and good things that could be done with real community support behind them. She explained that the real issue was that the CA were not seeing anything substantial coming forwards.

An amendment to the report recommendations was put forward by Councillor Herbert and seconded by Councillor Bailey to:

- a) Defer the decision to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups from 31 March 2023. for a three-month period to allow for engagement with local authorities, Eastern Community Homes, community organisations and Community Land Trusts.**
- b) Extend the memorandum of understanding with Eastern Community Homes for a further three months.**
- c) Report back to Housing and Communities Committee in June following the engagement process.**

In being put to the vote the amendment was carried unanimously.

A further amendment to the report recommendations was put forward by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor Allen to:

- a) ~~Discontinue providing~~ Continue to provide a support service to community homes groups from 31 March 2023. following 31 March 2023.**
- b) Renew the arrangement with Eastern Community Homes to provide a support facility to groups that express and interest in progressing a community lead housing scheme.**

On being put to the vote, the amendment fell. Councillor Herbert's amendment therefore became the substantive recommendation.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Defer the decision to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups for a three-month period to allow for engagement with local authorities, Eastern Community Homes, community organisations and Community Land Trusts.
- b) Extend the memorandum of understanding with Eastern Community Homes for a further three months.
- c) Report back to Housing and Communities Committee in June following the engagement process.

97. Housing and Communities Committee Agenda Plan

It was resolved to note the agenda plan.

Part 3 – Date of the next meeting

90. It was resolved to:

Note the date of the next meeting as 12 June 2023



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item: 5
12 June 2023	

Title:	Affordable Housing Programme – Update on Implementation
Report of:	Affordable Housing Programme – June 2023
Lead Member:	Councillor Bridget Smith, Lead Member for Housing and Communities
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee is requested to note the report
---	---

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
	Achieving good growth – provide the 1400+ homes as agreed by the CPCA (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority) and providers, in the CA (Combined Authority).
	Enabling resilient communities – provide suitable housing and ensuring communities are robust

1. Purpose

1.1	This report is to update the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee on the progress of the affordable housing programme. This is an ongoing project, which is ending.
1.2	A further 860+ units are yet to be delivered. 580+ new homes have been completed so far.

2. Proposal

2.1	To Update the members of the progress of the Affordable Housing Programme.
-----	--

3. Background

3.1	The Affordable Housing Programme started in 2017, with the target to deliver 2000 homes within a given period up until 2022. This was part of the devolution deal. The Affordable
-----	---

	<p>Housing Programme progressed into the pandemic years, with many issues arising that affected delivery. In 2021 DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) decided to end the programme. In the subsequent year, a further 357 units were agreed grants by the Housing and Communities Committee. These included the Northminster scheme by CKH (Cross Keys Homes), the largest project.</p> <p>Agreed funding from DLUHC was given in March 2022 for these final projects, to be paid on completion. These projects have been progressing with a few properties reaching completion, and number of projects delayed because of issues with utilities, cost of materials, and delays in receiving materials.</p>
3.2	<p>The latest update is as follows: -</p> <p>605 homes have now completed. See schedule of schemes up to 31st March 2021 in Appendix 1 and to 31st March 2022 in Appendix 2. Issues with slippage have been numerous, with delays in laying utilities, and long disruptions in obtaining materials and increased costs, are sighted as the main causes, but projects are in progress.</p> <p>The programme is expected to come to completion by March 2025, as final projects will complete. All the sites are in construction.</p> <p>We have had some completions on Part 2 of the Affordable Housing Programme from CKH (Cross Keys Homes) and we expect both the Perkins site & BSW (British Sugar Way) to finish in September 2023.</p> <p>CKH have had issues with other sites, and starts on site have been delayed, therefore completion will be late 2024 and late 2025. The project finishing in 2025, is Great Haddon and that is led by an outside contractor Countryside, as part of the south urban extension.</p> <p>Progress is being achieved on all other sites. Some delays have been experienced at Alconbury Weald site, because of contractor issues, utilities delay and material delay issues. More recently improvements have been achieved at the site.</p> <p>Girton looked like it was going to complete at the end of last financial year, but has had many defects, such as windows needing replacement, and they have been ordered. This has set back this project completion.</p> <p>Finally, progress is being achieved with Heylo, they are in talks with RoSH (Regulator of Social Housing) on new plans/proposals, the Heylo Board will pursue options and their governance has now been reviewed. There will be an RP (Registered Provider) in place to become the owners of the projects, and this will hopefully improve governance, and further conversations are to be had, to implement further action plans. They hope with these changes that this will improve their ratings before the end of the year.</p>

4. Appendices

4.1	<p>Appendix 1 – Affordable Housing Programme - Approved and Started on Site Schemes period to March 2021.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Affordable Housing Programme – Approved and Started on Site Schemes period April 2021 to March 2022.</p>
-----	--

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	There are no additional financial implications. All grant funding is allocated. The return of the loan monies from the 5 loans in the housing programme are being recycled into providing the grants in the grant funded schemes.
Legal Implications	
6.1	There are no new legal implications.
Public Health Implications	
7.1	There are no known public health implications.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	There are no new Environmental or Climate change implications.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None
Background Papers	
10.1	None

Agenda Item 5	Appendix
Affordable Housing Programme – Update on Implementation	1

Affordable Housing Programme
Approved and Started on Site Schemes period to March 2021

Affordable Housing Grants

Scheme Name	Provider / Lead Partner	Local Authority	No. of units funded	Start on Site Date	Final Completion Date	Actual Completions to Date	CPCA Funding	Paid to Date
Soham	PGH	East Cambs	8	01/09/2017	31/08/2018	8	£120,000	£120,000
Littleport	CHS	East Cambs	5	01/08/2017	18/11/2018	5	£97,500	£97,500
Victoria Way, Melbourn	CHS	South Cambs	8	01/08/2017	30/06/2019	8	£133,000	£133,000
Willingham	CKH	South Cambs	15	31/03/2018	15/07/2019	15	£525,000	£525,000
Burwell	Hastoe	East Cambs	8	15/02/2018	19/12/2019	8	£330,000	£330,000
Perkins, Phase 1, Newark Road, Peterborough	CKH	Peterborough	54	31/10/2018	30/06/2020	54	£1,700,000	£1,700,000
Snowley Park	CKH	Fenland	24	01/10/2017	09/12/2019	24	£150,000	£150,000
Belle Vue Stanground	Medesham	Peterborough	21	31/05/2019	14/02/2020	21	£735,000	£735,000
Luminus HDC Sites	Chorus (Luminus)	Huntingdonshire	14	27/01/2020	16/03/2023	14	£618,800	£618,800
Crowland Road, Peterborough	Medesham	Peterborough	25	31/07/2019	19/06/2020	25	£875,000	£875,000
Drake Avenue, Peterborough	CKH	Peterborough	33	19/01/2021	28/06/2023	16	£1,430,154	£715,077
Whaddon Road, Meldreth	Settle (NHH)	South Cambs	5	23/11/2020	28/03/2022	5	£215,000	£ 215,000
94 Great Whyte, Ramsey	Platform Housing	Huntingdonshire	15	17/03/2020	30/11/2021	15	£600,000	£ 600,000
Middlemoor Road, St Mary's, Ramsey	Places For People (ex-Chorus) (Luminus)	Huntingdonshire	11	25/03/2021	22/02/2023	11	£509,000	£ 509,000
Alconbury, Alconbury Weald/Manderville Place, Brampton	Heylo	Huntingdonshire	22	31/01/2018	31/06/2021	22	£819,800	£ 819,800
Alconbury Weald, Parcel 4, Ermine Street, Alconbury Weald.	CKH	Huntingdonshire	7	01/02/2020	31/10/2020	7	£245,000	£ 245,000
Brampton Park, Brampton, Hunts	ReSI	Huntingdonshire	6	01/02/2020	30/09/2020	6	£270,002	£ 270,002

Scheme Name	Provider / Lead Partner	Local Authority	No. of units funded	Start on Site Date	Final Completion Date	Actual Completions to Date	CPCA Funding	Paid to Date
St Thomas Park, Ramsey, Hunts. (Linden Homes)	Heylo/Linden Homes	Huntingdonshire	10	01/01/2020	30/03/2021	10	£476,997	£ 476,997
Whittlesey Green, Fenland (11), Harriers Rest, (Lawrence Rd) (7) Wittering & Sandpit Road, Thorney, Peterborough (8) & Cromwell Fields, Bury, Hunts (6)	Heylo/Larkfleet	Fenland/ Peterborough/Hunts	31	01/02/2020	01/04/2023	27	£1,367,766	£ 846,866
Roman Fields, Paston, Peterborough.	Keepmoat	Peterborough	23	01/01/2018	01/09/2022	23	£1,000,500	£ 954,489
JMS, Damson Drive, Peterborough, PE1	Keepmoat	Peterborough	10	09/02/2018	14/04/2021	10	£412,998	£ 412,998
Roman Fields, Paston, Peterborough.	Heylo	Peterborough	20	01/01/2018	01/08/2020	20	£645,000	£ 645,000
Alconbury Weald, Parcel 6, Alconbury.	MAN GPM	Huntingdonshire	94	07/01/2021	30/12/2023	44	£4,425,000	£2,212,500
Wicken, East Cambridgeshire	Cambridge Housing Society	East Cambs	16	31/03/2020	31/10/2021	16	£640,000	£ 637,666
More's Meadow, Great Shelford,	CLT/Parochial Charity	South Cambs	21	13/01/2021	30/01/2023	21	£1,008,000	£1,008,000
All Angels Park, Highfields, Caldecote.	Heylo	South Cambs	5	01/04/2020	01/10/2022	5	£247,999	£ 235,048
HUSK sites (5 infill sites)	CKH	Peterborough	19	22/03/2021	25/09/2024		£665,000	£ 332,500
Sandpit Road, Thorney, Peterborough	Heylo/Larkfleet	Peterborough	5	01/02/2020	01/05/2022	5	£237,804	£ 209,805
PFP HDC Sites, Phase 2	Chorus (Luminus) PFP	Huntingdonshire	15	05/03/2021	31/03/2023	15	£749,000	£ 749,000
Heylo 4 sites, Bayard Plaza (11), Pemberton Park (10), Alconbury Weald (2) & Judith Gardens (8)	Heylo	HDC,PCC, ECDC	31	01/01/2021	31/12/2022	31	£1,272,000	£1,220,191
Heylo - Roman Fields, Phase 2, Paston.	Heylo	PCC	30	01/01/2020	31/10/2023		£1,006,173	
Alconbury Weald	Rentplus	Huntingdonshire	22	01/01/2019	31/05/2021	22	£989,325	£ 989,325
24 High Street, Wisbech	FDC	FDC	6	01/04/2022	31/03/2024		£210,000	

Scheme Name	Provider / Lead Partner	Local Authority	No. of units funded	Start on Site Date	Final Completion Date	Actual Completions to Date	CPCA Funding	Paid to Date
Heylo Allison Homes/Keepmoat, Paston site	Heylo - Allison Homes & Keepmoat	PCC, FDC, HDC	46	01/01/2020	30/11/2023		£1,656,000	
			685			513	£26,382,818	£ 19,588,564
Loan or other Toolbox Investments								Net Drawdown
Haddenham CLT (Loan)	ECTC/PGH	East Cambs	19	05/09/2019	31/03/2023	19	£6,500,000	£ -
Ely MOD Site (Loan)	ECTC/PGH	East Cambs	15	31/07/2019	31/03/2023	15	£24,400,000	£ -
Alexander House (Forehill) Ely (Loan)	Laragh Developments	East Cambs	4	07/01/2020	07/02/2022	4	£4,840,000	£ -
Linton Road, Great Abingdon (Loan)	Laragh Developments	South Cambs	7	28/02/2020	13/12/2021	7	£5,780,000	£ -
Histon Road, Cambridge (Loan)	Laragh Developments	Cambridge City	10	08/04/2020	07/05/2023		£9,647,000	£8,172,335
Sub-total Loan book Investments			55				£51,167,000	£8,172,335
Programme Totals			740			558	£77,549,818	£ 27,760,899

Agenda Item 5	Appendix
Affordable Housing Programme – Update on Implementation	2

Affordable Housing Programme
Approved and Started on Site Schemes period April 2021 to March 2022

Scheme Name	Provider / Lead Partner	Local Authority	No. of units funded	Start on Site Date	Final Completion Date	Actual Completions to Date	CPCA Funding	Paid to Date
Wisbech Road, March	SAGE	FDC	118	31/03/2022	31/12/2024		£5,248,700.00	£3,936,525.00
Stanground, Peterborough	CKH	PCC	26	31/03/2022	28/11/2024		£1,170,000.00	£585,000.00
British Sugar Way, Oundle Road, Peterborough	CKH	PCC	70	01/12/2021	27/09/2023	10	£2,830,000.00	£1,415,000.00
Perkins, Phase 2, Newark Road, Peterborough	CKH	PCC	96	10/09/2021	29/09/2023	20	£3,740,000.00	£1,870,000.00
Great Haddon, London Road, Yaxley, Peterborough.	CKH	PCC	49	14/03/2022	29/05/2025		£1,886,500.00	£943,250.00
Northminster, Peterborough	CKH	PCC	315	14/03/2022	31/01/2024		£12,521,250.00	£9,390,937.00
14-16 High Street, Girton, Cambridge. CB3 0PU	Girton TP	SCDC	15	02/08/2021	01/06/2023	7	£675,000.00	£337,500.00
Heylo - 2 sites SN Developments & Larkfleet	Heylo	PCC,ECDC, FDC	27	30/09/2021	31/03/2024	10	£1,209,000.00	£414,000.00
TOTALS			716			47	£29,280,450.00	£18,892,212.00



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee		Agenda Item
12 June 2023		6
Title:	Community Homes Support	
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity	
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith	
Public Report:	Yes	
Key Decision:	No	
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members	

Recommendations:	
A	To recommend to the Combined Authority's Board that the Combined Authority discontinues providing a support service and further grant funding to community homes groups from 31 July 2023.
B	To authorise an extension of the agreement with Eastern Community Homes to provide a support service to community homes groups from 30 th June 2023 to 31 July 2023 on existing terms.
C	
D	

1. Purpose	
1.1	On 13 th March 2023 the Housing and Communities Committee agreed to defer a decision to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups from 31 March 2023 for a three-month period to allow for engagement with local authorities, Eastern Community Homes and community homes groups. Officers were asked to report back to the relevant committee in June 2023 following the engagement process.
1.2	Members are asked to reconsider the proposal to discontinue supporting community housing groups following the engagement process.

2. Proposal	
2.1	To recommend to the Combined Authority's Board that the Combined Authority discontinues providing a support service and further grant funding to community homes groups from 31 July 2023.
2.2	To authorise an extension of the agreement with Eastern Community Homes to provide a support service to community groups from 30 th June 2023 to 31 July 2023 on existing terms.

3. Background

3.1 The Combined Authority's Housing Strategy of September 2018 recognised that delivery of community housing could contribute towards meeting the combined authority's housing objectives.

On 27 January 2021 the Combined Authority's Board approved a community homes business case that included the provision of £5,000 community homes start-up grants to support emerging community-led housing groups.

On 10 January 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved the current Community Homes Strategy and Eastern Community Homes (ECH) were appointed to provide a support service to community homes groups until 31 March 2023. The arrangement excluded providing support to community homes groups within East Cambridgeshire as these groups are supported directly by officers from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

On 7 October 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved a proposal that originated from East Cambridgeshire District Council and allocated funding of £100,000 to support community led housing initiatives across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

In March 2023 the Housing and Communities Committee were advised there had been no take up of the £5,000 start-up grants that were approved in 2001, and no applications had been received for technical support funding from the £100K that was made available from October 2022.

