

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Agenda Item No: | 6 |  |
| Committee: | Overview & Scrutiny | |
| Date: | 28 November 2016 | |
| Report Title: | Progress in Delivering the Economy Business Plan Objectives 2016-2017 | |

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

This report sets out the Council's progress in delivering the Economy related business plan objectives from April 2016 to October 2016. This is to ensure that members have the most up to date information possible.

2 Key issues

Particular successes are:

- Successful delivery of superfast broadband to nearly 14,000 homes across Fenland.
- Occupancy rates for the Council's Business estates are increasing, with South Fens Enterprise Park reaching 100% this year.
- Development of Lot 3 on the Nene Waterfront project, with residents beginning to move in.
- 107 new affordable homes delivered.
- Significant work is ongoing to develop Broad Concept Plans with landowners across the district.
- Successful £2 million bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Wisbech High Street improvements and regeneration.
- Successful £350k bid for engineering and feasibility studies for Manea and Whittlesea railway stations.
- Completion of the Sutton Bridge Marina moorings.
- Planning performance achieving 82% for major applications, 88% for minor applications and 96% for others.
- 8 sites sold via auction disposals, providing capital income to the Council.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Panel considers the progress made by the Council in delivering the corporate objectives in the Business Plan.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Wards Affected | All |
| Forward Plan Reference | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Portfolio Holder(s) | Councillor Ralph Butcher, Portfolio Holder for Growth Councillor Simon King, Portfolio Holder for Equalities and Transport Councillor Will Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Planning |
| Report Originator(s) And Contact Officer (s) | Gary Garford - Corporate Director garygarford@fenland.gov.uk Rob Bridge - Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer robbridge@fenland.gov.uk |
| Background Paper(s) | Business Plan 2016-2019 |

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Update against the Economy Business Plan Priorities

April 2016 to October 2016

Cabinet Members



**Councillor
Ralph Butcher**
Cabinet Member for
Growth



**Councillor
Will Sutton**
Cabinet Member for
Neighbourhood
Planning



**Councillor
Simon King**
Cabinet Member for
Equalities & Transport

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs, and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Work with Opportunity Peterborough to deliver outcomes related to the Economic Development Strategy, including targeting new investment in key growth sectors

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

Project

Economic Development Strategy

The delivery of the Economic Development Strategy encompasses an agreed action plan delivered in conjunction with Opportunity Peterborough. So far this year a series of key assessments and documents have been completed, which include:

- Fenland Economic Intelligence Report - May 2016
 - Providing a baseline assessment of the economy, skills and population statistics influencing the District.
 - Summarises the key employment sectors, employers, qualifications and economic activity in Fenland.
- Fenland Annual Business Survey – Results Report - May 2016
 - 76 respondents provided invaluable data and insight into the challenges and opportunities of operating a business within the District.
 - Questions were worded to maximise the value of the feedback in both closed and open formats.
 - The responses have been used to establish trends and gaps where support can be provided or improved.
- FDC Economic Development Plan - June 2016
 - Holistic review of existing Economic Development Strategy 2012, which brings together newly acquired intelligence from the Economic Intelligence Report & Annual Business Survey.
 - The Economic Development Plan sets a practical and deliverable plan focussing on key areas as outlined below.
- Economic Development Communication Audit & Plan – July 2016
 - An internal review and assessment of FDC's existing Economic Development communications approach and marketing information.
 - Provides a gap analysis and plan to address existing weaknesses and create new marketing opportunities.

With the completion of these valuable assessments, the delivery of the plan is moving

from the data collection and evaluation phase into the practical delivery phase. The business intelligence is being used to focus on the following key areas, together with examples of the actions we will take:

- **Education & Skills - Linking education and skills with business by forming more strategic links between schools-colleges-business and raising standards.**
 - Work with the Skills Service to ensure entrepreneurs are inspiring students in schools.
 - Promote the Skills Service and develop leads through business meetings, FDC Business Ambassadors, The Boathouse and South Fens Business Centre, and partner organisations.
 - Particular focus on those businesses related to high demand skills, as per available labour market information, and those identified as having growth potential.
 - Provide advice, guidance and introductions to encourage businesses to create apprenticeships.
- **Inward Investment – Creating a more proactive approach to inward investment – retail, business, premises, infrastructure and money;**
 - Develop relationships with UKTI Account Managers responsible for foreign-owned businesses in Fenland, ensuring that FDC becomes a key partner in the account management team.
 - Identify, engage and support foreign-owned businesses not currently managed by UKTI.
 - Identify and engage appropriate intermediaries in order to develop investment leads. Developing sector-based propositions for intermediaries and potential investors.
 - Develop a promotional package regarding FDCs assets identified for disposal or development, for potential developers and investors.
 - Identify and engage retail targets.
 - Identify opportunities, including funding, to support arts, entertainment and recreation within Fenland to drive tourism.
- **Attracting Funding - Explore and prepare funding bids, developing a pipeline of projects which would benefit from grant funding;**
 - Develop a package of projects for Fenland that require funding and proactively identify funding in order to deliver those projects.
 - Utilise systems, such as 'Grantfinder' to raise awareness of funding streams and maximise awareness to both businesses through social media and to internal service teams.
 - Work with businesses and internal service teams to help develop robust business cases, which are better aligned to funding objectives and outputs.

