



Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
22 January 2024	5

Title:	Place & Connectivity Directorate Monthly Highlight Report: January 2024
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director – Place & Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	Note the content of this report.
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
x	Enabling resilient communities
x	Achieving best value and high performance

1. Purpose

1.1	This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Place and Connectivity Directorate in relation to Environment and Sustainable Communities, which are not covered in other reports to this Meeting. It also provides information on some key developments, risks and opportunities that have emerged.
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2. Combined Authority scheme updates

2.1	Care Homes Retrofit Following the November Committee additional work has been undertaken to promote the scheme. There are now 4 applications received, 1 imminent and other active enquiries made. Peterborough Council are also testing if local networks (not local authority) might overcome some of the perceived barriers to engagement. If all the current applications were to proceed then approximately £500k of investment (£250k of CPCA grant) would be deployed, with further if the additional contacts turn into applications. A deadline of end of January has been set for current applications. The review of the scheme will be brought to the March Committee.
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2.2	<p>Infrastructure Delivery Framework update</p> <p>Consultants Stantec Ltd are underway with the Infrastructure Delivery Framework project. Data on development sites is being sourced from councils and utility stakeholders contacted. During February the consultants will be testing their multi-criteria analysis with the Steering Group and the Place Directors Group. This work will identify the major barriers to delivering sustainable growth as set out in Local Plans. The consultants are aware of the other work underway both by the Combined Authority on the State of the Region Review and the government's Cambridge 2040 concept.</p> <p>The outputs will raise awareness of the extent of investment and sustainable growth being held back due to infrastructure constraints or costs linked to specific sites, or the cumulative impact of growth on strategic issues, such as water and energy supply. A further update will be provided to Committee in March.</p>
2.3	<p>Housing site completions:</p> <p>MAN GPM site in Alconbury Weald, Huntingdonshire completed 94 units, with a mixture of affordable rented and shared ownership homes, and held a celebratory completion on 1 December 2023.</p> <p>Eight new homes were handed over by Vistry to CKH at the British Sugar Way site on the 4 Jan 2024. Contractual disputes with Vistry are still pending, however the handover matters have been agreed, and the whole site should eventually be delivered at the end of January 2024.</p> <p><u>Cross Keys Homes</u></p> <p>Construction on Northminster is progressing well. The roof is now complete on Block A, and Blocks C and B are due to finish soon.</p> <p><u>Sage</u></p> <p>Construction of 118 homes at Wisbech Road, March, has near 70 units built with a further 50+ to start from foundation level.</p> <p><u>Cross Keys Homes</u></p> <p>The Perkins site has issues with a road audit, and this is now with PCC to come to a reasonable conclusion. Until the road audit issue has been determined the site cannot be completed.</p>

3. Strategic Partner scheme updates

3.1	<p>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects update</p> <p><u>Sunnica Solar Farm.</u></p> <p>On 8 December the Secretary of State re-set the statutory deadline for taking a decision on the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm from 7 December 2023 to 7 March 2024. Additional information has been requested from the applicant on Landscape Impact, and Natural England on the Breckland Special Protection Area (stone curlews).</p> <p><u>Fenland Reservoir.</u></p> <p>Following its first consultation in 2022, Anglian Water is continuing with the technical design of the reservoir, ahead of the second of three consultation phases in 2024. The application is expected to be submitted in 2025.</p> <p><u>Cambridge Waste Water Treatment relocation.</u></p> <p>Currently in the six-month examination phase of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process which began in October 2023.</p>
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4. Appendices

4.1	None
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	None
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Legal Implications

6.1	None
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Public Health Implications

7.1	None
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	Neutral
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Other Significant Implications

9.1	None
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Background Papers

10.1	None
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