The Housing and Communities Committee agreed to defer the decision to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups from 31 March 2023 for a three-month period to allow for engagement with local authorities, Eastern Community Homes and community homes groups. Officers were asked to report back following the engagement process.

3.2 A consultation exercise was undertaken to obtain the views of constituent local housing authorities, Eastern Community Homes and community homes groups and the full responses can be found at Appendix A.

A summary of the responses received is provided in the table below:

Consultee	Summary of responses
SCDC	Regretfully supports the proposal to discontinue supporting community homes groups.
HDC	Officers recognise the need to review the initiative to support community homes groups due to poor take up.
ECDC	Opposes the proposal to discontinue supporting community homes groups.
FDC	Has no issues with the proposal to discontinue supporting community homes groups.
PCC	Officers neither support nor object to the proposal.
C City C	Officers would not object if the funding was withdrawn.
Eastern Community Homes	Opposes the proposal to discontinue supporting community homes groups.
Waterbeach CLT	Commented that the availability of funding had not been well publicised and recognise that affordable development land is scarce. However, they would like to see a continuation of funding availability.

	Gt. Staughton CLT	Opposes the proposal to discontinue grant funding availability.
	It Takes a City CLT	Identifies that a problem is caused by a lack of supporting documentation, and a sole reliance on explanation from Eastern Community Homes.
	The only constituent Local Housing Authority to oppose the proposal was East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC). ECDC provides a support function for community homes groups within East Cambridgeshire that is independent from the out-sourced arrangement provided by the Combined Authority to support groups across the rest of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.	
3.3	The option of continuing to provide a support service and grant funding was considered and rejected in favour of the Combined Authority's Board reallocating resources to alternative priorities.	

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A - Consultation responses.
-----	--------------------------------------

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	<p>The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023 – 2027 approved by the Combined Authority's Board in January 2023 includes budget of £70K per annum for community housing projects until 2025/26. There is a further £50K available for 2023/24 that would cover the cost of renewing the arrangement with ECH for the financial year.</p> <p>The cost of extending the arrangement with ECH to 31 July would be approximately £2,000 + VAT based on the existing arrangement.</p> <p>If the proposal to discontinue is approved then remaining funding can be reallocated to alternative priorities by the Combined Authority's Board.</p>
-----	---

Legal Implications

6.1	The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251).
-----	--

Public Health Implications

7.1	N/A
-----	-----

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	N/A
-----	-----

Other Significant Implications

9.1	N/A
-----	-----

Background Papers

10.1	<p>27 Jan 2021 Board</p> <p>10 Jan 2022 Cttee</p> <p>7 Oct 2022 Cttee</p> <p>13 Mar 2023 Cttee</p>
------	--



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item Item: 6 Appendix A
12 June 2023	

Consultation Responses - Community Homes Support

Consultation text sent to community homes groups / constituent local housing authorities / Eastern Community Homes:

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of this communication is to consult you about a proposal to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Background

The Combined Authority's Housing Strategy of September 2018 recognised that delivery of community housing could contribute towards meeting the Combined Authority's housing objectives.

On 27 January 2021 the Combined Authority Board approved a community homes business case that included the provision of £5,000 community homes start-up grants to support emerging community-led housing groups.

On 10 January 2022 the Housing Committee approved the current Community Homes Strategy and Eastern Community Homes were appointed to provide a support service to community homes groups until 31 March 2023. The arrangement excluded providing support to community homes groups within East Cambridgeshire as these groups are supported directly by officers from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

On 7 October 2022 the Housing Committee approved a proposal that originated from East Cambridgeshire District Council and allocated funding of £100,000 to provide further technical support to community led housing initiatives across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Current position

Despite the funding being made available no funding has been drawn to date and on 13 March 2023 the Combined Authority Housing Committee considered a recommendation to discontinue providing support to community housing groups.

The recommendation received mixed reactions from committee members and it was resolved to defer the decision until June to provide an opportunity to seek views from community housing groups, constituent local housing authorities and Eastern Community Homes.

If you would like to express a view on the proposal then please send your comments by email to Nick Sweeney, Residential Development Manager at the Combined Authority before 12 May 2023.

Response from Cambridge City Council

Cambridge City Council was actually awarded government grant a few years ago for community-led housing, and we have spent some of that on identifying potential groups and on start-up grant for one organisation interested in building in Cambridge.

Interest has been limited, with the main sticking point appearing to be access to free or very cheap land.

We still have some government grant remaining so would not need to draw on the CPCA's fund for these purposes, and would not object if the funding was withdrawn. (Although if sufficient funding was available for groups for land purchase then that might be a different matter)!

Response received from East Cambridgeshire District Council

East Cambridgeshire District Council strongly urges the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to continue to provide a support service to community homes groups via Eastern Community Homes (ECH). In the Devolution Deal the CPCA committed to work with Community Land Trusts (CLTs) to deliver new schemes recognising the benefits these schemes bring to the community. This commitment was recently reaffirmed in the CPCA budget and business plan for 2023-2024.

Supporting communities to deliver community-led housing by offering long term qualified technical support is key. CLT Trustees are often volunteers and rely on support in what is often a complex and slow process.

Information from the Chairman of ECH provided to the Housing and Communities Committee states that there is a healthy interest from communities in pursuing community-led housing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The CPCA should support these communities and communities who are considering community-led housing and continue to fund the Community-Led Housing Support Service.

Growing Government interest and support for community-led development is evident in Government's recent NPPF consultation on changes to the English planning system, which included questions on community-led development, along with a draft definition of community-led development. It would be regrettable if the CPCA to withdraw its support for community-led development just as Government support for it is increasing.

Response received from Fenland District Council

Following discussion with the Portfolio Holder , we have no issues with the proposal.

Response received from Huntingdonshire District Council

I think perhaps the chicken and egg matter may be an issue. Whilst the reasons are understood, funds are not available until after groups have incurred expenditure.

However I can see that with such poor take-up CPCA may wish to review.

Is it possible to reserve a much smaller budget which can roll over/be renewed each year (perhaps £20,000)?

My instinct is that you may still get very few but it would allow up to 4. If you then get just one or two at least you would still have a budget.

Also, I would be interested to see ACRE/Eastern Community Homes comments since they may have some insight or relevant suggestions.

Response received from Peterborough City Council

It is a difficult one because housing delivery through community homes groups is a slow process so there is an argument to be made to say that access to funding to support them needs to be available for a sustained period to reflect that and enable results. You have indicated that there has been no take-up of the start-up grant since it was introduced in 2021 and likewise of the technical support grant funding since its introduction in October 2022 which bearing in mind the involvement of Eastern Community Homes, is disappointing. In light of the limited activity of community housing groups in Peterborough, my response is that I neither support nor object to the proposal.

Response received from South Cambridgeshire District Council

A key priority for South Cambridgeshire District Council is to provide housing that is affordable to all. We are very much a supporter of community-led development as part of a suite of options to bring forward affordable homes for local people. South Cambs DC had previously supported the initial set up of Eastern Community Homes by way of a one off grant,. Our understanding was that after the initial set up costs, Eastern Community Homes was to be self-financing as the pipeline of new schemes buy services from and through the Community Hub. We also continue to support the work of Cambridgeshire Acre through its housing enabling role by way of an annual grant and regular update meetings to help bring forward affordable housing schemes.

Whilst it is disappointing that the Combined Authority are seeking to withdraw funding for the services of Eastern Community Homes, we understand the competing financial priorities that the Combined Authority face and that any funding provided has to be assessed on outcomes and value for money. From the CPCA report and from our own experience, it would appear that groups are not coming forward to the extent that there are any tangible projects underway within our District. Therefore, whilst we as a District Council will continue to support community-led development through our work with Cambridgeshire Acre and supporting Eastern Community Homes where possible, I can also sympathise with the difficult funding decisions that the Combined Authority have to make and with regret support the CPCA's recommendation.

Response received from Eastern Community Homes

Response to consultation on proposal to discontinue providing a support service to community homes groups in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Eastern Community Homes, the community-led housing hub for the eastern region, entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Combined Authority in January 2021 to support a partnership approach to the delivery of community-led housing support in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Community-led housing delivery includes Cohousing, Community Land Trusts (CLTs), Housing Co-operatives, Self-Build and Self-Help.

This agreement was extended until 30 June 2023 to allow for a consultation to take place with community-led housing groups and local authorities on a proposal to discontinue providing support and community-led housing grants funded directly by the Combined Authority.

Eastern Community Homes welcomes this consultation and makes the following points based on our experience as the organisation delivering the Combined Authority's community-led housing support:

1. The proposal for discontinuation of support comes at a time when there is a crisis in the provision of affordable housing across the county and nationally. The recent report Homelessness in the Countryside: A Hidden Crisis (Mar-2023) details the shocking increase in homelessness in rural areas and considers market failure in provision of affordable housing, recognising there needs to be more provision of truly accessible and affordable housing. House prices in the County have seen huge increases, The lower quartile property price in Cambridgeshire in February 2023 was £263,593;

this compares with £173,167 in August 2014 – a 52% increase in nine years. Rental prices are similarly high, for example the median cost of a three-bedroom private rental property in Cambridgeshire is now over £1,100 per month, with rents rising by 11% in the last year. Rents are typically higher in rural and market towns due to a shortage of suitable rental properties and lack of social housing stock availability. Compounding the problem of affordability, salaries have only seen average annual growth rates of 1.9%.

2. A growing number of people living in both urban and rural areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been shown to have little access to housing through the traditional housing market due to these high house prices and rising rents. Community-led housing offers an alternative approach that enables people to take charge of their own housing and gives them more of a say in the place they live. This is supported by the Combined Authority's own Housing Strategy (Sep-2018) which recognised that delivery of community housing could contribute towards meeting the Combined Authority's housing objectives.
3. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is viewed nationally as being progressive in its support for community-led housing policies and through the overall good progress made by the provision of dedicated Combined Authority support. Withdrawal of grant and enabler support will inevitably mean community-led housing delivery will slow with the impact being that housing development could take even longer to achieve.
4. Lack of strategic support for community-led housing will mean opportunities will be missed, particularly for the development of community-led housing at scale in our new communities and through other opportunities to deliver housing differently. The Community Land Trust Network recently published its State of the Community Land Trust Sector report (Apr-2023) and its research showed the potential for 278,000 extra homes across the UK to be delivered through scaled proven models of CLT delivery. These models create new opportunities with housing associations, local authorities, developers, groups and partners collaborating with Eastern Community Homes to progress CLTs.
5. The support of a qualified community-led housing enabler focused on early intervention and enabling of volunteers to achieve an effective set-up of their group is fundamental. The enabler can then guide an independent group through all the stages of housing delivery and bring in other housing specialists to achieve a scheme. Support is extended to defined communities looking to build housing, including people who are younger, older, homeless, students, LGBTQ+, key workers and veterans. They may struggle to find suitable housing themselves and need enabler support to achieve their aspirations of living in a community-led housing scheme.
6. Anyone can start, volunteer and deliver a community led housing project. The people that step forward are usually community leaders who think change is needed and are supported to start to lead that change. It takes time as the enabler is working with a group learning the principles of community-led development; as well as finding suitable land and financing for a project.
7. A growing number of successful schemes across Cambridgeshire demonstrate that community-led development is achievable and, where it has been successful, communities are strengthened by their home ownership, local investment and community engagement aspects of the process itself. Often, groups go forward building upon their own successes with further developments of homes and community-owned assets. The homes are owned by the community, they are legally protected in perpetuity, and any future surpluses are reinvested back into the local area.
8. Due to timescales, the last housing committee meeting saw no grant applications presented and this was interpreted as lack of progress. Since the announcement of new £100k grant (Oct-2022) the Eastern Community Home's advisor for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has been working with groups to allow for applications to be presented of a sufficient standard. The total funding request from groups who recently submitted applications is £97,323, making a good case that funding and support is needed to take **these projects forward**.

It is a critical time for the direction and delivery of housing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the impact the lack of affordable housing availability is having on our communities clear. Discontinuing

funding will be seen by groups as a lack of support where community-led housing is seen as having a hugely positive impact on communities and people's lives. We urge the Combined Authority to keep providing funding and to work with all its partners to strength its policy to support for the development of community-led housing.

Eastern Community Homes, as the regional community-led housing hub, wishes to support all its partners to progress and strengthen new or existing delivery of community-led housing across the County and to continue working with the Combined Authority in the future.

9-May-2023

Response received from Gt. Staughton Community Land Trust (GSCLT)

GSCLT has been working with the Parish Council and the community to develop and ensure the village community of Great Staughton is preserved, enhanced, and is sustainable.

Some years ago it was identified that the community was losing many young people who could not afford the commercial rents or property prices in the village. The sale of nearly all social housing had meant that there was virtually no low cost housing in the village.

As a consequence the GSCLT together with the local Parish Charities and subsequently Places for People the local Housing Association developed a scheme to provide 12 properties, 3 shared ownership and 9 at social rents to be kept in perpetuity for the village. These have now been completed and tenants are now occupying the properties.

Whilst this is a major achievement for the village and will certainly help in sustaining the school, doctor's surgery and local businesses it is not sufficient. These properties were oversubscribed. The recent census shows that the Parish population has reduced by 5% and that 48% of the population are over 50 (census 2021). These figures are considerably adrift to those for Huntingdonshire as a whole where the population has increased by 6.5 % and the age profile is 41% over 50.

This shows the need to develop more schemes to ensure the sustainability and well being of the village community.

As a consequence through the developing Neighbourhood plan a call for sites was sent out to establish suitable areas for more affordable housing and to address a particular community issue – the retention of the local Doctor's surgery.

This has now happened and the community is now considering the report from the consultants in response to the sites suggested. The intention of the GSCLT is to work with a local landowner to develop a site for housing, a community building to include a surgery. This process is about to begin and the grant process was vital for the landowner to consider the possible options and to achieve the best result for the community.

By its very nature the process takes time to develop and reach a point at which it is possible to submit a grant application. Even though we identified the need over a year ago and have been progressing it, by the time a call for sites is formulated, posted, and evaluated a considerable amount of time has elapsed. We are expecting to include in the Neighbourhood plan a recommendation for a suitable site but unable to complete this prior to end of May 2023 in order to satisfy the need to consult all parties and give proper consideration to all proposals.

This demonstrates the problem with the grant. It takes time to get to the requisite point to make an application. That is why it would be so unfortunate if the funding is to be withdrawn when we and possibly other groups may be nearly ready to make an application. I wonder whether the process could be more publicised, and an expression of interest be lodged which can count in the process.

The GSCLT and the Parish Council would very much like to have access to grant funding to further the process.

Bob Jewell

Chair GSCLT and GS Parish Council.

6th April 2023

Response received from It Takes A City CLT

Dear Nick,

Thank you for the email regarding the proposal to discontinue the support to CLH groups in the CPCA region.

I am founder and chair of It Takes a City Community Land Trust, incorporated in July 2020 with the able assistance of the then CPCA's CLH support activity. Your then colleague Emily Mulvaney, who had transferred to you from ECH (I think), ably helped us determine the legal basis of our new CLT and apply for start-up funding. Happily, Emily, having left CPCA some while ago to work for Laragh Homes, is now one of our Trustees.

I am intrigued to hear there has been no draw down of the newly available funds. We had the first message about the new funding from Jenna in November. Unfortunately, I was away at the time although there should have been an out of office. I saw Jenna's email when I returned in January, and we've tried to progress it since. We submitted a rough draft of a funding application on 7th March, but setting up a meeting with Jenna to discuss this further seems to have been difficult, now hopefully arranged for tomorrow.

I'd suggest the problem is that the process relies solely on Jenna's email explanations and her availability to meet. There is no documentation to work on.