- Continue to support the delivery of Fens LEADER programme, assessing grants applications which directly benefit Fenland-based businesses.
- **Broadband – Supporting the roll out and take up of Superfast Broadband across the District;**
 - Represent the views of business, and work with all stakeholders, in order to overcome physical and digital infrastructure barriers.
 - Support ongoing initiatives such as Connecting Cambridgeshire delivery improved digital connectivity across the District.
- **Raising the Profile of Fenland - Improving the marketing and profile of Fenland as an attractive place to work & live;**
 - Explore opportunities to provide co-working space with The Boathouse and the South Fens Business Centre.
 - Hold a quarterly roundtable for 10 representative businesses and the relevant Cabinet Member.
- **Business Support - Support existing networks to provide improved local business support. Gathering better intelligence on the needs of the area, its sectors and businesses.**
 - Improve engagement with businesses through the use of social media and in signposting sources of support for start-ups such as Signpost2Grow and ICAEW.
 - Promote business membership organisations such as Chambers of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses.
 - Work with partners to provide workshops identified as useful or in demand by local businesses.
 - Use the FDC Business Ambassadors programme to ensure that FDC departments are responsive to, and supportive of, the needs of business; creating an enabling culture.
 - Identify businesses with growth potential and introduce them to growth orientated support such as Cambridge Network's School for Scale-ups and Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses programme.
 - Support manufacturing businesses through inclusion in the Greater Peterborough Manufacturing Association/West Anglia Manufacturing Association.

Under the heading of each key focus, the actions we will take have been developed to ensure that resources are concentrated in the most efficient and effective manner to support sustainable economic growth across the district.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Provide and facilitate proactive business support, along with our partners, to encourage business growth and develop higher skills

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

Project

Support initiatives that deliver employer-led skills development

Please see update on page 33.

Project

Fenland Business Engagement & Profile Enhancement

With the support of Opportunity Peterborough, the Economic Development Team has been able to engage much more closely with Fenland businesses. Initial work has included meeting with around 20 key stakeholders to understand the current economic development offer in Fenland and how FDC could shape its service to support businesses. Further work has included preparing a SWOT analysis and critical review of the existing Economic Development Strategy and in June 2016, conducting the first of a new annual Fenland Business Survey with 76 respondents taking time to complete the survey.

Recent progress has included meeting with the UK Trade & Investment Officer responsible for large businesses in Cambridgeshire to establish better links and shared communications. In addition invitations have been extended to Fenland-based manufacturing businesses to attend the Peterborough Manufacturing Association meetings.

The Council's Economic Development digital platform – the 'Fenland for Business' website has been reviewed, content is being re-focussed and the website will shortly be updated to reflect recommendations to make it more user friendly, informative and to enable FDC to capture enquiry data more effectively. In future the

improvements will ensure that valuable data is captured from website visitors and can be used to tailor the advice and guidance provider and enable Officers to proactively follow leads.

The team are also focussing on branding and profile of the 'Fenland for Business' proposition to create a more memorable and functional business support service.

So far this year Officers have engaged with 10 inward investment enquires, from businesses situated outside of the district and indeed outside of the country. Enquiries range from innovative tyre recycling solutions to traditional marketing businesses seeking space to grow and premises to occupy.

Our Economic Development Officers continue to engage with local businesses to develop a network of contacts and capture local activities and intelligence. Part of developing a greater local network has included Officers meeting with all key local intermediaries: businesses such as accountants; commercial property agents and banks to explore and discuss their interactions with local Fenland businesses and what opportunities for data and intelligence sharing might exist.

Project

Business Ambassadors

The Council has numerous 'customer facing' teams who are already engaging directly with businesses in Fenland, these include Planning, Licencing, Food Hygiene and the Business Premises Teams to name a few. It recognised that the Council is not maximising the benefit of these established relationships with limited knowledge sharing between Teams.

With the aim of unifying the promotion of Economic Development across Fenland, FDC will shortly be launching a network of Economic Development Ambassadors to support the business community and to develop a wealth of business experience and knowledge through existing teams within the council, which will enable an effective referral and signposting service, adding much greater value to Fenland's businesses.

Objectives

The Business Ambassadors initiative will seek to:

- Develop a network of Fenland Economic Development Ambassadors that can be the advocates for the Fenland Business Community;
- Utilise existing engagement/relationships between FDC teams and the business community;

- To work closely with the Fenland Business Community to drive new opportunities and innovation;
- To support the network, improvements will be made to the existing Fenland for Business website (www.fenlandforbusiness.co.uk) which will provide contextual support to the initial information provided, with links onto all relevant services etc.;
- Develop a network to disseminate information through, supported by the website and social media;
- Become the central point for economic development enquiries, the Ambassadors will be a virtual network used to capture the day to day interactions with business without creating additional work.

