



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 4.4

## Market Towns Programme Investment Prospectus – Approval of Fifth Tranche of Recommended Projects and Change Request for Huntingdonshire Funding Timeline Extension

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 30 June 2021

Public report: Yes

This report contains two appendices which are exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in publishing the appendices.

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: John T Hill, Director of Business & Skills

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD 2021/019

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) Approve project proposals received under the Market Towns Programme and in response to town centre Covid-19 recovery from Fenland District Council to the sum of £1,071,021; and
- b) Approve the request received from Huntingdonshire District Council to extend the funding timeline to March 2023 for the remaining £802,150 allocated to the towns of Huntingdon and St Ives.

Voting arrangements: A simple majority of all Members

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Combined Authority (CA) Board approval of the fifth tranche of project proposals received from Fenland District Council under the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Market Towns Programme, and to seek approval of a change request received from Huntingdonshire District Council to extend funding timelines for the towns of Huntingdon and St Ives.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Combined Authority is providing capital investment to mobilise each town masterplan and to act as a funding catalyst to securing additional investment. A total of £10m Combined Authority capital was allocated to support the delivery and implementation of approved Market Town Masterplans (in addition to £3.1m of funding already allocated to St Neots). The 10 market town masterplans are from St Ives, Huntingdon, Ramsey, Wisbech, March, Chatteris, Whittlesey, Ely, Soham and Littleport.
- 2.2 Combined Authority funding is provisionally shared across these 10 market towns, with district authority leads able to bid for up to £1m of capital funding for each town. Proposals have been invited to support the mobilisation of each Masterplan and against activities which address the needs and those interventions identified as required to drive targeted growth and regeneration of each town.
- 2.3 All proposals are independently appraised where the strategic need, economic and commercial case is assessed against an agreed set of appraisal metrics. Appraised applications are scored based on programme criteria set and must achieve a minimum pass mark to be recommended for CA Board approval.
- 2.4 To date, there have been four funding calls under the CPCA Market Towns Programme (September 2020, November 2020, January 2021 and March 2021) resulting in 42 projects being approved by the CA Board, awarding a total of £9,795,327 in grant funding (and bringing in an additional £11,315,444 of match investment).

## 3. June 2021 Funding Call

- 3.1 The following 2 bids in the June 2021 funding call, have been independently assessed and are recommended for approval. The proposal summary matrix is included as Exempt Appendix 1 which sets out the assessment report and appraisal recommendations:

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	CPCA GRANT AMOUNT	MATCH FUNDING
<b>Fenland</b>			
Community Hub at Wisbech Park	To support the development of a new community hub facility within Wisbech Park to help widen the community appeal of the park, encourage more events and attract new users.	£299,200	£255,000 (Cambridgeshire County Council/Wisbech TC)

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	CPCA GRANT AMOUNT	MATCH FUNDING
Chatteris Museum & Community Space	To support the development of a new museum and community space for the town of Chatteris.	£771,821	£34,851 (Chatteris TC)
<b>Total funding requested (June 21)</b>		<b>£1,071,021</b>	<b>£289,851</b>

3.2 All Market Towns funding is to be fully allocated and the FINAL tranche of project proposals for approval by the CA Board in July 2021. The total funding awarded to date and remaining budget allocations against each town is as follows:

Town	Total Funding Approved (to date from allocation)	CA Board - June 21	Remaining Allocation (July 21)
St Ives	£620,125		£379,875
Huntingdon	£577,725		£422,275
Ramsey	£1,000,000		£0
Wisbech	£700,800	£299,200	£0
March	£1,000,000		£0
Whittlesey	£1,000,000		£0
Chatteris	£228,179	£771,821	£0
Ely	£656,000		£344,000
Soham	£600,000		£400,000
Littleport			£1,000,000
St Neots			£3,100,000
	<b>£6,382,829</b>	<b>£1,071,021</b>	<b>£5,646,150</b>

## 4. Huntingdonshire Project Change Request

4.1 Huntingdonshire District Council have requested that the remaining CPCA Market Town Funds (£802,150) are ringfenced to allow for a set of firm proposals to CA Board in Q4 (2021/22) and thereafter extending final project expenditure to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023. The project change request report received is included as Exempt Appendix 2.

4.2 The reprofiling of this expenditure will:

- Allow the completion of the master-planning / feasibility / business cases to be undertaken to fully test the sustainability of these longer-term projects. We are confident that the current £300k allocation (£100k per each of the three towns) for such studies will provide robust reports that include costed long term regeneration projects.
- Provide greater insight into potential projects by taking the learning from most recent evidence (GHD reports and master planning/feasibility work as set out above) and consultation exercises to inform future regeneration plans for the towns of Ramsey, St

Ives and Huntingdon.

## Significant Implications

### 5. Financial Implications

5.1 Approval is requested for £1,071,021.

5.2 There are Combined Authority funds approved in the MTFP budget of £500k for 2020/21, with an additional £9.5m CPCA capital allocated in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Payments to fund approved projects will be subject to the conditions as set out in the assessment report being met and signed funding agreement in place.

### 6. Legal Implications

6.1 None

### 7. Other Significant Implications

7.1 The Market Towns Programme is a substantial commitment being made between the Combined Authority and the local areas, with scope for significant impacts on the growth of the local sub-economies. Successful delivery will have positive benefits to residents, community groups, and businesses and workers within the CPCA area.

### 8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 (Exempt) – Project Assessment Summary Report (June 2021)

8.2 Appendix 2 (Exempt) – Project Change Request Report (Huntingdonshire District Council)

### 9. Background Papers

9.1 None