This bears some similarity with the process for working with CPCA in 2020 – there was little documentation to go on, and it all depended on Emily. I think there was also then confusion over the relationship between ECH and ECDC, and the CPCA, the transfer of staff to and fro, albeit the then Mayor was very much in favour of CLH initiatives, having promoted them in ECDC before taking up the role of Mayor. And now the involvement of CambsAcre.

It would certainly help to have some clear documentation available on-line and perhaps more resource to engage with the potential applicants.

I very much hope we can prove that it can work however!

With all good wishes

Chris

Chris Jenkin BEM MA CEng FIET

Response received from Waterbeach CLT

Dear Nick,

As a Community Land Trust in Waterbeach we would like to respond to the below regarding the discontinuation of the supporting funding.

The funding has not been well publicised as we were not aware of its availability.

However, the larger issues related to CLTs drawing on the funding is the availability of land within South Cambs and lack of support from the Council for making it available to CLTs at a cost that makes it possible to develop homes that are affordable to local people. In order to be able to bring projects forward we would need the support and pressure of the Council, without the focus on "viability" which is the usual get out from developers. We have tried to engage with U&C for the Waterbeach development, to bring forward a CLT parcel there, but they don't want to discuss on anything other than commercial terms.

Having said the above, we would be keen to see the continuation of the funding, particularly as we are looking to discuss another site local to the village of Waterbeach, and would be hopeful to be able to draw on the fund in the near future for things like community engagement, public exhibition, and putting in a planning application. Having funding available to do this would also help us to look committed to our possible development partner and make it a more attractive venture.

We hope that the above assists, and demonstrates that groups do want to develop community homes and would use the funding, if they were able to find land to be able to bring projects forward.

Thanks,

Ian Bracey

for Waterbeach CLT



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
12 June 2023	7

Title:	Community Homes Grant Applications
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	Choose from the following: A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:	
A	To award a grant of £15,000 to support a community homes proposal in Great Staughton.
B	To decline an application for a community homes grant of £5,335 received from Suvanna Cohousing Ltd to support a community homes proposal in north Cambridge.
C	To decline an application for a community homes grant of £57,494 received from It Takes a City Community Land Trust to support a proposal to provide accommodation for homeless people at Hills Avenue, Cambridge.
D	To decline an application for a community homes grant of £29,654 received from It Takes a City Community Land Trust to support a proposal to provide accommodation for homeless people at Fen Ditton.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
1.1	Achieving good growth by contributing towards delivery of 900+ homes by 2025.

1. Purpose	
1.1	To consider four applications for community homes support grants that were received in May 2023.
1.2	It is recommended that the Combined Authority awards one grant application and declines three applications that officers consider fail to comply with necessary grant assessment criteria.

2. Proposal	
2.1	The four grant applications received by the Combined Authority received for community homes support funding are summarised below:

Applicant	Proposed scheme	Grant amount	Officer recommendation
Great Staughton CLT	Gt. Staughton	£15,000	Award grant
Suvanna Cohousing	North Cambridge	£5,335	Decline – application fails to demonstrate deliverability
It takes a City CLT	Hills Avenue, Cambridge	£57,494	Decline – application fails to protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity.
It takes a City CLT	Fen Ditton	£29,654	Decline – application fails to protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity.

Information relevant to each application can be found appended to this paper.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 27 January 2021 the Combined Authority's Board approved a community homes business case that included the provision of £5,000 community homes start-up grants to support emerging community-led housing groups.
- On 10 January 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved the current Community Homes Strategy and Eastern Community Homes (ECH) were appointed to provide a support service to community homes groups. The arrangement excluded providing support to community homes groups within East Cambridgeshire as these groups are supported directly by officers from East Cambridgeshire District Council.
- On 7 October 2022 the Housing and Communities Committee approved a proposal to allocate funding of £100,000 to provide further support to established community led housing groups across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Applications for grant funding were to be assessed against criteria that can be found at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Eastern Community Homes (ECH) received and reviewed each of the grant applications.
- Officers then reviewed each application against the grant assessment criteria, and the recommendations before Members are derived from these officer reviews.
- The reviews can be found within the appendices.

4. Appendices

- 4.1 Appendix A – Grant assessment criteria
Appendix B – Application reviews

Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023 – 2027 approved by Board in January 2023 includes budget of £70K per annum for community housing projects until 2025/26. There is a further £50K available for 2023/24 that would include the cost of renewing the arrangement with ECH for the financial year.
-----	--

Legal Implications

6.1	The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251). When awarding the grant funding CPCA will need to ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
-----	--

Public Health Implications

7.1	The proposal does not raise any public health implications.
-----	---

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	The proposal does not raise any public health implications.
-----	---

Other Significant Implications

9.1	N/A
-----	-----

Background Papers

10.1	27 Jan 2021 Board 10 Jan 2022 Cttee 7 Oct 2022 Cttee
------	--



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item Item: 7 Appendix A
12 June 2023	

Community Homes Grant Assessment Criteria

All applications to the grant fund will be assessed against the following criteria:

1 Definition of Community Led Housing

Although the legal form and activities of each community-led housing scheme differ, schemes that are genuinely community-led all share three common principles. These principles will be used by the Combined Authority (CA) as the definition of community-led housing for the purposes of the fund:

- Meaningful community engagement and consent occurs throughout the development process.
- There is a presumption that the community group or organisation will take a long-term formal role in the ownership, stewardship, or management of the homes.
- The benefits of the scheme to the local area and/or specified community group are clearly defined and legally protected in perpetuity.

Although these three principles will be seen consistently across all schemes supported by CPCA, the delivery model and legal form chosen by community groups may vary. Applicants will need to demonstrate that their proposal supports community-led housing as defined above.

2 Eligibility

Applicants that are constituted as a corporate body, or an equivalent form of a constituted body are eligible to bid for funding. Eligible organisations include (but are not restricted to):

- a community benefit society.
- a co-operative society.
- a company limited by guarantee.
- a community interest company.
- a registered charity.
- an organisation of another type operating as a social enterprise and principally reinvesting their surpluses for social benefit.

The list above is not considered to be exhaustive, and applicants should seek clarification if further guidance is required.

3 Deliverability

Groups will need to have reached a stage where they can demonstrate that their proposals are deliverable. Consideration will be given to the group's capacity to deliver the project. Projects which have progressed furthest towards the development phase are likely to submit a stronger case for funding on deliverability grounds.

Groups will need to demonstrate that they have a clear and deliverable plan to undertake pre-development work that will progress to housing development. Deliverability can be evidenced by an applicants' track record or knowledge of the development process but plans that incorporate relevant professional advice will provide greater evidence of deliverability.

4 Value for Money

Applications will be assessed against value for money and applicants should demonstrate that they utilised previous project expenditure responsibly. Funding will not be awarded to schemes that rely solely of the grant application to progress and applications that include match-funding will effectively demonstrate value for money.

The assessment will consider the potential impact of the project on deliverability of further homes in the future.

5 Strategic Fit

Assessments will consider the extent to which the proposed scheme or activity is likely to contribute to the aims of the fund in delivering CA community led housing objectives.

Collaboration with the wider community is expected to deliver additional benefits in respect of social impact, design consideration, mix of tenures, financing and approaches to delivery.

To ensure the funding supports projects that are genuinely community led, applications will be assessed against the level of community control and engagement demonstrated prior to the application. Applications that can demonstrate greater levels of community control will be considered more favourably.



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item Item: Appendix B
12 June 2023	

Community Homes Grant Application Reviews

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Proposed scheme</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Gt. Staunton CLT	Gt. Staughton	1-2
Suvanna Cohousing	North Cambridge	3-4
It Takes A City	Hills Avenue, Cambridge	5-6
It Takes A City	Fen Ditton	7-8

Gt. Staunton CLT

Officer review

Gt. Staunton Community Land Trust (GSCLT) received an initial community homes support grant of £4,000 from The National CLT movement in 2019 that funded legal incorporation costs. The grant also funded advice on initial negotiations with the housing association that worked with GSCLT to deliver a scheme.

In March 2023 GSCLT's first scheme was completed and this comprises of 12 homes (9 for social rent and 3 shared ownership). The homes were delivered in partnership with housing association Places for People, and developer Aspen Homes. Places for People are also responsible for managing the new homes.

The application seeks funding of £15,000 to undertake basic site survey, access assessment and ecology surveys for 2 sites and then an overall viability assessment of a preferred site.

GSCLT is working to respond to a neighbourhood plan call for sites exercise being undertaken by Gt. Staughton Parish Council.

The survey activities to be funded will provide an evidence-based approach to identifying and promoting a site to accommodate GSCLT's next scheme and this demonstrates a sound approach to deliverability. It is clear that GSCLT are building on the experience and success of the previous scheme.

It is recommended that the Combined Authority approves the application subject to a requirement that the survey and viability reports to be funded may only be used to promote a site that will incorporate delivery of a community homes development.

Assessment of application to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority £100K Grant

Name of Applicant: Great Staughton Community Land Trust

Amount Applied for: £15,000

Criteria	Has Criteria been met?	Notes/Comments
Group constituted as a legal body	Yes	Incorporated as a community benefit society
Evidence of deliverability	Yes	1 site completed (The Green, Gt Staughton) with residents moved in. This was a partnership with a housing association. The community is currently undertaking the NP plan process and the CLT would be interested in bringing forward a second site. They have the experience necessary to do this.
Evidence of value for money	Yes	Established group with experience, previous funding allowed the CLT to legally incorporate themselves as a CBS and progress through the community-led housing process to deliver a successful scheme.
Evidence of Strategic fit	Yes	Well supported community project with residents of the CLT scheme at the green being impressed with the quality of the homes delivered. Local people that were not allocated a home are still interested in seeing more homes developed in the same way. Housing Needs Survey and Housing Register data supports further homes are needed at social rent to support community resilience.

Recommendation:	To approve the grant requested for £15,000
------------------------	--

Signature: *J Brame*

Date: 2/5/2023

Jenna Brame, Rural and Community-Led Housing Enabler, Cambridgeshire ACRE

Suvanna Cohousing

Officer review

The applicant received an initial community homes support grant of £4,500 from Cambridge City Council in 2019 that was spent on legal fees, search fees, administration costs, website costs, social activities and workshops.

This recent application to the Combined Authority seeks grant funding of £5,335 that is proposed to fund a financial plan, accountancy services, publicity costs and legal advice.

The application is supported by a draft business plan and an outline land brief that explain the cohousing model and describe a requirement to build 25-40 homes in north-east Cambridge. However, the application fails to include a clear and deliverable plan to undertake pre-development work that will progress to housing development as required by the deliverability assessment criteria.

The activities that the funding is intended to support are considered to be the type of activities that would usually be supported by a start-up grant, and the application does not demonstrate how these activities will progress to a deliverable scheme.

Officers consider that the application fails to comply with necessary grant assessment criteria on the grounds of deliverability, so it is recommended that the application for grant funding is declined.

Assessment of application to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority £100K Grant

Name of Applicant: Suvana Cohousing LTD

Amount Applied for: £5,335

Criteria	Has Criteria been met?	Notes/Comments
Group constituted as a legal body	Yes	Incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. Funding requested in application is to ensure this model is still working towards their aims. It will also support the nuances of being registered as a company limited by guarantee such as tax implications, financial reporting and considerations that may need to be taken as the group progresses.
Evidence of deliverability	Yes	The group has a good leading committee which has a variety of skills and expertise required to carry the project. This includes finance professionals, marketing specialists and those with some experience of the housing sector. The group are in their land search stage but wanting to be located within Cambridge has been prohibitive due to costs and competition.
Evidence of value for money	Yes	Received the £5k start up grant from the CPCA which has led their project to where they are today. Further funding will be used to strengthen their cause by recruiting further membership. The group are working towards securing land despite this being challenging in the current economic climate.
Evidence of Strategic fit	Yes	Working closely with the Buddhist community in Cambridge including the Windhorse Trust. They are also working with the wider Buddhist community to identify housing need and further membership. This is appropriate community engagement for a cohousing group as they form an intentional community with united values.

Recommendation:	To approve the grant requested for £5,335
------------------------	---

Signature: *J Brame*

Date: 2/5/2023

Jenna Brame, Rural and Community-Led Housing Enabler, Cambridgeshire ACRE

It Takes A City – Hills Avenue, Cambridge

Officer review

It Takes A City Community Land Trust (ITAC) secured a MHCLG Community Homes support grant of £3,850 in 2020 to fund national CLT network membership, model rules, FCA fees, incorporation, website, community engagement, trustee training, and development and consultancy/legal fees.

ITAC have worked with Cambridge City Council to develop a list of 20 possible sites for modular housing schemes including the proposed scheme.

ITAC have applied for a grant of £57,494 to support delivery of 4 modular homes for homeless people at Hills Avenue, Cambridge.

The freehold of the site is owned by Cambridge City Council and ITAC hope to agree terms to acquire a ten-year lease of the site from the Council for the proposed use.

A planning application has been submitted but at the time of writing the report the planning application had not been determined.

ITAC have also secured a grant of £100,000 from the John Apthorp charity to develop modular home schemes for the homeless. This is earmarked for construction work at Hills Avenue on confirmation of receiving planning consent and has yet to be spent.

The application seeks to fund the following activities:

- Planning advice - £5,000
- Planning fees - £494
- Discharging conditions and obligations - £2,000
- Legal advice on the site lease - £1,000
- Accountancy advice on VAT - £1,500
- Legal advice on the agreement with the modular homes provider - £2,500
- Funding for site external works – Paths, fencing, landscaping, planting, bin and bike stores, lighting etc. - £30,000
- Shortfall in production costs for the four modular homes - £15,000

The applicant intends to develop a site to be leased for 10 years, and this fails to comply with the requirement to legally protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity and the presumption that the community group or organisation will take a long-term formal role in the ownership, stewardship, or management of the homes.

It is recommended that the Combined Authority declines the grant application because it fails to comply with the definition of community led housing as specified within the grant assessment criteria approved by the Combined Authority.

Assessment of application to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority £100K Grant

Name of Applicant: It Takes A City Community Land Trust

Amount Applied for: £57,494

Criteria	Has Criteria been met?	Notes/Comments
Group constituted as a legal body	Yes	Incorporated as a community benefit society
Evidence of deliverability	Yes	1 site in the planning process with the potential to be complete by the end of the year. 2 further sites with well established plans in the pipeline.
Evidence of value for money	Yes	Existing charity already working towards addressing the issue of homelessness in Cambridgeshire, the modular home projects are a natural extension of this. The home meets the need for a transition home between rough sleeping and reintegrating into community. Previous funding has been well used to establish the group and get them to the point of being able to develop homes.
Evidence of Strategic fit	Yes	Well established project with the ability to meet the needs of the rough sleeping community in Cambridge. It will address the housing needs of an identified group. Consideration has been given to the wider community, utilising sites that are not currently used by the community and will provide a good temporary home for modular units. Thought has been spared to ensure that the modular homes fit within their community and are aesthetically pleasing. The project is also supported by Cambridge City Council as a good and welcomed addition to the range of solutions provide to help those facing rough sleeping and homelessness

Recommendation:	To approve the grant requested for £57,494
------------------------	--

Signature: *J Brame*

Date: 2/5/2023

Jenna Brame, Rural and Community-Led Housing Enabler, Cambridgeshire ACRE

It Takes A City – Fen Ditton, Cambridge

Officer review

It Takes A City Community Land Trust (ITAC) secured a MHCLG Community Homes support grant of £3,850 in 2020 to fund national CLT network membership, model rules, FCA fees, incorporation, website, community engagement, trustee training, and development and consultancy/legal fees.