Benefits to Fenland

In launching the Business Ambassadors initiative, the project will:

- Maximise knowledge sharing and business intelligence through interactions with existing customer facing teams;
- Utilise limited resources in a much more effective manner to offer a service to businesses in Fenland and those wanting to move into Fenland;
- Develop a cohesive approach, which is very cost effective to the Council;
- Develop a network to share knowledge and information to increase awareness of economic development activities in Fenland;
- Reduce 'over engagement' with businesses (single initial point of contact), and share resources to between FDC officers;
- Provide a more strategic oversight of business activity within the district;
- Capture info/data which has not previously been collected;
- Centralise the collection of intelligence & enquiries, enabling the interrogation of data, helping to develop future plans and strategies to deliver improved services.

Implementation

It is recognised that Officer time is valuable and that creating additional, onerous obligations will not generate the 'buy in' required capturing this valuable data.

Following the initial launch and 'bedding in' period, support from the Economic Development Team will be offered by Economic Development Officers. Once the process of data capture and referrals is established there will be a reduction in the day-to-day support required by the Business Ambassadors as they begin to feedback

their business intelligence to the Economic Development Team.

Project

Agri-Tech Bid

Officers are engaged with supporting the development and submission of an Agri-Tech Skills Centre bid to the LEP. The Agri-Tech centre will be centred on providing a facility in Chatteris for the upskilling and training of agricultural sector employees.

The project is being led by Produce World and the local GCGP LEP supported by Fenland District Council, innovative agricultural research enterprises and leading agricultural businesses within the sub-regional supply chain.

The LEP and Produce World are developing a more virtual agri-tech approach by joining up relevant businesses to meet and network across the region rather than a specific building, which achieves the purpose of

Project

Connecting Cambridgeshire – Superfast Broadband

The Connecting Cambridgeshire programme has successfully delivered the first phase of the superfast fibre broadband rollout and has announced further phases to ensure no community misses out. The programme is working with BT and Open Reach to find the best solutions to connect as many homes and businesses as possible with high speed fibre broadband.

Phase One

Fibre broadband access delivered to over 100,000 homes and businesses across the county - that would not have been able to get it otherwise. The roll-out is on track to reach at least 95% by the end of 2017, and making plans for the final '5%' High take-up is averaging over 33% with over 50% upgrading in some rural villages - among the highest in the country due to strong community engagement.

Fenland District Area

- 13,900 homes and businesses that would not have been able to get it otherwise can upgrade to high speed fibre broadband
- More commercial coverage than in other parts of the county including BT and Virgin Media – around March, Wisbech and Chatteris.

- Take-up in some Fenland areas is lower than average – below 20% in March West, Clarkson, Medworth, Peckover (Wisbech), Wenneye (Chatteris) wards reflecting economic deprivation.
- The Council will work with Connecting Cambridgeshire to jointly improve take up and cover poor coverage areas in Fenland Wards with higher take up include: Benwick, Coates and Eastrea (43%) Doddington and Wimblington (36%) and Elm and Christchurch (28%)

Phase Two

Extending fibre network to 6,000 more properties in harder to reach areas – spring 2016 to summer 2017 – to deliver superfast broadband to at least 95% of premises, using additional Government funding and BT investment to prioritise community clusters.

Fenland District Area

- 704 more premises in Fenland in Phase 2 – 60% already covered. Most of the remaining premises are in March (36%), some in Elm, Whittlesey and Wisbech.
- Areas with known speed and coverage issues being investigated by BT: Coldham (Elm), Parson Drove, Gorefield, Friday bridge, Elm, Benwick – EO lines – change request raised, Tydd St Giles – cross border cabinet in Lincs – change request raised

Phase Three

Planning has started to close the gaps and reduce the 'final 5%' by 2020 to ensure no community misses out – however, these premises are more geographically dispersed, so harder to reach requiring more costly solutions.

This will be funded through the reinvestment of BT gain-share £5.3million – clawback as result of the high take up over 20% + underspend on phase 1 delivery.

Business support in Fenland

In Fenland, Government and EU funded business schemes have helped businesses to improve broadband connections, buy technology and gain digital skills, including:

- Destination Digital business support scheme (ERDF funded) – 23 Fenland businesses received grants for digital products and services, and training.
- DCMS Connection Vouchers scheme – low number of Fenland businesses applied despite widespread promotion
- Women and Broadband schemes – funded by the Government Equalities Office – e.g. Penelope Club - Wisbech women's business network

Residential fibre optic access

Virgin Media plans to expand its fibre optic network to 19,000 homes and businesses in the Fenland area as part of its pledge to bring better connectivity and top-notch TV to 17 million premises by the end of 2019. Work has already begun in the March area, and will also extend to the villages of Wimblington and Doddington and the market town of Chatteris, with completion expected by spring 2017.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Proactively engage with the Greater Cambridge, Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to attract external funding (including European) for business, skills and infrastructure projects to Fenland

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

Project

LEP Engagement & Funding Activity

A positive relationship exists between FDC and LEP, with recognition of Fenlands socio-economic demographics along with the challenges it faces.

Joint work is progressing to focus on skills and inward investment along with the recent launch of a business support portal and highlighting funding opportunities.

Under the pending Growth Deal Round 3 projects – 7 bids for Fenland have been put forward to LEP:

- 3 transport related consisting of Market Towns, Railways stations and March junction which are joint bids from CCC/FDC.
- The fast tracking urban extensions to take a proactive approach to Brood Concept Plans across the District
- A GRIP 3 bid for March-Wisbech rail which is led by CCC
- Further bid for Wisbech access study capital works in addition to current £10.5m
- Wisbech Enterprise Park – infrastructure to facilitate homes and jobs
- Energy and Utilities Skills Centre Wisbech bid submitted by CWA
- Government is currently considering the overall LEP bid via themes following which specific projects will be assessed.

The LEP has already approved £349,000 to help build a business case for rail station improvements across Fenland to improve train capacity and increase train stops to enable improved rail connectivity.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Promote and develop our business premises at South Fens, The Boathouse and our light industrial estates to encourage investment, job creation and skills diversification

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|--|--------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC5 % occupancy of business premises estate | 90% | 89.6% | 89.6% | |

South Fens Business Centre:

Six additional office have been let at South Fens since April which includes;

- Four units to three new businesses
- Two units to existing customers expanding their businesses

Centre Occupancy April 2016: **53%** October 2016: **63%**

Boathouse Business Centre:

Four additional offices have been let at the Boathouse Business Centre sin April which includes:

One to a new business, in the newly created office in space formerly occupied by Marine services.

Three to existing customers expanding their businesses

Centre Occupancy April 2016: **67%** October 2016: **79%**

South Fens Enterprise Park:

Two new businesses have taken leases at the Enterprise park since April - 100% occupancy.

A notable achievement was the 'back to back' letting of Unit 4, which meant that we had continuity of occupation when the old tenant left and the new tenant moved in.

Estate Occupancy April 2016: **76%** October 2016: **100%**

Current floor space occupied 7,756 sqm out of 8,660 sqm

| | Available Floor Space (m2) | Occupied Floor Space (m2) | Occupancy (%) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| South Fens Business Centre | 1,384 | 876 | 63.3% |
| South Fens Enterprise Park | 1,171 | 1,171 | 100.0% |
| Boathouse Business Centre | 949 | 748 | 78.8% |
| Light Industrial Units | 5,156 | 4,961 | 96.2% |
| Total | 8,660 | 7,756 | 89.6% |

What do our customers say?

| Description | Baseline | Target 16/17 | No of customers who responded | No of customers satisfied | % 16/17 | Variance |
|---|----------|--------------|---|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| LPI EC6 % of customers satisfied with our business estates | | | 24 responses received (43 surveys issued) | 22 | 100 | |

An annual tenant satisfaction survey is undertaken in October of each financial year, 43 surveys were sent out to tenants at South Fens and the Boathouse Business Centres, of which 24, (56%) took the opportunity to complete them.

100% of those who responded were satisfied with the service provided of which 92% rate the service as very good or excellent. Examples of which include:

- The staff are all very helpful and friendly and deal with requests very promptly
- Reception always friendly and welcoming
- Excellent reception team and staff, always willing to help my team and customers
- The team aim for high standards which is evident every day
- The staff provide the facilities that I require in a prompt way
- All current staff are courteous and helpful
- The business centre staff are very welcoming and will go above and beyond when helping with enquiries

There are a few helpful suggestions that have been made which will consider further

as a result of this survey, the survey closed on 31 October 2016:

- Rent receipts sundry debtor invoices to be sent out electronically – this will be discussed with colleagues in our accountancy team with a view to implementing quickly if possible.
- Improved on site vending facilities at both sites – costings to be sought to install bean to cup style hot drinks machines and a new snack machine at South Fens.
- Updating of toilet facilities at South Fens Business Centre – we will look to include this in our planned maintenance programme.
- Continue with the excellent refurbishment works that have been carried out in the public areas and conference rooms, in particular tenant corridors – we have planned to look at these areas during 2017/2018.

| Description | Baseline | Target 16/17 | No of customer surveys completed questioned | No of customers satisfied | % 16/17 | Variance |
|--|----------|--------------|---|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| Performance Measure LPI (BE3) % conference customer satisfaction with our Business Centres | 0 | | 77 | 100% | | |

Feedback is invited from all of our conference users at the Business Centres and 77 have taken the time to complete our questionnaire since April 2016.

100% of those who responded were satisfied with the service provided, of which 92% of respondents rate the service as very good or excellent and feedback received complimented the team on our excellent customer service skills, other positive comments centred around:

- Ease of booking
- Flexibility of staff during a booking
- Excellent presentation of the room
- Communication throughout the whole process; from booking to the day of the event.

We had three comments which required us taking action which were resolved quickly,

they included:

- Cleanliness of the building at the Boathouse – resolved the same day with our cleaning contractor.
- Quality of food provided for a buffet at South Fens – spoke with the supplier and asked to amend the menu slightly in the future to make more suitable.
- IT connectivity in conference room at South Fens – our in-house IT provided a troubleshooting session with the team to improve training and resolve issues at the point of contact.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: **Economy**

Business Plan Priority: **Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland**

Business Plan Action: ***Promote the delivery of mixed use housing / retail / leisure / maritime proposal for the Nene Waterfront, along with the delivery of our wider regeneration objectives***

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Ralph Butcher**

Project

Nene Waterfront Project

The development of the NWF site has been a long-held ambition for the Council, seeking to regenerate a neglected area of redundant commercial and port-related land. The final phase of the regeneration project is for FDC to seek the construction of a mixed-use development scheme, including the construction of high quality, sustainable urban housing, together with leisure, retail and commercial provision over the site.