The proposal is to provide ten (or more) modular homes on land in Fen Ditton that is owned by Ely Diocese. ITAC claims to have an agreement in principle to use the land for at least five years subject to receiving a satisfactory response to pre-planning application enquiries from the Local Planning Authority.

The grant application is to fund the following estimated pre-development costs, none of which have been discussed with suppliers:

Pre-planning application stage:

- Pre-app enquiry fee - £960
- Planning advice - £5,000
- Outline layouts and designs - £3,000
- Ecological assessment - £1,200

Planning application stage

- Full application ▪ Planning fee - £494
- Planning advice - £0 (included in above)
- Detailing of layouts and designs - £3,000
- Investigations, surveys and reports - £5,000
- Foul water, drainage, water and electricity supply designs and plans - £10,000
- Legal advice on site lease - £1,000

Overall total - £29,654

Following favourable pre-application enquiries ITAC would need to secure contractual ability to use the land before submitting a full planning application and proposes to seek a 5-year lease from the freeholder.

The applicant intends to develop a site to be leased for 5 years, and this fails to comply with the requirement to legally protect the benefits of the scheme in perpetuity and the presumption that the community group or organisation will take a long-term formal role in the ownership, stewardship, or management of the homes.

It is recommended that the Combined Authority declines the grant application because the proposal fails to comply with the definition of community led housing as specified within the grant assessment criteria approved by the Combined Authority.

Assessment of application to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority £100K Grant

Name of Applicant: It Takes A City Community Land Trust

Amount Applied for: £29,654

Criteria	Has Criteria been met?	Notes/Comments
Group constituted as a legal body	Yes	Incorporated as a community benefit society
Evidence of deliverability	Yes	1 site in the planning process with the potential to be complete by the end of the year. 2 further sites with well established plans in the pipeline.
Evidence of value for money	Yes	Existing charity already working towards addressing the issue of homelessness in Cambridgeshire, the modular home projects are a natural extension of this. The home meets the need for a transition home between rough sleeping and reintegrating into community. Previous funding has been well used to establish the group and get them to the point of being able to develop homes.
Evidence of Strategic fit	Yes	Well established project with the ability to meet the needs of the rough sleeping community in Cambridge. It will address the housing needs of an identified group. Consideration has been given to the wider community, utilising sites that are not currently used by the community and will provide a good temporary home for modular units. Thought has been spared to ensure that the modular homes fit within their community and are aesthetically pleasing. The project is also supported by Cambridge City Council as a good and welcomed addition to the range of solutions provide to help those facing rough sleeping and homelessness

Recommendation:	To approve the grant requested for £29,654
------------------------	--

Signature: *J Brame*

Date: 2/5/2023

Jenna Brame, Rural and Community-Led Housing Enabler, Cambridgeshire ACRE



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
12 June 2023	8

Title:	Sustainable Land Use Advice
Report of:	Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:

A	To note the outcome of a consultation on the scope of a sustainable land use advice service
B	To request a business case for the advice service that aligns with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy programme of activity

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	This report asks the Committee to approve the development of a revised business case for the sustainable land use advice programme that aligns to the LNRS.
-----	---

2. Proposal

2.1	That the proposed sustainable land use advice service be aligned with the LNRS engagement process to maximise the delivery benefits from the LNRS and for land managers. To receive a business case at the next Committee meeting that draws upon the emerging LNRS engagement strategy.
2.2	The project delivers to the Strategic Objectives of good growth and enabling resilient communities. It will enable businesses and other land managers to introduce more nature-friendly processes that also align with their business objectives. This will make them more adaptable to environmental / climate crises, and also deliver against the doubling nature target.

3. Background

3.1	The Board agreed a revenue budget allocation of £150k to provide an advice service that would support landowners in reinstating natural processes in the management of land. A consultation exercise was undertaken in 2022, which supported appropriate advice but (a) overall opinion was advice should enable natural processes alongside productive use of land and (b) through appropriate engagement.
3.2	A key part of the new duty for the preparation of a statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is engagement with those who manage the land (including farm businesses and other landowners).
3.3	One of the principles proposed for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy is that it should address delivery, and not just be a mapping of potential nature recovery. To be successful the LNRS needs the voluntary support of land managers in areas of potential to enact change.
3.4	There is a strong alignment between the LNRS (both in its preparation and delivery) and the proposed advice service.
3.5	The consultation on the service received 19 survey responses from a mix of farm businesses, environmental bodies with land holdings, and advisers. Direct conversations were also undertaken with relevant stakeholders, including Natural Cambridgeshire as the Local Nature Partnership and the National Farmers Union. The results showed general support for sustainable land-use, but raised queries over definitions. There was a strong preference for making adjustments to land management practices rather than allocating large elements of land to natural regeneration. There was also strong support for approaches that provided a wide range of benefits, rather just increasing areas of natural habitat. The consultation highlighted that any advice needed to come from credible and 'trusted' intermediaries that understood land management issues. Advice was requested across the geography of the Combined Authority and not restricted to those areas with greatest potential for habitat restoration.
3.6	There was a strong view from the consultation that land management change was either somewhat or completely dependent on national funding mechanisms as a prerequisite for sustainability projects. Support in accessing funding and bid development was a theme. Some respondents were uncertain of the benefit of an advice service in impacting on their decision to undertake more sustainable measures, but a majority felt that it would have benefits. There was good support for an element of bid support in the service.
3.7	Given the synergies with the LNRS programme there are obvious benefits in aligning the service with the engagement requirements of the programme.

4. Appendices

4.1	None.
-----	-------

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The MTFP carried forward a Subject to Approval revenue budget of £150k allocated to this project, £75K in 23/24 and £75k in 24/25.
-----	--

Legal Implications

6.1	None.
-----	-------

Public Health Implications

7.1	Indirectly though public health benefits of access to nature.
-----	---

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	The project to enhance (and thereby recover) biodiversity and nature, contributing to tackling the biodiversity crisis. Solutions can have wider environmental and other benefits, including flood resilience, water management, carbon sequestration and storage. Working with land managers to provide advice that also delivers their business or organisational objectives.
-----	---

Other Significant Implications

9.1	All local authorities have a duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity by January 2024, and to agree policies and objectives as soon as possible afterwards.
-----	--

Background Papers

10.1	None.
------	-------



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
12 June 2023	9

Title:	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
Report of:	Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	Yes KD2023/021
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:

A	To accept new burdens funding of £309k from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the preparation of a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy
B	To allocate this funding of £165k in 2023/24 and £144k in 2024/25 to the LNRS Approved Budget line of the Medium Term Financial Plan
C	To agree the outline programme as set out in Appendix A
D	To delegate to the Executive Director of Place and Connectivity to agree operational delivery arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council
E	To note the arrangements for the involvement of constituent councils

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	The government intends to designate the Mayor of the Combined Authority as the “Responsible Authority” for the preparation of a statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Regulations and guidance require a LNRS to be prepared within 24 months; and sets a formal role for all councils within that process.
1.2	This report asks the Committee to allocate funding to the Approved Budget line within the MTFP and to delegate appropriate authority so that activity can commence as soon as possible.

2. Proposal

2.1	Under the Environment Act 2021 the government has introduced a nationwide system of Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The Combined Authority has been allocated a budget of £309k over two years to develop a LNRS for the area. In November 2022 the Board allocated DeFRA capacity funding to Cambridgeshire County Council to lead the LNRS preparatory work on behalf of the Combined Authority. This report sets out proposals for the County Council to provide the operational role in developing the LNRS, working with Councils and with the Local Nature Partnership. Governance and sign-off of the LNRS remain with the Combined Authority, with the work programme overseen by Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee.
2.2	The LNRS will be produced over the two year period, with an interim statement in November 2023 to assist its interaction with biodiversity net gain policies in the planning system. An outline programme plan is attached as Appendix A.
2.3	The LNRS delivers to the Strategic Objective of enabling resilient communities. It will enable businesses and communities across the region to be adaptable to environmental / climate crises and deliver against the doubling nature target.

3. Background

3.1	Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new mandatory system of spatial strategies for nature established by the Environment Act 2021. They are designed as tools to encourage more coordinated practical focused action and investment in nature. They are part of a broader, strengthened duty on local authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
3.2	Each LNRS will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• map the most valuable existing areas for nature• map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals• agree priorities for nature’s recovery
3.3	In 2022 government provided capacity funding to the Combined Authority as the proposed Responsible Authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to start preparing for the new duty. The Board agreed to allocate this funding to Cambridgeshire County Council to provide operational capacity in developing the LNRS, working closely with councils and Natural Cambridgeshire (the Local Nature Partnership). The County Council appointed a Project Officer in December 2022.
3.4	Government issued the detailed Regulations and Guidance in March 2023. Its summary factsheet is provided as Appendix B. The new burdens funding allocation was announced in May 2023. The amount allocated to the Combined Authority was based on a formula that took into account the number of Supporting Authorities and the number of farm businesses in the area. Proposals in this report have regard to the regulations and guidance, informed by preparatory work including a multi-

	sector collaboration workshop held on 15 th May 2023 (full analysis of the output from this workshop has yet to be undertaken but will inform the LNRS process).
3.5	Government has set a statutory role for councils who are not themselves a Responsible Authority. At key stages in the LNRS preparation these Supporting Authorities have a formal role in commenting on the proposals. Responsible Authorities must demonstrate how they have engaged with Supporting Authorities and responded to any comments raised at the consultation stages. Alongside these formal requirements, the Combined Authority's partnership working approach means that all constituent councils are invited to be involved in the working groups developing the LNRS. Where possible existing thematic groups will be utilised to input into the LNRS development. An officer Steering Group of the Combined Authority, County Council, Peterborough City Council, Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England will programme manage the LNRS process. Supporting Authorities will, as well as engaging on the thematic working groups, be invited onto a Development Group meeting on a six monthly cycle. The governance structure is attached as Appendix C.
3.6	The LNRS also has a formal interaction with the planning system. The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements of planning permissions can achieve extra 'credits' when delivered against LNRS priorities. As the mandatory BNG system starts in November 2023 it is proposed that an LNRS interim statement is prepared to assist planning authorities on this aspect (this is not a formal requirement of the Regulations). However, given the stage in the process reached by November 2023 this will not have the full planning impact of an approved LNRS and given the timing will largely be based on existing information. This is in line with DEFRA guidance for BNG that states that Local Planning Authorities should use whatever is available until the LNRS is adopted.
3.7	The LNRS will identify areas with potential for nature enhancement. However, any formal designation of areas for specific nature conservation protection will remain within existing approval routes (e.g. local plans, Natural England).
3.8	The Combined Authority is in an excellent starting place on the LNRS process. This reflects the strong support for nature by the Combined Authority, including adopting the doubling nature target and targeted revenue support to Natural Cambridgeshire to build capacity and early engagement with the County Council in getting underway. Constituent councils have engaged with the process, and have existing biodiversity strategies, Local Plan evidence and/or nature-based interventions and the County Council already has a natural capital assessment that helps identify priority areas for inventions. The County Council has a project manager in place and preparatory work has commenced with the supporting authorities.
3.9	Several themes have emerged from the preparatory work to guide the C&P LNRS. The first is delivery. The LNRS should aim for more than a mapping of nature areas and establishing a set of priorities for enhancement. It needs to facilitate delivery of bigger, better and more joined up biodiversity. Secondly it has to remain dynamic to respond to changing circumstances. Thirdly, it needs to reflect the diversity of landscapes, nature and communities across the Combined Authority area (including urban areas). Finally, it needs to draw input from existing evidence base including local biodiversity strategies and data kept by the Environmental Records Centre and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Parks Partnership.
3.10	The statutory guidance states that Responsible authorities should involve people and groups from across the public, private and voluntary sectors and help them to work together. The strategy will benefit from their understanding of what environmental issues are most important locally. This will also encourage them to carry out the proposals in the strategy. Effective engagement with farmers and landowners will be particularly important in the LNRS development.
3.11	The LNRS can also, as per Defra and Natural England's aspiration, become an opportunity to explore, promote, and educate about the wider environmental benefits of nature restoration, such as natural flood management and climate adaptation.
3.12	To complement the LNRS work the County Council submitted a bid to access £5k of Nature Recovery Network funding provided by Natural England to understand the relationship between the emerging LNRS and the Green Infrastructure Framework (a suite of tools and guidance issued in January 2023 to support Local Authorities and stakeholders deliver high quality green infrastructure and nature-rich spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife). This workstream will consider how the two can work together in a complimentary way.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A – Work Programme
4.2	Appendix B - Factsheet
4.3	Appendix C – Governance structure

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	Government funding of £309k via DeFRA has been allocated to the Combined Authority. This will be paid via a Section 31 Grant and will be split with £165k in 2023-24 and £144k in 24-25.
-----	--

Legal Implications

6.1	The LNRS needs to be produced in compliance with the Environment Act 2021 (Local Nature Recovery Strategy)(Procedure) Regulations 2023: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/341/made
-----	--

Public Health Implications

7.1	There are significant public health benefits of access to nature as referenced in the 2022 Health & Wellbeing Integrated Care Strategy for the area. link to strategy
-----	---

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	The LNRS aim is to enhance (and thereby recover) biodiversity and nature, contributing to tackling the biodiversity crisis. Solutions can have wider environmental and other benefits, including flood resilience, water management, carbon sequestration and storage.
-----	--

Other Significant Implications

9.1	All local authorities have a duty introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity by January 2024, and to agree policies and objectives as soon as possible afterwards. The LNRS will be an important input into that duty. More details on this are here .
-----	--

Background Papers

10.1	Board Report, LNRS Grant, November 2022, link to report
10.2	Natural England, Green Infrastructure Framework, link to webpage

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Project Plan and Timelines

DEFRA suggested timelines for the development of an LNRS to be 12 -18 months process. The following table provides high level project plan, milestones and approximate timelines for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS.

Co-Design Phase (May 2023 – November 2023)				
Focus: Collecting evidence and putting processes in place to prepare for development of an LNRS for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.				
Project Ref	Milestones	Task Description/ Outputs	Start Date	End Date
1	Development of Project Plan, Timelines and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Project Plan and Timelines • Draft Governance Structure • Agree core production group • Draft Framework • Receive feedback from Supporting Authorities 	April 2023	May 2023
2	Agree Habitat Priority Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree Priority Habitat Themes • Agree working groups associated to Priority Habitat Themes • Experts to gather around each Priority Habitat Theme and feed into milestone below. 	May 2023	June 2023
3	Sign off by CPCA Environment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign off by CPCA Environment Committee on 12th June 2023. 	12 th June 2023	12 th June 2023
4	Stakeholder Engagement and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed Priority Habitat Themes feed into outputs below. • Develop Stakeholder Engagement Plan • Develop a Communication Plan • Develop Consultation Plan 	May 2023	November 2023
5	Data and Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from Stakeholder Engagement and communication to feed into this milestone. • Development of Local Habitat Map • Development of Biodiversity Priorities • Feed outputs into BNG Supporting Document • Feed outputs into agreed Priority Habitat Themes 	June 2023	November 2023
6	Environment and Land Use policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from Stakeholder Engagement and communication to feed into this milestone. • Review all key policies and strategies • Understand how key policies and strategies can be integrated into LNRS 	June 2023	November 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed outputs into agreed Priority Habitat Themes 		
7	Wider Environment Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outputs from Stakeholder Engagement and communication to feed into this milestone. • Understand wider environment benefits of each habitat priority theme and how they can be incorporated into the LNRS. • Feed outputs into agreed Priority Habitat Themes 	June 2023	November 2023
8	Evaluation and Monitoring	Set evaluation and monitoring methodology and framework	June 2023	Ongoing
9	BNG Support Document	Feed outputs from milestones above to provide support to developing an interim BNG document to assist roll out of BNG in November.	September 2023	November 2023
10	Sign off by CPCA Environment Committee	BNG Support Document to be taken to CPCA Environment Committee for sign off and assist roll out in November 2023.	11 th September 2023	11 th September 2023
11	Prepare for Co-Production Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all outputs from Co-Design Phase • Draft LNRS elements to feed into Development Phase 	September 2023	November 2023
Co-Production Phase (December 2023 onwards) Focus: Use evidence collected in Co-Design Phase to develop LNRS for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.				
Project Ref	Milestones	Task Description/ Outputs	Start Date	End Date
1.	Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test and refine outputs from co-design phase 	December 2023	March 2024
2.	Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval from Supporting Authorities to undertake Consultation Process • Implement Consultation Process 	March 2024	June 2024
3.	Sign off by CPCA Environment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval from CPCA Environment Committee to commence consultation. 	11 th March 2024	11 th March 2024
4.	Final Draft of LNRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree end design of LNRS • All evidence/ feedback fed into LNRS final draft • Final LNRS drafted & Delivery Plan 	June 2024	September 2024
5.	Pre-Publication Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign off by CPCA Environment Committee • Provide final strategy to Supporting Authorities • Give notice to Secretary of State and intention to publish 	September 2024	November 2024
6.	Final LNRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final LNRS Published 	November 2024	November 2024

Local Nature Recovery Strategies

A summary note on the newly published regulations and statutory guidance

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) were introduced in the Environment Act 2021. This new system of spatial strategies will: support efforts to recover nature across England; help planning authorities incorporate nature recovery objectives; support the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain; and help deliver our national environment targets.