Following the financial crisis which derailed the Taylor Wimpey deal in 2008, FDC has continued to deliver a number of other elements of the waterfront regeneration project, many of these elements included S.106 Planning Obligations and site remediation. These works have significantly improved the appeal of the site to the development industry, creating a site that is considered 'spade-ready'.

In 2013, development ambitions were again reignited following the agreement, by the Council, to dispose of Lot 3 to local developer - GB Construction Partnership Ltd.

Lot 3 development progress

Development of Lot 3, the former gas works site, continues to make great progress. 24 social houses have now been transferred to the developer and subsequently onto Circle Housing who have welcomed the first residents to the site. Construction of the remaining 46 market houses on Lot 3 continues at a pace, with piling and foundations being laid, whilst other units have been roofed in preparation for the installation of doors and windows. The first Market dwellings have been officially confirmed 'wind & watertight' which will enable the properties to shortly be transferred to the developer.

Marketing of these properties has also now commenced, with local agents appointed to offer these houses to the market.



First 'wind and watertight' market dwellings at NWF





Future NWF direction

Buoyed by the confidence of an improving housing market, Officers have continued to explore both traditional and more innovative methods of development and disposal on the remaining NWF sites. These have included meeting with other parties who are currently driving forward Joint Venture developments, assessing bespoke development options, the creation of Special Purpose vehicles to drive development and hold assets to establish an income stream or resorting to traditional disposal methods to release land to active developers.

The research of options has enabled Officers to begin developing a brief to assist with the re-focussing of the Council's development ambitions for the remaining lots at the NWF site, along with other key Council land holdings, in the context of shaping a solution which works in light of current market activity and conditions and realises potential revenue streams to FDC.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Deliver a proactive and effective Marine Service to meet our statutory obligations and promote business opportunities for the River Nene environment

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC7 % occupancy of Wisbech Yacht Harbour | 87% | 94% | 86 Berths Occupied | |

April – Oct 2016

| | April | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| TOTAL VESSELS BERTHED | 77 | 80 | 77 | 80 | 81 | 83 | 81 |
| % of Target | 91% | 94% | 91% | 94% | 95% | 98% | 95% |

April – Oct 2015

| | April | May | June | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-----------------------|-------|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| TOTAL VESSELS BERTHED | 86 | 85 | 83 | 84 | 86 | 83 |
| % of Target | 101% | 100% | 98% | 99% | 101% | 98% |

Between Apr – Oct16 the Wisbech Yacht Harbour has seen 30 new vessels taking up full time moorings within the facility, these consisted of all different vessel types from small rigid inflatables boats, narrow boats, as well as the usual yachts and leisure craft. This will not show in the reported numbers between Apr – Oct16, the reason for this is 25 vessels left Wisbech Yacht Harbour to visit ports and harbour around the UK and Europe, however numbers have remained close to target.

Craft visitor numbers to call at Wisbech Yacht Harbour have increased to 42 between Apr – Oct16, this is up 6 vessels compared to Apr – Oct15. The majority of these visiting craft are narrow boats making the passage across the wash to Boston. The majority now plan to stop over in Wisbech for a night or two.

Pictures below of a party of narrow boats waiting for the tide (left). Narrow boats alongside in Wisbech Yacht Harbour (right)



| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| MPI Number of boat lift operations at Wisbech Port | 290 | 241 | 241 | |
| MPI Number of vessel lifts | 150 | 117 | 117 | |

April – Oct 2016

| Boat Lifts | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| Actual No: | 20 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 21 |
| Monthly % | 500% | 128% | 145% | 136% | 65% | 93% | 131% |

| Total Lifts | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|
| Actual No: | 32 | 34 | 41 | 37 | 23 | 34 | 42 |
| Monthly % | 246% | 142% | 205% | 106% | 64% | 162% | 114% |

April – Oct 2015

| Boat Lifts | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| Actual No: | 16 | 12 | 17 | 14 | 19 | 11 | 17 |
| Monthly % | 400% | 67% | 155% | 100% | 95% | 73% | 106% |

| Total Lifts | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Actual No: | 27 | 24 | 35 | 30 | 36 | 35 | 37 |
| Monthly % | 208% | 100% | 175% | 86% | 100% | 167% | 100% |

The Travel Hoist exceeded the overall number of lifts for April with a record number of boat lifts since the Boatyard was built. 20 boat lifts in total.

Throughout Summer the boat yard remained busy with leisure craft making the most of the good weather to make repairs to their vessels.