The Government has now published LNRS regulations and statutory guidance which work together to establish the 'rules' to enable high quality and consistent LNRSs to be prepared across England. Government's response to the public consultation that informed the development of the regulations and statutory guidance has also been published.

Consultation Response (linked [here](#))

Summarises the responses to the 40 questions the Government posed to inform how LNRSs should be prepared and what they should include. Responses to the consultation highlighted the need for LNRS preparation to be as open and collaborative as possible, how stakeholders are key to developing consistent strategies and how end products must be accessible through publication. The response sets out how these views are reflected in the regulations and guidance and provides an overview of Government's approach.

Regulations (linked [here](#))

Explains the role of the 'responsible authority' (RA) and the rules they should follow when preparing their LNRS. Key features include:

- **The creation of the 'supporting authority'** and how they should work with RAs. RAs must "take reasonable steps to involve" supporting authorities, "have regard" to their opinions, share information with them and seek their agreement before consultation and publication. Supporting authorities will play a key role in making sure all LNRSs are genuinely collaborative.
- **Requirements for wider engagement**, including how to bring a wide range of organisations and viewpoints into LNRS preparation and the need for public consultation.
- **The new power for RAs to request information** on Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites from other planning authorities so that the LNRS can fulfil its requirement to map all local wildlife areas.
- **A process for dispute resolution** should RAs and supporting authorities develop different opinions on what should be included in the LNRS.
- **Requirements for publishing** the LNRS: the RA must publish the LNRS and provide to Defra in a format that allows them to be compiled nationally.
- **Rules for review and publication**, for all LNRSs will be received at the same time and renewed by the Secretary of State and expected every 3-10 years.

Statutory Guidance (linked [here](#))

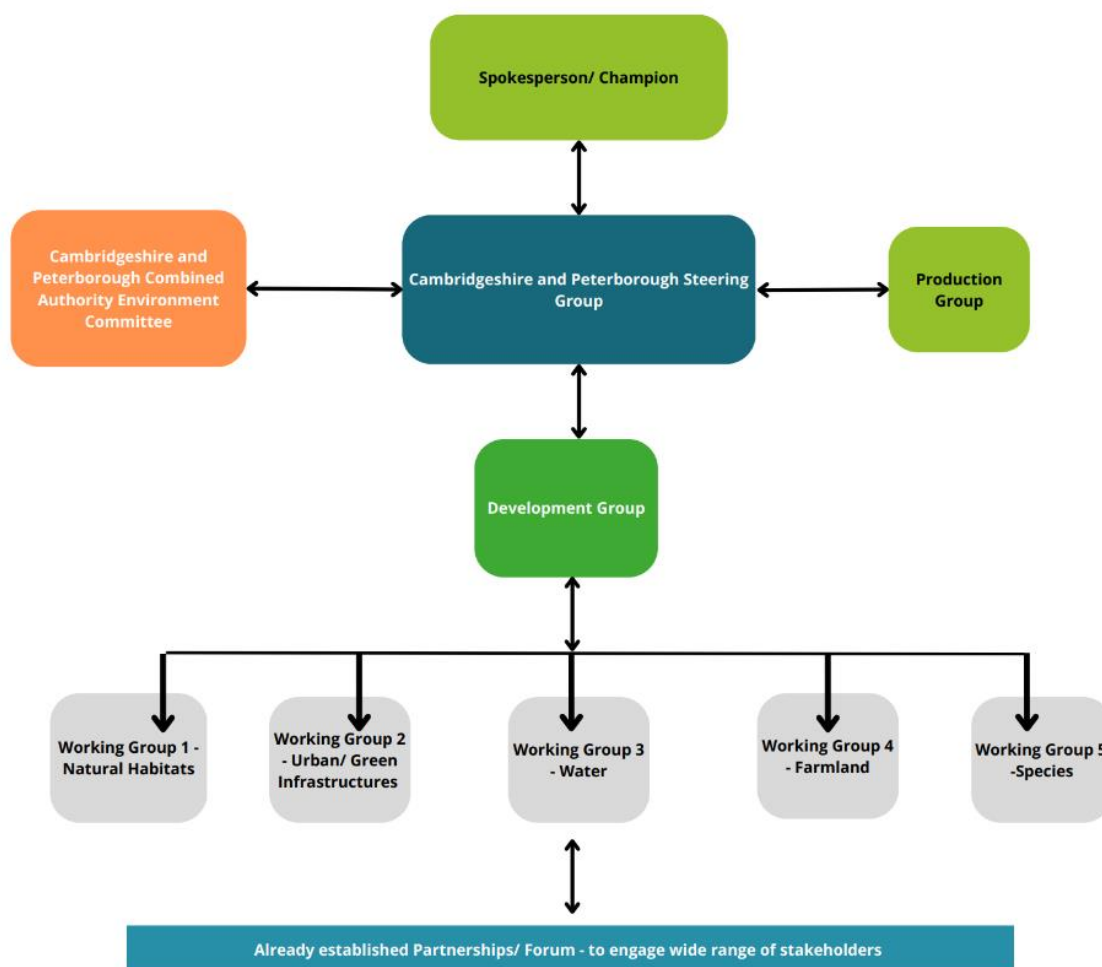
Expands on what the Environment Act says LNRSs must contain. RAs must "have regard" to this guidance. Key features include:

- A **step-by-step** process for RAs to take when preparing the LNRS. This will link all the requirement elements of the LNRS together into a logical series of steps that stakeholders can engage with which leads to the identification of areas where nature recovery effort should be focussed.
- A **definition of "areas of particular importance for biodiversity"** that the LNRS must include, designed to promote alignment between LNRSs and the planning system.
- The need to **consider other plans and strategies** in the area so that the LNRS does not "reinvent the wheel." RAs should consider other plans while preparing their LNRS to help set their local priorities and identify potential measures by which they can be achieved, as well as mapping areas that could become of particular importance in the future.
- How LNRSs should identify local opportunities to **contribute to national environmental objectives**, drawing out individual actions and how they will contribute.
- The steer that above all else, **LNRSs should be deliverable on the ground** and not a "wish list" of things we'd like to see happen. Stakeholder engagement, particularly with landowners, will be important to develop realistic proposals.

Training and further information will be provided to all responsible authorities about how to use the regulations and guidance. LNRS preparation will be fully funded and further information on distribution of funds and formal appointments of responsible authorities will follow shortly.

Appendix C: Governance structure

The diagram below sets out the governance structure proposed to develop the LNRS.



Notes on groups

The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee governs the LNRS process, providing political oversight and recommending approval at key stages of LNRS.

The 'champion' is the Senior Responsible Officer within the CPCA (accountable for budget and programme direction).

The Steering Group will comprise officers of the Combined Authority, County Council, Peterborough City Council, Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England. Meet monthly to check progress, receive reports / drafts, agree spend. Establishes and tasks the Working Groups.

The Development Group will include officers from all Supporting Authorities, relevant stakeholders, and Steering group organisations. Receive outputs from Working Groups and will be used for cross theme consideration. This group will meet on a 6 monthly basis and at critical points in the project (Pre- Consultation and Pre-Publication). In the interim a newsletter will be used to provide updates.

The Production Group is the core editing/writing team. Information fed by Working Groups, bring together all relevant information and writing of strategy. Responsible for technical aspects of (a) mapping (b) stakeholder engagement (c) wider environmental benefits (d) policy.

Working Groups – Thematic expertise, including officers from Supporting Authorities. Will consider the priority habitat themes, geography of Cambridgeshire's landscape and wider environment benefits.

Partnership / Forums – assist the Working Groups with their collective knowledge.



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
12 June 2023	10

Title:	Climate Action Plan
Report of:	Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:	
A	To note current progress on the Climate Action Plan
B	To support the proposal for a climate engagement event in the autumn
C	To approve the arrangements for an officer group to approve applications under the Climate Change Care Homes Programme.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
X	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | To brief the Committee on the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 (CAP) and seek endorsement of specific pieces of activity being progressed as part of the Action Plan. These are a climate partnership event; and care home programme delivery. |
|-----|---|

2. Proposal

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | To note progress on the CAP and Combined Authority funded projects. |
| 2.2 | In June the Climate Partnership will be considering a proposal that a stakeholders climate engagement event be arranged for autumn 2023. The Committee is invited to endorse this proposal. |
| 2.3 | The Combined Authority's Climate Change Care Homes Programme is underway with expressions of interest received from eligible independently owned nursing and residential care homes. This is one of our demonstrator programmes for addressing/reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Committee is recommended to approve the arrangements for project approvals. |
| 2.4 | The Climate Action Plan is relevant to all four of the Corporate Objectives, as climate related issues run through all aspects. Climate is one of the six capitals for assessing activity. |

3. Background

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 3.1 | The Combined Authority approved the Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 in March 2022 and updates in March 2023. The CAP is part of the Combined Authority's response to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Oversight of the delivery of the Action Plan is within the terms of reference of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee. |
| 3.2 | The CAP sets out 40 actions arranged across 11 themes, focused on collaborative action over the three year period across a range of stakeholders. It was a direct response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate recommendations. The Action Plan is supported by the multi-sector Climate Partnership, chaired by the Mayor, who make recommendations for action (for the Combined Authority the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee leads on the CAP implementation). |
| 3.3 | Progress on the CAP will be considered by the Climate Partnership at its meeting on the 19 June. The summary of progress is attached as Appendix A for information. |
| 3.4 | The Combined Authority in its functions delivers a range of activities that impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation (such as active travel or support for green skills through the adult education budget). It has also funded specific programmes of activity that fall within the CAP. Progress on these is summarised in Appendix B. |
| 3.5 | The latest set of national statistics on emissions that provide Combined Authority area figures are due in June. These will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee. These monitor progress towards achieving Net Zero targets. Net Zero in this context means total greenhouse gas emissions of the area would be equal to or less than the emissions removed from the environment. The government has a legal requirement under the Climate Change Act (link) to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and a commitment under the Paris agreement – the nationally determined contribution (NDC) – to cut emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. The Combined Authority has set a target for its own operations to be Net Zero by 2030, and for the area to achieve Net Zero by 2050. Other organisations have different targets. These are challenging targets, and at the national level the Climate Change Committee (CCC) have warned that the UK is not on track to meet the carbon budgets set for the current period 2023 to 2027 or the next (2028-2032). |

3.6	Confusion can arise over Net Zero targets because organisations might express these only for emissions they directly control (such as owning and operating fossil fuel power generation), include emissions they indirectly control (such as staff commuting) or set ambitions for a geographic area.
3.7	A data group is being drawn together to share best practice regarding Net Zero target definitions within the Combined Authority and constituent councils. The next Climate Partnership meeting will hear from the Centre for Climate Engagement, Hughes Hall on their research into the potential to set Locally Determined Contributions, as complement for the NDC. Progress on the Combined Authority's own operations target of 2030 will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
3.8	The Climate Partnership are proposing a stakeholder event in November. This would review progress on climate change mitigation and adaptation, look to identify new opportunities for collaboration and consider gaps. It would also be able to link into the awareness raising publicity in the lead up to the United Nations global climate conference (COP28) at the end of November. The Climate Partnership are due to consider this at their meeting on the 19 th June. This event will support the engagement strand of the Climate Action Plan and it is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposal. Officers of the Combined Authority will be involved in organising the event.
3.9	One of the Combined Authority funded climate projects is a £2m demonstrator programme focussed on supporting care homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to enable them to become more energy efficient, to help meet climate change goals and reduce risks to the more vulnerable residents. The scheme provides grants on a match-funded basis. A guide of the scheme is included as Appendix C. After consultation with the sector and care leads within councils the programme was launched to care homes in spring 2023 and expressions of interest have been received from 10 care homes.
3.10	It is proposed that the care homes grant applications are considered and approved by an officer group, chaired a Combined Authority officer. As organisations with lead social care responsibilities Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council officers would be invited to participate in the appraisal process. Successful applications will be reported for information at the next available Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee. Under the Constitution (Section 18.2) the Executive Director would have delegated authority to approve appropriate contracts, depending on value.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A: Climate Action Plan Progress Report
4.2	Appendix B: CPCA Climate programme progress
4.3	Appendix C: Guide to the Climate Change Care Home programme

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The Combined Authority agreed the updated MTFP in January 2023 that included budget allocations for named climate programme activities.
-----	---

Legal Implications

6.1	None.
-----	-------





Public Health Implications

7.1	Reducing fossil fuel and other greenhouse gas emissions has beneficial public health outcomes locally (for example through reducing air pollution). Adapting to impacts of climate change can reducing risks to vulnerable residents, such as heat-related illness. Nature-based solutions can have wider benefits to health, particularly mental health.
-----	---

Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	Climate change mitigation and adaptation are fundamental drivers for action via the CAP.
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None.
Background Papers	
10.1	The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate report link
10.2	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Plan 2022-2025 link
10.3	Revisions to CAP, March 2023 link
10.4	Care Homes Programme Business Case link

WS1: Sustainable Finance

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
<p>1. By March 2023 assess, identify, and set up relevant Funding models to attract investment into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon infrastructure, • adaptation. • Low carbon businesses 	<p>In progress – Innovate UK Pathfinder Places project underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire (£93K) to support the development of a financing framework for Net Zero for power, heat, mobility and product manufacture (link to Local Area Energy Planning in Cambridgeshire). Deadline July 2023 for Phase 1 report. • Peterborough CC is leading a Net Zero Living Partnership which aims to build a process to take projects identified in a Local Area Energy Plan through to delivery: focusing on project selection, systems interactions, engagement, finance, local capacity and skills and regulation. PCC is exploring options for collaboration with additional local authorities for bidding into the next round of funding. Deadline July 2023 for Phase 1 report. 	<p>Green</p> 	<p>Lack of capacity by potential bidders to develop financial schemes</p>
	<p>In progress – Peterborough received £100k from the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop a climate adaptation plan. The brief for this is being developed, and procurement of a consult to undertake this work will commence in the near future.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	
<p>2. By June 2023 set up a C&P Decarbonisation Fund that attracts investment from businesses purchasing local carbon credits for 'hard to treat carbon emissions only' to invest in local carbon and nature projects.</p>	<p>In progress –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation fund – CUSPE research identified next steps for the Fund. Because of uncertainty in carbon credit market, a business case has not been developed. 	<p>Red</p> 	<p>Lack of capacity by potential bidders to develop financial schemes</p>
<p>3. By Oct 2022 collectively build local capacity and capability to assemble suitable projects ready for these opportunities. Build up project pipeline</p>	<p>In progress – Programme for the delivery of the CPCA Climate Action Plan in place, including thematic workstreams looking at resources</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>Lack of capacity of Partners</p>

WS2: Engagement Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. By June 2022 develop an Engagement Plan for people and businesses to build knowledge, culture, and incentivise action on Climate ensuring links across plans, including NHS, RECAP and local partnerships.	In progress – Engagement Plan agreed at Climate Partnership on 4 Nov 2022 with three key themes linked to the Independent Commission Recommendations. Limited resources to progress the action beyond business as usual. Planning meetings with NHS and Natural Cambridgeshire to include public health and nature in future communications.	Amber ↓	Resources and funding to deliver the Engagement Plan
2. By July 2022 set up a fund for small scale community projects to access to build local momentum and awareness.	In progress – Full business case approved at CPCA Board in 2022. Launch planned for early 2023. Funding to be implemented by March 2024. Currently being designed and proposed to link with Objective 3 in the Engagement Plan.	Green ↔	Lack of capability in communities to bid for funds.
3. Ongoing – develop joint ambitions and outcomes in communications plans for COP events.	Not started – COP 28 November/December 2023, event planning has not started.	Green ↔	Resources and funding
4. Ongoing – Development of case studies to promote the achievements that have been enabled as a result of CPCA and Partners so that we can share best practice and build momentum in the region to deliver net zero ambitions.	Not started	Amber ↔	Resources and funding
5. Ongoing – Developing shared policy positions where appropriate on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough climate and environment issues to influence public policy and identify funding opportunities with relevant stakeholders. The co-dependencies the CPCA Climate Action Plan across the key achievements to be identified and built into the Public Affairs work.	New action – Governance to be determined.	Amber ↔	Resources and funding

WS3: Energy

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
<p>1. & 2. By March 2024 deliver two Local Area Energy Plans for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which include infrastructure investment programmes spatially mapped to deliver net zero by 2050.</p>	<p><i>In delivery</i> – Peterborough Local Area Energy Plan - Local Area Energy Plan completed and now delivering. Innovate UK bid to take forward local action (see WS1).</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>Funding and resources to support the C-LAEP</p> <p>Timescales for delivery</p>
	<p><i>In progress</i> – Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Planning - The first Steering Group met in December 2022 to agree its TOR, develop a scoping document and project timeline. The Steering Group comprises all the LAs, CPCA, UKPN and the universities and the first two meetings are to build knowledge and understanding of what a LAEP can do and its impact. Steering Group meeting arranged 1 June 2023.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	

WS4: Buildings

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. Immediate - target government decarbonisation scheme, private funding, and other competitions to support retrofits (focusing on low income/vulnerable homes and public buildings).	<p>In progress – Cambridgeshire – Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership awarded £11.5M HUG2 funding for 2023-2025. Currently going through final interview with funders to ensure assurance checks are met.</p> <p>CERP currently finalising HUG1 closing end of May 2023 and LAD funding extended until September 2023.</p> <p>Peterborough - Warmer Homes Consortium awarded £41.4M HUG2 funding across the 23 consortium members.</p>	Green ↔	Contractor and skill capacity to deliver at scale. Underspend grant due to delays due to lower response rates/take up of the scheme/contractors delays.
2. By July 2022 set up relevant Delivery Vehicles and Procurement Frameworks for home retrofits accessible by partners and homeowners to deliver self-financed and grant funded retrofits.	<p>In progress – CERP Procurement framework launched May 2023, with launch event planned for June 2023. Framework with 6 contractors to carry out retrofits on privately owned properties (both grant funded work and ‘able to pay market’ in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough).</p>	Green ↔	Contractor and skill capacity to deliver at scale.
3. By October 2022 provide accredited suppliers that make accessing suppliers easier for those able to pay such as ‘collective solar’ or bulk purchase ASHPs.	<p>In progress – Cambridgeshire Solar Together scheme provide access to suppliers, with over 9,000 expressions of interest received.</p> <p>Accredited suppliers from the Procurement Framework to provide access to ASHP installation.</p>	Green ↔	Contractor and skill capacity to deliver at scale.
4. By March 2024 undertake care home retrofit programme	<p>In progress – CPCA Climate Project Officer appointed in November 2022. Initial expression of interest questionnaire to care homes in January 2023, currently considering to approve successful grants. Delivery phase expected to extend into 2024 financial year.</p>	Amber ↔	Finance and resource in the care sector to match fund.
5. Address the barriers identified in the skills assessment report to boost market capacity and skills training to increase building retrofit.	<p>In progress – Skills provision has been made to provide bootcamps and adult education level 3. New qualifications will have retrofit skills included. Scheduled meeting on 7 June with CPCA Skill Team to discuss opportunities further.</p>	Green ↔	

WS5: Transport

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. In 2022 to revise the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan to support active travel and passenger transport, reducing the number of miles driven and agree key delivery plans including;	In progress – The Draft Local Transport and Connectivity Plan was presented to committee on 16 March 2023 and to CPCA Board on 22 March along with the digital policy. The final LTCP to be presented to CPCA Board on 31 May 2023 for approval.	Green ↔	Changes to Government Transport policy and resourcing to deliver the plan.
2. An Alternative Fuel Strategy and delivery plan.	In progress – The Alternative Fuel Strategy was approved at CPCA Board on 22 March 2023. An EV Infrastructure Working Group has been set up to establish an agreed approach to delivery of a public EV Charging Network across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and a route to market. The EV Strategy is being developed and CPCA has been awarded £400k until 2025 from the LEVI Capability fund for CCC & PCC officers to drive forward the strategy in next 6 months.	Green ↔	Fragmented private sector delivery.
3. By Dec 2022 implement project to replace nearly 10% of bus fleet with electric buses (ZEBRA scheme).	In progress – £5M investment in 30 Electric buses launch May 2023, replacing 10% of the bus fleet. CPCA Bus Strategy was consulted in January and February 2023. CPCA secured £4M funding to relocate EV-capable depot for Peterborough City. This is a building block to support future electric buses in Peterborough	Green ↔	Contractual and supply chains not able to deliver required infrastructure.
4. Implement a process to ‘design down carbon’ across all major highway construction schemes supported by the CPCA.	In progress – WSP consultancy report completed. LTCP looks to major schemes to reduce carbon impacts. Not yet had new schemes progressed through business case development to test the process.	Amber ↔	Suitable processes not determined.

WS6: Business & Commercial Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. In 2022 the Climate recommendations to inform the revision of the Local Economic and Skills Strategies;	In progress – this action is completed and strategy is updated Implement the new strategies	Green ↔	Resource not allocated to lead on workstreams will cause delays to meet milestones.
2. By March 2023 scope a Carbon Advisory Service to support SMEs linked to the Decarbonisation Fund	In progress – CPCA contract for SME advice runs to 2023. Scoping work is underway to inform future contract which is considering appropriate climate advice	Amber ↔	Resource not allocated to lead on workstreams will cause delays to meet milestones.
3. By March 2023 through the Economic Strategy identify the economic and planning levers that can incentivise and attract businesses to the area to deliver re-manufacturing facilities for a local circular economy and low carbon ambitions.	Initiated – Growth Works provides an investment service for the area. CPCA scoping whether a value proposition should be developed for the low carbon sector. CPCA launching £10M Business growth and social impact investment fund engagement event held on 3 May to seek a delivery partner to administer the fund.	Amber ↔	Resource not allocated to lead on workstreams will cause delays to meet milestones.
4. In 2022 new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Integrated Care System organisation to produce and implement Green Plan, building on existing strategies and action.	In progress – NHS ICS Green Plan completed and sets out Green Principles. The ICS has established a Green Plan Programme Board to drive climate action in the NHS and associated services / businesses.	Green ↔	Pressures in Health Service.
5. By March 2023 mapping the cleantech sector companies by the government definition to understand baseline, create a database, to identify strengths in the subsectors; to target investment and measure progress against low carbon	In progress - Cleantech project scope presented to the Climate Partnership 4 November. CPCA seeking £40-50K funding to deliver Cleantech project.	Amber ↔	Delay on delivery if funding not approved and would impact associated workstreams

WS7: Nature

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. By Dec 2023 deliver a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough;	<p>In progress – Regulation from Defra received and the expectation is the LNRS is complete in 12-15 months time. There was a 1:1 meeting with Defra on 9 May to detail expectations and funding available to develop the strategy. A workshop was held on 15 May with NGOs and major stakeholders which was externally facilitated.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain requirements come into force November 2023 and it is intended that an interim LNRS statement will be developed to inform the BNG systems.</p>	Green ↔	Government guidance Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
2. By March 2023 set up fund for nature-based solutions through a 'Fund for Nature and the Environment'	<p>In progress – Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for the £1M Funding model to attract investment into nature. 11 Eoi were received with 8 coming forward as full applications. Additional climate change benefits include mitigation and adaptation, health and wellbeing, prosperity, flood prevention, and/or water quality and retention, and learning how to put a value on these benefits. Recommendations for funding allocations to be made to Natural Cambridgeshire Board on 27th June 2023, those approved will enter into contract. Further calls for Eoi planned for later in 2023.</p>	Green ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
3. By March 2024 establish an effective Biodiversity Net Gain system for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that maximises outcomes	<p>In progress – Natural Cambridgeshire organised a workshop on implementing BNG. Authorities are pooling resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC has Service Legal Agreement to delivery FDC BNG, • PCC and ECDC to work together, • HDC/SCDC/CamCity working within their planning framework 	Green ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
4. By March 2023 deliver successful legacy for the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) that puts in place arrangements to secure the health and wellbeing, climate change mitigation and nature restoration	<p>In progress – Parks unit set up in County Council. Three Year business plan approved by members. CP3 currently has insufficient committed funding to sustain its operations to end of 2023/24 financial year. Additional funding being sought including external funding bids.</p>	Red ↓	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
5. By March 2023 provide advice on Biodiversity strategies taking account of climate change for all organisations with substantial landownership	<p>In planning stage - Paper planned for CPCA Environment and Sustainable Community Committee 12 June 2023 on programme for advice to landowners.</p> <p>The BNG workshop in May 2023 identified a potential opportunity for more joined up approach on the new BNG System and BNG credits market. Follow up needed.</p>	Amber ↑	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.

WS8: Soil & Peat

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. Increase the area mapped of peatland assets.	<p>In progress – Fenland SOIL set up as an organisation to identify assets, farming practices and advise on peat issues. Received pilot project funding from the Defra Discovery Grant to map 3 Internal Drainage Board Districts (approx 10% of The Fens), currently progressing and will be completed by March 2023.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>If funding not secured will not have an accurate map for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fens.</p>
2. Immediate -identify operating costs/impacts to shift farming practice to sustainable farming practice	<p>In progress – Project commissioned Andersons Consultants to examine raising of water tables and identify the costs to changed farming practices to minimise GHG emissions in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.</p> <p>Project will help inform farming practice, restoration of peatland and identify cost.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>Defra not taking action on report findings. Affordability of Actions</p>
3. Immediate - demonstrate practical projects working with landowners on restoration	<p>In progress – Received Defra funding from the Discover Grant to identify sites to restore peatland it to its natural state. This is a Pan Fens project outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and includes Lincolnshire and West Norfolk .</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>Not covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough comprehensively</p>

WS9: Water

Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. Immediate - support existing partnerships and plans to deliver water efficiency, supply, storage and manage flood risk including WRE Regional Plan by Dec 2023, Future Fens Integrated Adaptation Plan, and Future Fens Project. Ensure strategies by agencies and stakeholders are aligned and complementary	In progress – Draft Water Resources East Regional Plan was consulted on in December 2022 and due to be adopted in Autumn in 2023. The Regional Plan set out the strategic approach to public water supply and relevant infrastructure. One reservoir location has been identified in Cambridgeshire; with a discussion about how to maximise wider benefits.	Green ↔	Stakeholder commitment. Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
	In progress – Chalk Streams Environment project funding agreed by CPCA Board in Nov 2022.	Green ↔	
	In progress – Funding for Future Fens Adaption Plan agreed.	Green ↔	
2. Ongoing- update/include policies in local plans that actively tackle water issues;	In progress – Local Plan Water Policy Update – Fenland & Greater Cambridge local plans currently under review. Government to introduce mandatory requirement for sustainable urban drainage systems, anticipated 2024.	Green ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
3. Immediate - Collaborate on land management changes and understanding of what we plan for in terms of flood defences for the future.	In progress – Future Fens Great Ouse Baseline study completed. Fen2100+ project to develop a Strategy and investment programme by 2026/27 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood Action Partnership considering climate impacts as part of its work.	Green ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
4. By March 2024 develop innovative and nature based solutions for flood/water management	In progress – CCC partnership with Anglia Water to manage surface water and manage biodiversity in March. Tendering to identify main flooding hot spots in Cambridgeshire to design solutions.	Green ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.

WS10: Waste Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
<p>1. Immediate - Informing and enabling our communities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste through the facilitated development of circular waste economies with the aim of reducing the emissions from the collection, treatment and disposal of waste.</p>	<p>In progress – the existing Strategy has been extended by 1 year until end of 2023. Local Authorities have put the Strategy approval on their forward agenda plan.</p> <p>Q3 or Q4 2023/24 – Currently planning a waste organic & black bag waste to determine quantity of waste and establish carbon measure.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>Delay of Defra Guidance</p>
<p>2. Ongoing - Within the priorities of individual authorities, funding and contracts, move toward low carbon (electric, biofuels etc) waste vehicles to cut transport emissions from waste. This includes investigating RECAP wide tender opportunities for low carbon diesel alternative fuels building on the pilot projects at Waterbeach and Peterborough Highways.</p>	<p>In progress – Waterbeach Depot Solar PV (WREN Project) funding approved at CPCA Board 30 Nov 2022 – £5.8m Project (CPCA, SCDC and Cambridge City)</p> <p>Milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 22/23 – Review and approve a Full Business Case with fully designed local grid solution • Q1 23/24 – Implementation and Build • Q4 23/24 – Commission, handover and Operation & Maintenance Contract start date 	<p>Green ↔</p>	<p>Investment required to decarbonise waste fleets</p>
	<p>Complete – PCC vehicles purchased and trial is complete.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	
	<p>Planning phase – RECAP Tender for Alternative Fuel project is currently being planned with resources being identified.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	
	<p>Trials commenced – Second framework procurement for hydrogen and electric RCVs (based on Waterbeach Solar PV and Vehicle performance procurement). Trial in East Cambridgeshire for HVO. Procurement planned for 2023.</p> <p>HVO tender framework completed by Greater Cambridgeshire Waste Services available to other authorities. Storage capacity is being sought.</p>	<p>Green ↔</p>	

WS11: Evaluation and Monitoring Climate Action Plan Progress

2022 Strategic Actions	Action status	Rag Status	Key Risks
1. Immediate - fund the CPICC to monitor progress against their recommendations and carbon footprint to improve alignment of reporting across the CPCA area.	In progress - Monitoring progress and deep dive funding approved by CPCA Board Oct 2022. Discussions ongoing with CPICC around support needs.	Amber ↔	Data availability.
2. By March 2025 CPICC Undertake deep dives into different sectors e.g. supply chain maturity for retrofits or economic benefit to low carbon living	Not started - Commission being canvassed on suitable date for reconvening.	Amber ↔	Lack of resources to make the research meaningful
3. By March 2023 identify the Adaptation Trajectory and develop an adaption response for the area	Not started – individual workstreams have identified some adaptation impacts. Insufficient funding identified to develop an Adaptation Trajectory.	Red ↔	Resource not allocated resulting delays to meet milestones.
4. Ongoing - Monitor, evaluate, and review this Action Plan, with an annual update by each March.	In progress - Reviewing and establishing governance and reporting for the programme to enable annual reporting	Green ↔	Lack of resources to continue supporting programme delivery