During the summer two Dutch barges made the return trip back to Wisbech from Ely to be lifted for out of water maintenance. A third Dutch barge from Ely also made the

trip round for out of water repairs. Picture below shows the third Dutch barge to be lifted, this is the longest vessel to ever be lifted with the Wisbech travel Hoist



It has been a busy month for the Boat yard with the Kings Lynn fishing fleet using the facility to undertake routine out of water inspections. May was the busiest month for fishing vessels totalling 10 Fishing vessels.

Achievements Apr – Oct 16

- Record Number of lifts in April total 20
- Longest Vessel to be lifted Dutch Barge 24 metres
- Record number of lifts Oct total 21 beating record set in Apr
- Returning Customers from Kings Lynn Fishing Industry
- Returning Customers from Ely

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|--|--------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| Total Number of ships to Nene ports | 250 | 132 | 132 | |
| Port Sutton Bridge Ship Numbers | 210 | 100 | 100 | |
| Gross Tonnage to Port Sutton Bridge GT | 343,218 | 195,980 | 195,980 | |
| Wisbech Ship Numbers | 40 | 32 | 32 | |
| Gross tonnage to Wisbech GT | 77,686 | 55,011 | 55,011 | |

Total Number of ships to Nene ports Apr – Oct 2016

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Target no. | 23 | 19 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Actual no. | 19 | 20 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 15 | 19 |
| Monthly % | 83% | 105% | 86% | 100% | 95% | 71% | 90% |

Total Number of ships to Nene ports Apr – Oct 2015

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|
| Target no. | 16 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 16 | 20 |
| Actual no. | 20 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 21 |
| Monthly % | 125% | 64% | 105% | 95% | 91% | 131% | 105% |

Tonnage to Port Sutton Bridge Apr – Oct 2016

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target no. | 24532 | 45821 | 20731 | 37853 | 35903 | 24465 | 26881 |
| Actual no. | 25101 | 31104 | 24555 | 36850 | 29810 | 21100 | 27460 |
| Monthly % | 102% | 68% | 118% | 97% | 83% | 86% | 102% |

Tonnage to Port of Wisbech Apr – Oct 2016

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target no. | 4503 | 4691 | 6287 | 4748 | 6190 | 6287 | 3192 |
| Actual no. | 7539 | 7190 | 8698 | 8179 | 9225 | 8780 | 5400 |
| Monthly % | 167% | 153% | 138% | 172% | 149% | 140% | 169% |

Tonnage to Port Sutton Bridge Apr – Oct 2015

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Target no. | 24532 | 45821 | 20731 | 37853 | 35903 | 24465 | 26881 |
| Actual no. | 27175 | 22009 | 32221 | 21106 | 34800 | 35550 | 33300 |
| Monthly % | 111% | 48% | 155% | 56% | 97% | 145% | 124% |

Tonnage to Port of Wisbech Apr – Oct 2015

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Target no. | 4503 | 4691 | 6287 | 4748 | 6190 | 6287 | 3192 |
| Actual no. | 9282 | 6700 | 6900 | 8265 | 7180 | 9000 | 6669 |
| Monthly % | 206% | 143% | 110% | 174% | 116% | 143% | 209% |

Ship numbers have fluctuated between Apr – Oct, for Port Sutton Bridge Gross tonnage is on track and to meet target for the year must remain close to 31,000GT per month until financial year-end.

Port of Wisbech numbers have remained above target for both ship numbers and gross tonnage, both are on track to exceed the annual target.

Port Safety

The Port of Wisbech Harbour Authority was also selected this year for a Port Marine Safety code PMSC health check. The purpose of the visit was to measure compliance against the Port Marine Safety code and the associated Guide to Good Practice as well as providing a level of assurance that safety processes are in line with industry best practice.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) conducted a “Health Check” of the Port of Wisbech Safety Management System which had recently been reviewed to ensure continuing compliance with the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC).

Following the three day MCA visit carried out in June 2016 the health check concluded that the port of Wisbech appeared to have policies, procedures and systems in place which supported compliance with the PMSC.

Good practice was also highlighted in that:

- The port authority's Safety Management System was seen as a good example, making good use of policies, procedures and checklists.
- The recently formed 'Port Management Group' and the formal designation of the Duty holder as chairman of the group was seen as a good example of how the role of duty holder can be incorporated and support the principles of governance under the port marine safety code.

Project

Yacht Harbour Marketing Plan Update

Work is continuing in the following areas:

Greater Wash boating promotion Develop Wisbech Yacht Harbour brochure and update Web page

Now exploring the potential of using social network pages (FB LinkedIn) to promote the Crab Marsh Boat yard and WYH

The Wisbech Yacht Harbour has now been included in the Cambridgeshire fens map, this was a free advert. The plan is to now use this advert in various marine publications.



View from the Sea defence at Sutton Bridge of the work barges and tugs positioning the cable laying barge into position.



The First section of cable has now successfully been laid throughout the Port of Wisbech area of Jurisdiction. The plans are currently still on track to install two cables this year.

Vessels are still using Port Sutton Bridge as a support base.



July was another very busy month for the port with the ongoing cable landing for the Race Bank project.

During the first cable lay a 360 excavator got into trouble and sunk, there was attempts to remove the digger before the incoming tide, this was unsuccessful and was submerged. The digger has now been removed and there was no pollution as all fluids were removed from the machine.