APPENDIX B: CPCA FUNDED CLIMATE PROJECTS

CPCA projects with funding via the CPCA Climate Programme (therefore excludes CPCA mainstream transport and skills funding that also tackles climate change impacts)								
Project	Decision	CPCA Capital	CPCA Revenue	Timescales	Area covered	Lead Organisation	Notes	Link to Climate Action Plan action
ZEBRA electric buses	25-Jan-23	£2,994,000	-	May-23	Greater Cambridge	CPCA/GCP/Stagecoach	30 fully electric buses delivered and entering operations from May 2023	WS5: Transport - Zebra Electric Buses.
WREN Project	30-Nov-22	£2,700,000	-	Mar-24	Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service area		£4M in match funding. Q1 23/24 – Implementation and Build. Q4 23/24 – Commission, handover	WS10: Waste
Care Home Retrofit Business Case - 8 June	08-Jun-22	£2,000,000	-	Mar-24	All	CPCA	Expressions of Interest received, assessment of full applications.	WS4: Buildings - Care Home Retrofit
Huntingdonshire Biodiversity Programme	27-Jul-22	£1,200,000	£150,000	Mar-25	Huntingdonshire	HDC	Open space and volunteer programme delivery underway.	WS7: Nature - Biodiversity Net Gain
Net Zero Communities	08-Jun-22	£1,000,000	-	Mar-24	Communities outside of Cities and Market Towns	CPCA	Not yet launched. In discussion with Councils on alignment to local schemes.	WS2: Engagement - Small Scale Community Fund
Nature and Environment Investment Fund	08-Jun-22	£1,000,000	-	May-24	All	Natural Cambri	Total project costs £3M. Applications being considered for approval June 2023.	WS7: Nature - Nature and Environment Investment Fund
Meanwhile at Core Site, North East Cambridge project	25-Jan-23	£1,000,000	£120,000	2025/26	Cambridge City	U+I/TOWN	Planning application expected Q3 2023.	WS6: Business and Commercial
Chalk Streams	30-Nov	£300,000	£120,000	3 year programme	Greater Cambridge / Cambridge City	Cambridge City Council	Appointed project manager. July 23 engage with wider stakeholder group to review and prioritise project list for delivery programme.	WS9: Water - Chalk Stream Projects

Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve Wetland Extension project	08-Jun-22	£280,000	-	Apr-23	Cambridge City	Cambridge City Council	Planning permission and consents secured. Species surveys and pre works seasonal vegetation clearance complete. Procurement complete and contract out for	WS7: Nature
Natural Cambridgeshire Capacity Support	08-Jun-22	£210,000	£70,000	2024/25	All	Natural Cambridgeshire	23/24 is second year of contract.	WS7:Nature
Fenland Soil	27-Jul-22	-	£100,000	2023/24	The Fens	Fenland SOIL	23/24 is second year of contract.	WS8: Soil and Peat. Enable Fenland Soil to undertake additional activity in year end 2022/23 and 23/24.
Doubling Nature Metrics project	08-Jun-22	-	£125,000	2024/25	All	Wildlife Trust	Delivery started in 22/23	WS7: Nature and WS11 Evaluation
City Portrait project	08-Jun-22	-	£80,000	Jul-23	Cambridge City	Cambridge City Council	City Portrait Dashboard developed with consultants and in 'beta testing' May 2023.	WS1: Sustainable Finance
Total		£12,684,000	£765,000					

Appendix C: Guide to the CPCA Climate Change Care Homes Programme

The Combined Authority set up a funding programme to support independently owned nursing and residential care homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to become more energy efficient while helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

This followed the gathering of evidence by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate (CPICC) on the relative vulnerability of the area to future climate events, based on the geography and land-use. The CPICC also highlighted the heat and energy needs of existing buildings as a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and recommended demonstrator projects to encourage private sector investment.

The modification of care home buildings is not only beneficial to the environment, but also advantageous to existing and prospective residents, who are ultimately more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (such as the record-setting temperatures experienced in Cambridgeshire last year).

Given the financial difficulties that the last few years have presented for the care sector, it was considered important that the CPCA offer an opportunity for independently owned care homes, and their residents, in improving the energy efficiency of properties and cut energy bills where possible.

The extreme summer heat we experienced in 2022 is likely to occur more often as a result of climate change; as this becomes a common occurrence in the UK, it will add further pressure on care homes to protect their vulnerable residents, particularly from heat-related health dangers. By supporting improvements, we can help the care sector make vital savings to overhead costs, including reducing energy bills, enabling a potential redistribution of funds to invest in care facilities. This will also help reduce greenhouse emissions, directly contributing towards the net zero target.

Following the impacts of the COVID pandemic on the care sector, it is understood that investment in climate ready measures is likely to be more difficult in the short term. In addition, it's understood that in some instances there exists limited capacity and expertise to identify appropriate energy saving measures.

Why is energy efficiency important in care home settings?

Reducing energy wastage will have a direct impact on lowering care homes' overhead costs, enabling them to redistribute finances to improve or maintain their facilities, ensuring the continued health and wellbeing of their vulnerable residents.

Therefore, by supporting wider climate change initiatives, our funding programme can also help the care homes achieve their own care quality objectives.

Our Proposed Approach and Rationale

Our initial approach concentrates investment support on independently owned nursing and residential care homes, as it is believed these services face the greatest amount of challenge in making the required alterations. Facilities that have access to ample financial resource are unlikely to meet our criteria for support.

Based initially on data drawn from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), followed by some further refinement, there are 174 nursing and residential homes in the CPCA area, of which 32 are independently owned. The remaining 142 homes are owned by various groups.

Why we have created this grant programme?

The extreme summer heat we experienced last year is likely to occur more often as a result of climate change; as this becomes a common occurrence in the UK, it will add further pressure on care homes to protect their vulnerable residents, particularly from heat-related health dangers. We recognise the challenges faced by the care industry, particularly following the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, and how difficult it will be to prioritise energy efficiency investment, against other more pressing demands on care homes' finances and resources. We also understand that for many care homes limited resource capacity persists as a major problem, making it harder to find the time and expertise to identify appropriate energy saving measures.

Therefore, we are offering support that specifically addresses the needs of the care sector, to make the transition to an eco-friendly operation easier and more efficient.

Before we launched our scheme, we wanted to gauge interest among those 32 independent care homes to enable us to target our support appropriately. We invited those care homes to complete a brief survey, and register interest in receiving more information regarding our proposed scheme, once it has opened for applications.

What funding is available and how does it work?

There is £2m available from The Mayor's gain share fund. Our proposal is to contribute grant funding towards the targeted care homes' investment in capital projects. The amount of grant available from us will depend on the level of interest from the independently owned nursing and residential care homes and the type of capital projects but we are looking at funding up to 75% of individual total eligible capital project costs. This does not include support towards salary or running costs. Each application will be considered on its own merit and ensuring value for money and reducing carbon emissions will be key factors for success. Only one application per independently owned nursing and residential care home is permitted.

We have tested our methodology and approach with both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough care commissioning teams and made some adjustments as necessary. We will form a steering group to include representatives from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough care commissioning teams and our Net Zero Energy Hub.

What type of capital projects are eligible for support?

Some examples of eligible capital works that can improve energy efficiency and help reduce energy bills and emissions include:

- Renovation or replacement of an inefficient non-fossil fuel heating system
- Renovation or replacement of an inefficient non-fossil fuel hot water system
- Installation of a cooling system
- Installation of solar panels
- Installation of SMART energy controls
- Installation of better loft insulation
- Installation of cavity wall insulation
- Installation of a ground source heat pump and associated piping
- Air source heat pump
- Any equipment for dealing with frequent flooding
- LED lighting
- Infrared lighting

We are keen to support the installation of other alternative systems or measures to those reliant on fossil fuels, such as solar or heat pumps. There may also be an opportunity to consider nature-based solutions (such as cooling effect from trees) rather than technology-based investment (and reducing the need for air-conditioning), although we appreciate that this may be some time into the future before any benefits are realised. Depending on the cost and ease of installation we are focussing on the adoption of alternative non-fossil fuel systems.

How our financial support will benefit eligible Care Homes

By investing in new, state-of-the-art heating and cooling systems and equipment, care homes can expect a reduction in energy costs, potentially enabling a redistribution of finances for investment in other care facility measures and priorities. In addition to cost savings, developing an eco-friendly care home demonstrates to existing and prospective residents support for climate change goals, and a commitment to reducing waste to prioritise resources on care quality.

Successful grant applicants will have the opportunity to feature in any associated publicity that the Combined Authority undertakes, For example, an article in local newspapers about how financial support from the Combined Authority has benefitted several homes, (mentioning them by name), which could lead to more interest in the homes from future clients.



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee

Agenda Item

11

12 June 2023

Title:	Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework
Report of:	Lead Member for Climate and Environment
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	Yes KD2023/022
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:

A	To agree the scope of activity to inform a Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework
B	To allocate the budget of £130k in 2023/24 to the Non-statutory Spatial Framework Approved Budget line of the MTFP to progress this work

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	There are known and emerging physical infrastructure issues that will impact on the achievement of the Strategic Objectives of good growth, connectivity and resilient communities. A workstream is proposed to enhance the evidence base on physical infrastructure and provide a platform to consider and advocate for appropriate strategic interventions. This supports the achievement of individual Councils growth plans and falls within the Combined Authority's Non-statutory Spatial Framework (NSSF) function. The output would be in the form of a Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework (SIDF), which would be a dynamic ongoing process.
1.2	This report asks the Committee to agree the SIDF approach and to allocate budgeted NSSF funding to undertake this activity.

2. Proposal

2.1	It is proposed to develop a dynamic evidence base and framework that assists in the identification of physical infrastructure challenges to achieving sustainable growth, and proposals to tackle those challenges. Over a 12 month period the SIDF would draw together existing infrastructure evidence, identify gaps and interdependences, and scope interventions. Within the first 6 months a baseline position will be established on a selected range of infrastructure themes. External capacity would be commissioned to support the workstream, funded from the allocated NSSF revenue budget.
2.2	The SIDF programme delivers to the Strategic Objectives of good growth, connectivity, and enabling resilient communities. There are already examples (energy and water supply) where sustainable growth ambitions are being adversely impacted in the area. It will enable the Combined Authority to build with partners the case for investment and interventions for creating sustainable places. This is within the wider context of meeting growth needs and the capacity of land to accommodate and adapt to the challenges of growth, taking account of other aspects such as legal duty to enhance biodiversity and the national legal duty to cut emissions.

3. Background

3.1	The Combined Authority has Corporate Objectives for sustainable growth and resilient communities. Achieving sustainable growth in the area will only happen if supporting infrastructure (such as transport, energy or water) is provided at the right time and scale. Provision needs to consider both existing issues and future challenges. Although infrastructure issues are considered through the review of Local Plans and their associated Infrastructure Delivery Plans, actual delivery is the responsibility of a range of organisations under different regulatory approaches. Currently these infrastructure issues are not brought together at the strategic level nor the interdependencies fully explored. This can make it difficult to 'unlock' specific blockages that can delay growth or identify where proposals might be accelerated.
3.2	The Devolution Deal established a role for the Combined Authority to produce a NSSF. Phase 1 of the NSSF was approved in 2018, setting out principles for sustainable growth, including provision of physical infrastructure. Subsequent phases of the NSSF were paused as the government initiated work on a statutory land-use plan for the OxCam Arc, which included the Combined Authority area. The government has since withdrawn its statutory plan approach. This has been replaced with Local authorities leading a Pan-Regional Partnership with an initial focus on the environment and economic issues. This leaves a gap in considering strategic infrastructure needs for the Combined Authority area.
3.3	The Place Advisory Group (as established under revised governance agreed at Board March 2023 with senior officer membership from all Councils) discussed the work needed to scope the main infrastructure challenges and develop a process for keeping that up to date and promoting interventions. This would take the form of a SIDF. It would draw together evidence on the infrastructure challenges (including evidence relating to planned strategic housing sites), look at potential to accelerate solutions and identify gaps where more work is required. In concept it is similar to work by Greater Manchester Combined Authority on their Infrastructure Framework 2040 (link).
3.4	Place Advisory Group have recommended an outline scope for the SIDF, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use existing approved growth (or draft Plans proposed by authorities) as a baseline, extrapolated if needed to assess potential infrastructure barriers over appropriate investment planning cycles; b. Focus on selected priority infrastructure themes (to deliver early recommendations): c. Coordinate with reviews of strategic policy (e.g thematic strategies such as LTCP, Economic Strategy); d. Be resourced with additional capacity; e. Engage with a Task & Finish working group of relevant officers across constituent authorities to progress alongside external support. Place Directors would be the sponsor group.
3.5	The SIDF would consider the following priority infrastructure themes in its initial phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Energy b. Water (public and commercial needs), water environmental quality, and managing flood risk c. Green/Blue Capital

	<p>d. Connectivity (digital)</p> <p>Other infrastructure needs are considered through existing thematic work, for example transport connectivity is a key infrastructure issue but is articulated in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, that has just gone through its formal process of evidence assessment and interventions development. Similarly the Integrated Care Board is looking at health and care infrastructure. These other strategies would feed into the SIDF to provide the overarching framework.</p>
3.6	Although the scope is on physical infrastructure themes, the SIDF is not limited in terms of appropriate interventions and therefore can consider behaviour change or demand management responses.
3.7	The SIDF is envisaged as tackling infrastructure barriers to sustainable growth (as defined in the Corporate Strategy Objectives). The SIDF process would therefore include impacts across the Six Capitals.
3.8	The scope of evidence would include both immediate/short term infrastructure issues that we are already aware of that have the potential to adversely impact growth (such as the water supply for Greater Cambridge or the energy grid capacity/energy security in the Fens) and longer-term issues to require advance planning (flood resilience, low carbon transition). Local Plans have different end dates. The longer-term horizon should at least cover the period to 2041, but 2050 would provide consistency with the national legal duty to reach Net Zero. Policy on the amount and distribution of future growth is not within scope of the SIDF, as that remains the core function of Local Plan reviews.
3.9	A core outcome of the SIDF is to go beyond the identification of infrastructure issues to influence the acceleration of actual infrastructure solutions. These 'system-change' aspects (including funding, procedural or capacity-building) would also provide evidence for the advocate role of the Combined Authority, working alongside public and private sector partners, and feed into discussions on future devolution opportunities. It will complement the Corporate Strategy action to refresh the evidence base through a state of the region review.
3.10	Delivery mechanisms would take account of the Combined Authority's Single Assurance Framework and prioritisation of the Combined Authority's own projects.

4. Appendices

4.1	None.
-----	-------

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The MTFP has £130k in the NSSF Subject to Approval revenue budget line for 23/24 available for this programme.
-----	--

Legal Implications

6.1	None.
-----	-------

Public Health Implications

7.1	Delivery of sustainable growth has major public health benefits (including as a result of access to housing, enhanced employment opportunities and improved environment).
-----	---

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	Strategic Infrastructure solutions can have wider environmental and other benefits, including flood resilience, water management, carbon sequestration and storage. The transition to a low carbon future requires system-change in terms of major utilities, particularly the production and use of energy. The SIDF will explore these issues.
-----	--

Other Significant Implications

9.1	None
-----	------

Background Papers	
10.1	Towards a Sustainable Growth Strategy (NSSF Phase 1), link to document

<p>ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN</p>	<p>Updated on 03 May 2023</p>		 <p>CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY</p>		
---	-----------------------------------	--	---	--	--

Notes

Committee dates shown in bold are confirmed.
Committee dates shown in italics are TBC.

The definition of a key decision is set out in the [Combined Authority Constitution](#) in Chapter 6 – Transparency Rules, Forward Plan and Key Decisions, Point 11.

- * indicates items expected to be recommended for determination by Combined Authority Board
- + indicates items expected to be confidential, which would exclude the press and public.

Draft reports are due with the Democratic Services Officer by 10.00 a.m. eight clear working days before the meeting.
The agenda dispatch date is five clear working days before the meeting.

Standing items are shaded blue and are considered at every Committee meeting:

Committee date	Report	Officer	Key Decision	Ref	Final Deadline for reports	Agenda despatch date
12.06.23	Sustainable Land Use Advice Fund Full Business Case	Steve Cox	No	N/A	23.05.23	02.06.23
	Community Homes Grant Application	Nick Sweeney	No	N/A		

Committee date	Report	Officer	Key Decision	Ref	Final Deadline for reports	Agenda despatch date
	Community Homes Support Service	Nick Sweeney	No	N/A		
	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Adrian Cannard				
	Climate Action Plan					
	Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework					
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update – March 2023	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
10.07.23	Cultural Services				21.06.23	30.06.23
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
	Director's Highlight Report	Steve Cox	No			
11.09.23					23.08.23	01.09.23

Committee date	Report	Officer	Key Decision	Ref	Final Deadline for reports	Agenda despatch date
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update – March 2023	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
	Director's Highlight Report	Steve Cox	No			
13.11.23					25.10.23	03.11.23
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
	Director's Highlight Report	Steve Cox	No			
22.01.24					03.01.23	12.01.24

Committee date	Report	Officer	Key Decision	Ref	Final Deadline for reports	Agenda despatch date
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
	Director's Highlight Report	Steve Cox	No			
11.03.24					21.02.24	01.03.24
	Affordable Housing Programme Delivery Update	Azma Ahmad Pearce	No			
	Affordable Housing Programme Loans Update	Steve Cox	No			
	Minutes of previous meeting and Action Log	Jo Morley	No			
	E&SC Agenda/Work Plan	Jo Morley	No			
	Director's Highlight Report	Steve Cox	No			
17.06.24						



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee

Agenda Item

13

12 June 2023

Title:	Housing Loans Update
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes (except confidential Appendix C)
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required.

Recommendations:

A	The Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee is recommended to note the current position in respect of outstanding loan repayments required to fund the 2021-2022 Affordable Housing Programme.
---	--

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

A	Achieving good growth by contributing towards delivering 900+ homes by 2025.
---	--

1.1 Purpose

1.1	This report seeks to inform Members of the current position concerning receipt of loan repayments that are required to fund the 2021-2022 Affordable Housing Programme.
-----	---

1.2 Proposal

2.1	To update and inform Members of the current position in respect of loan repayments and to inform Members of a decision to extend the Final Repayment Date of a loan made to Histon Road Development LLP.
2.2	The action to extend the duration of the loan to support the development at Histon Rd will avoid an imminent legal dispute and enable work on site to continue. The CPCA's security over the site shall remain as a first legal charge and there shall be no further loan advances. There is clear financial incentive for the Borrower to repay the CPCA loan as soon as possible and the action to extend the term of the loan agreement will minimise disruption to delivery of the housing.

1.3 Background

3.1	<p>As part of the Devolution Deal, the Combined Authority secured funding from Government to deliver an affordable housing programme that ended in March 2021.</p> <p>The Combined Authority's Housing Strategy approved by Board in September 2018 divided the funding into two parts. £60M was allocated for traditional grant funding and £40M was to be used for the then Mayor's plan for a revolving fund to support the delivery of additional affordable housing.</p> <p>The revolving fund initiative committed a total of £51.167M through 5 loans to development companies to fund delivery of 53 affordable units. In August 2020 the Combined Authority's Board approved loan extensions and interest free periods to reflect the detrimental impact upon delivery of projects caused by the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>In March 2021 Government conditionally agreed to a new affordable housing programme for 2021-2022 on the basis that all loan repayments were allocated to support the delivery of additional affordable housing through grant funding.</p>
3.2	<p>The table at Appendix A shows the status of each loan and since the meeting of the Housing and Communities Committee in March 2023 the loan made to support the scheme at the former MoD site in Ely was repaid by 31st March 2023.</p>
3.3	<p>Members are asked to note a decision made by the Chief Executive and reported to the Combined Authority's Board on 31st May 2023 to extend the final repayment date of the loan made to support the development at Histon Road, Cambridge. Documentation relating to the decision can be found appended to this paper.</p>

1.4 Appendices

4.1	<p>A – Summary of loans made from the Affordable Housing Programme</p> <p>B - Board report of 31 May 2023</p> <p>C - Confidential appendix to Officer Decision Notice of 5 May 2023</p>
-----	---

Implications

Internal Audit Implications

5.1	<p>In March 2023 the former Housing and Communities Committee were informed that an initial internal review was planned to look into the governance and processes followed in agreeing and managing loan terms between the Combined Authority and private housing developers. This review has yet to take place and will be undertaken when the matter of the remaining outstanding loan concludes.</p>
-----	---

Financial Implications

6.1	<p>Loans are repaid as a proportion of sale proceeds from each housing unit on completion of sale. The Combined Authority retains an element of control through its requirement to approve each sale prior to completion, and each development is monitored by officers.</p>
6.2	<p>The loan issued to East Cambridgeshire Trading Company for the project at West End Gardens, Haddenham was repaid with interest in January 2023.</p>
6.3	<p>The loan issued to Laragh Homes for the project at Alexander House, Forehill, Ely was repaid with interest in June 2022.</p>
6.4	<p>The loan issued to Laragh Homes for the project at Linton Rd, Great Abington was repaid with interest in January 2022.</p>

6.5	The loan issued to East Cambridgeshire Trading Company for the project to refurbish former MOD homes in Ely was repaid with interest on 31 March 2023.
6.6	The financial balance sheet at Appendix A shows that the outstanding balance of the loan made to support the development at Histon Rd, Cambridge was £8,172,335 on 23 rd May 2023.
Legal Implications	
7.1	The recommendations accord with CPCA's powers under Part 4 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 (SI 2017/251) and with the Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in CPCA's Constitution Chapter 10 para.3.2.9(b).
Public Health Implications	
8.1	There are no associated implications
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
9.1	There are no associated implications
Other Significant Implications	
10.1	There are no associated implications
Background Papers	
11.1	N/A

Housing Loans – update since last Committee

	Position as at 21st February 2023			Activity to 23rd May 2023		
	Drawdowns	Repayments	Balance	Drawdowns	Repayments	Revised Balance
Laragh - Histon Road	7,613,196	-	7,613,196	559,160	-	8,172,355
<i>Completed loans</i>			-			
<i>ECTC - Ely MOD</i>	27,418,305	21,509,928	5,908,378	-	5,908,378	-
<i>ECTC - Haddenham</i>	10,587,481	10,587,481	-	-	-	-
<i>Laragh - Alexander House</i>	4,840,000	4,840,000	-	-	-	-
<i>Laragh - Gt Abingdon</i>	4,746,938	4,746,938	-	-	-	-



Combined Authority Board	Agenda Item
31 May 2023 – Ordinary Meeting	7

Title:	Variation to loan to support residential development at Histon Rd, Cambridge
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required.

Recommendations:

A	Note that the Final Repayment Date of the loan has been extended from 7th May 2023 to 30th September 2023 or earlier.
B	Note that a second loan and a second charge is to be registered against the property that serves as CPCA's security.
C	Note that authority has been delegated to the Monitoring Officer or the Head of Legal Services to finalise terms in consultation with the Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity and complete the necessary documentation to implement the Deed of Priority with the second Lender.

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

A	The proposal will contribute towards achieving good growth as the residential development project qualifies towards completing 900+ homes by 2025
---	---

1. Purpose

1.1	To note the contract variation to the loan facility to support the residential development project at Histon Road, Cambridge. Further, to note the consent to the second legal charge with the second lender.
-----	---

2. Proposal

2.1	<p>The Final Repayment Date of the existing loan facility has been extended to 30th September 2023 or earlier.</p> <p>The interest payable from 7th May 2023 to 31 August 2023 shall be 10.25%.</p> <p>The interest rate payable from 31st August to 30th September and a revised default interest rate shall be 15%.</p>
-----	---

	<p>The existing loan facility shall be varied to prevent any further advances.</p> <p>The Borrower shall be required to meet the cost of appointing the CA's monitoring surveyor throughout the extended period.</p>
2.2	The proposal will contribute towards achieving good growth as the residential development project qualifies towards the objective of completing 900+ homes by 2025

3. Background

3.1	<p>The Combined Authority's Board authorised the grant of a loan to Histon Road Development LLP on 25th March 2020.</p> <p>In August 2020 the Combined Authority's Board authorised a 7-month extension to the loan facility and a 5-month interest free period to mitigate the impacts of Covid 19.</p> <p>The Borrower has asked for the repayment date to be extended as the programme has fallen behind schedule by several months.</p> <p>The circumstances are similar to those of a loan facility that the Combined Authority provided to East Cambridgeshire Trading Company and this facility was repaid on 31st March 2023. That project had also fallen behind schedule, but the developer arranged an alternative facility to repay the loan and interest by the due date.</p> <p>The outstanding balance of the loan on 26th April 2023 was £8,172,292.43 (£8,889,539.63 including interest).</p>
-----	---

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix 1 - ODN 401-2023 Loan Histon Road
-----	--

5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	Funding committed by the loan will not be required to finance affordable housing programme grant commitments until January 2024. If the funds were required before January 2024 alternative funding should be available from the inter local authority market at an interest rate below 15%.
Legal Implications	
6.1	If the contract was not varied, there was a real risk that the properties would not be completed, or further delays would have occurred. This would have also led to reputational damage and potential litigation, receivership and costs. However, varying the contract prevents further delays and non-completion of the properties and secures the loan repayment. A Deed of Priority will be completed to ensure that the CPCA Legal Charge ranks ahead of the Second Lender.
Public Health Implications	
7.1	N/A
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	N/A
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	N/A
Background Papers	
10.1	<p>CA Board 25 Mar 2020</p> <p>CA Board 5 Aug 2020</p>

DECISION NOTICE - OFFICER/ MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

DECISION INFORMATION		
1. DECISION TITLE	To authorise a contract variation to a loan facility to support a residential development project at Histon Road, Cambridge.	
2. DECISION No.	401-2023	
3. DECISION DATE	05/05/23	
4. FORM AUTHOR	Nick Sweeney nick.sweeney@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk	
5. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION	<p>Change the Final Repayment Date of the loan from 7th May 2023 to 30th September 2023 or earlier.</p> <p>Consent to a second loan and a second charge being registered against the property that serves as CPCA's security.</p> <p>Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer or the Head of Legal Services to agree any final terms in consultation with the Interim Executive Director of Place and Connectivity and complete the necessary documentation to implement the variation.</p>	
6. AUTHORITY FOR DECISION	The Interim Chief Executive hereby exercises powers under Chapter 17, Rule 4.8 - To take any action which is required as a matter of urgency in consultation (where practicable) with the Mayor, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer, and in accordance with the Transparency Rules, Forward Plan and Key Decisions (Chapter 6 - Transparency Rules, Forward Plan and Key Decisions).	
7. DECISION TYPE	Officer	
8. DECISION OWNER	Gordon Mitchell, Interim Chief Executive	
9. KEY DECISION INFORMATION	FORWARD PLAN DATE	N/A
	FORWARD PLAN NUMBER	N/A
	DATE OF DECISION	April 2023
	DATE REPORT PUBLISHED	April 2023
	APPROVAL HYPERLINK	CA Board 25 March 2020 5 August 2020
	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	
	EXEMPT INFO/ ANNEX	

DECISION NOTICE - OFFICER/ MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

DECISION OVERVIEW		
10. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS	<p>The outstanding balance of the loan on 26th April 2023 was £8,172,292.43 (£8,889,539.63 including interest).</p> <p>The Final Repayment Date of the existing loan facility is to be extended to 30th September 2023 or earlier.</p> <p>The interest payable from 7th May 2023 to 31 August 2023 shall be 10.25%. The interest rate payable from 31st August to 30th September and a revised default interest rate shall be 15%.</p> <p>The existing loan facility shall be varied to prevent any further advances.</p> <p>The Borrower shall be required to meet the cost of appointing the CA's monitoring surveyor throughout the extended period.</p>	
11. PROJECT BACKGROUND	<p>The Combined Authority's Board authorised the grant of a loan to Histon Road Development LLP on 25th March 2020.</p> <p>In August 2020 the Combined Authority's Board authorised a 7-month extension to the loan facility and a 5-month interest free period to mitigate the impacts of Covid 19.</p> <p>The Borrower has asked for the repayment date to be extended as the programme has fallen behind schedule by several months.</p> <p>The circumstances are similar to those of a loan facility that the Combined Authority provided to East Cambridgeshire Trading Company and this facility was repaid on 31st March 2023. That project had also fallen behind schedule, but the developer arranged an alternative facility to repay the loan and interest by the due date.</p> <p>A detailed briefing note is included in a confidential Annex A.</p>	
12. FINANCE INFORMATION	VALUE OF DECISION	
	BUDGET CODE(S)	
	BUDGET DESCRIPTION(S)	
	FUNDING TYPE	
	FUNDING APPROVAL	<p>The initial loan was approved by CA Board 25th March 2020.</p> <p>A variation was approved by CA Board on 5th August 2020.</p>
	FUNDS AVAILABLE	£


DECISION NOTICE - OFFICER/ MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

	OTHER COMMENTS	Funding committed by the loan will not be required to finance affordable housing programme grant commitments until January 2024. If the funds were required before January 2024 alternative funding should be available from the inter local authority market at an interest rate below 15%.
13. PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS	DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION	N/A
	REGULATION RISKS	
	VFM JUSTIFICATION	
14. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	LEGAL RISKS	If the contract was not varied, there was a real risk that the properties would not be completed, or further delays would have occurred. This would have also led to reputational damage and potential litigation, receivership and costs. However, varying the contract prevents further delays and non-completion of the properties and secures the loan repayment.
	CONTRACT/ GRANT INFORMATION	
15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/ MITIGATION	N/A	
16. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	A detailed briefing note is included in a confidential Annex A.	
17. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION	Annex A	
DECISION APPROVAL/ CONSULTATION		
PROCUREMENT	NAME	N/A
	DATE	
	COMMENT	

DECISION NOTICE - OFFICER/ MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

FINANCE	NAME	Nick Bell
	DATE	5 th May 2023
	COMMENT	The proposed extension to the repayment date of the loan helps to protect the security of CPCA's loan and is considered to provide best value for CPCA given the circumstances pertaining to the development.
LEGAL	NAME	Edwina Adefehinti
	DATE	5.5.2023
	COMMENT	I am satisfied that this decision has been duly taken in accordance with Chapter 17 , Rule 4.8 of the constitution which authorises the CEO to take any action which is required as a matter of urgency in consultation (where practicable) with the Mayor, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer, and in accordance with the Transparency Rules, Forward Plan and Key Decisions.
CHIEF OFFICER/ DIRECTOR	NAME	Steve Cox, Interim Director of Place and Connectivity
	DATE	05.05.2023
	COMMENT	
OVERALL APPROVAL		
DECISION MAKER	NAME	Gordon Mitchell, Interim Chief Executive
	DATE	05/05/2023
	COMMENT	Approved. 