Work continues with the cable landings, the second cable is nearly completed, works will be quiet for 1 month until the work barges return to join the sections of cable that have been laid. The offshore cable has been laid; this was carried out by a vessel called the Isaac Newton (Pictures below). The Isaac Newton is the largest vessel ever to come into the wash, The Harbour Authority pilots carried out inductions of this vessel before it started works.



Throughout October the work barge DN120 has been fitted out to undertake the routine cable joins located at KP 8 (outside of FDC area) and KP 6 (inside FDC area) These works are planned to continue until December. Once this has been completed there will be remedial works to cover the cables with dredged sediment.

Project

Sutton Bridge Marina – Commercial & Leisure Moorings

The main construction works for the installation of the £900,000 commercial and leisure Cross Keys Marina being delivered in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council and Eastern IFCA commenced in June 2016.

The leisure moorings will cater for around 20 boats (a combination of those owned by local boaters and visiting craft), whilst the commercial moorings will ensure that both the FDC Nene navigation pilot boats and Eastern IFCA (A fisheries protection agency), can operate effectively from Sutton Bridge.

A new fuel facility is also being provided for commercial operations and each mooring point for both leisure and commercial vessels will provide electricity and water connections at the tie-up points.

On the dry side of the project a designated car park will allow marina users to leave their cars safely off the road whilst tending their boats. This will be linked to the marina by a new footpath.

Commercial vessels will be operating from the new facility from mid November 2016 and it is envisaged that the leisure craft will have use of the new mooring facility in early 2017. 98 people have expressed an interest in the new leisure moorings and Lincs CC are planning an open day in December 2016 for potential customers.

New leases are being finalised with Lincs CC to tie up the FDC and Eastern IFCA occupation of the marina and an operating agreement is to be completed for FDC to manage the facility in conjunction with the Wisbech yacht harbour and other marine operations on the river.

Progress Photo – Commercial Mooring Installation



Progress Photo – Landside fixed access brow



Progress Photo – Marina Access Brow and Pivoting Walkway



Progress Photo – Leisure Moorings



Progress Photo – Commercial Moorings



| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| BUSINESS PLAN AREA: | Economy |
| Business Plan Priority: | Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland |
| Business Plan Action: | <i>Further develop, proactively contribute to and deliver the Wisbech 2020 Action Plan</i> |
| Portfolio Holder: | Cllr Ralph Butcher |

Partnership Activity

Wisbech 2020

Work on the Wisbech 2020 Vision has been ongoing throughout 2016 to collate accurate baseline data and refresh the vision document. We have also hosted visits from Government ministers and held another successful annual Wisbech 2020 Summit meeting. A summary of the work carried out this year is shown below.

Wisbech 2020 Vision – Project Management

The project management of the Wisbech 2020 Vision work is now being led by Ingham Pinnock Associates (the consultants who are led on the Heritage Lottery fund (HLF) bid for improving Wisbech High Street) and is being jointly funded by CCC, Wisbech Town Council and FDC (allocated from the S106 money received through the Wisbech Tesco development). Working together with colleagues from FDC, CCC, Wisbech Town Council, Anglian Water, Thomas Clarkson Academy and the GCGP LEP, progress against actions in the Wisbech 2020 Vision have been reviewed.

Baseline Data & Workshops

Baseline data helps to determine which socio-economic factors or physical areas of a community may need additional support to address certain problems or issues. Ingham Pinnock Associates (IPA) have been working FDC and CCC colleagues to collate existing information for the following themes:

- Skills and education
- Infrastructure, growth and built environment
- Local economy
- Health, wellbeing and cohesion

Workshops have also been held with local stakeholders throughout the year based on the themes above. A useful insight was gained into current issues and ideas around how improvements could be made were discussed.

The baseline data collated and the feedback from the workshops will be presented in the refreshed Wisbech 2020 Vision document in late 2016/early 2017.

Consultative Group

In addition to the themed workshops, a Wisbech 2020 Vision Consultative Group has been formed. The members of the group, who are local Councillors, representatives of community and voluntary groups, and other local stakeholders, meet regularly to receive updates on the Wisbech 2020 Vision work and feed in ideas for future development.

Wisbech Garden Town Strategic Working Group

A working group continues to carry out initial scoping work into the Wisbech Garden Town proposals. It includes representatives from FDC, CCC, Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Peterborough City Council, Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough LEP (GCGP), the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Anglian Water and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Work has been carried out to assess how the Garden Town proposals could be taken forward, including addressing transport and infrastructure issues, potential mitigation against flooding, assessing financial viability and how quality of life issues could be addressed in the local area.

Draft proposals have been produced along with engagement with key Government departments including Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG) representatives.

This is culminating in requests to engage with Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, so Government can better understand this exciting proposition.

Consultation

Public consultation has been carried out to gauge public opinion on the Wisbech 2020 Vision project and the outcomes it is trying to achieve. Two consultation events were held on Wisbech market place on 9 & 10 September and were well attended by the general public. The stand was manned by representatives from Fenland District Council, Wisbech Town Council and the Wisbech Society. The public were asked to say what they liked most about the town at the moment, what they thought most needed improving and whether they supported the garden town proposal.

An online survey was also widely advertised and the results will be used to help inform the refreshed Wisbech 2020 Vision document.

An All Member Seminar was held on 3 November 2016 for all FDC and Wisbech Town Council members, along with Wisbech CCC Members. The purpose of the seminar was to showcase some of the baseline data collated so far and to ask members what their priorities would be going forward to address some of the issues in Wisbech.

Feedback from the All Member Seminar will be used to inform the refreshed Wisbech 2020 Vision document which will be published in late 2016/early 2017.

Wisbech 2020 Vision Summit

The 4th Wisbech 2020 Summit took place on Friday 22 July and was attended by

around 80 delegates. This year, the event was hosted by the Thomas Clarkson Academy in their impressive Performance Space (part funded by FDC).

Following introductions and updates from Paul Medd, Cllr Steve Count and Cllr David Oliver, David Rudlin of Urbed gave a presentation outlining the Wisbech Garden Town concept. Peter Simpson (Chief Executive of Anglian Water) hosted a question and answer session as part of his presentation and there were some lively debates in the room, most notably over potential transport links. The presentations given on the day can be seen on the Wisbech 2020 Vision website www.wisbech2020vision.co.uk (or alternatively [click here](#) for the main presentation and [click here](#) for the Wisbech Garden Town presentation).

Visits from Government Ministers and Civil Servants

Wisbech hosted a visit by Greg Clark MP (the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) on 30 March to allow him to hear first-hand about plans to regenerate the town and address declining levels of deprivation in the area. Despite receiving short notice of the visit, arrangements were quickly made to ensure that local Members and other stakeholders were able to meet the Secretary of State and ask questions about potential government assistance towards realising the proposed Wisbech Garden Town concept.

The visit also included a tour of Wisbech town centre when information was shared on the £2m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid to improve the High Street, transport and infrastructure needs and social issues (including education, skills, health and wellbeing matters) in the town. Both regional TV news channels ran positive stories on the visit which helped to further highlight the Wisbech Garden Town proposals. The ITV news item can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/update/2016-03-30/ministerial-visit-to-town-that-could-see-10-000-homes-built/>



Jillian Kay, Director of Local Government Policy at the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) visited us on 21 October to learn more about our local Traveller and Gypsy culture, along with potential cohesion issues in Wisbech.

We also welcomed Lord Bourne, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DCLG on 4 November. Part of Lord Bourne's visit was to allow him to gain a better understanding of the impact of migrants on the local area and to highlight some of the cohesion work that is currently taking place.

We are hopeful that these visits will ultimately help to attract additional funding to the Fenland area to deal with cohesion issues linked to the local community.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Attract new businesses and jobs and support existing businesses in Fenland

Business Plan Action: Work with businesses and education providers to ensure local skills and courses support the needs of local businesses

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--|----------|----------------------|------------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| MPI Number of Skills Service connections made in Fenland | No Fenland specific target Provided by Skills Service | 20 | 20 | N/A |

The Skills Service provides a brokerage service to allow effective partnership working between schools, training providers and businesses.

The service focusses on three key areas:

- For businesses to fill skills gaps with aspirational and talented young people from their local area through employer engagements that we facilitate.
- For young people to feel informed and inspired about the wide range of businesses, sectors and opportunities available to them by engaging in our events.
- For local training providers to focus on the relevant skills to support the local economy using data gathered during our business interactions.

IN Fenland the work of the Skills Service translates into: taking the skills agenda into businesses; building young people's knowledge of employment opportunities through interaction with business; delivering business led events with schools and building businesses understanding of the need to plan for skills demand.

In this respect between April & October 2016 the Skills Service has, in Fenland:

| | |
|--|--|
| Taking the Skills agenda into Businesses. | 20 Overall (unique) Total |
| | 12 (unique to Fenland) |
| (Direct engagement with Fenland businesses) | 9 From Target Sectors (45%) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing: 2 • Scientific & Technical: 2 • Information & Communication: 0 • Logistics: 0 • Agriculture: 1 • Construction: 2 • Financial: 2 |
| Build young people's knowledge of employment opportunities through interaction with business | 2,289 |
| Deliver business led events with schools | 14 |
| Build business understanding of the need to plan for skills demand | 8 |

More strategic skills analysis is being carried out by the LEP to help inform the areas need, drilling down to individual LA areas. This data will be crucial, being available late 2016 and will allow a more focused approach to schools, colleges and young people to align to the business skills needs of the area.

Project

Work Experience Placements & Opportunities Programme

We continue to offer a work experience programme and work in partnership with local schools and partners to ensure its ongoing success.

| |
|--|
| Project |
| Work with partners to deliver a programme of supported skills development across the district |
| We have delivered interview skills workshops and employability skills events in local schools over the past 7 months, and continue to deliver this as part of a rolling programme. |

| |
|---|
| Project |
| Work in partnership with local education providers to promote employment opportunities for the local community and raise the aspirations for people to improve their employment / life prospects |
| We have been involved in a number of careers events over the past 7 months, including the careers festival at the East of England Showground; as well as delivering direct careers talks in individual schools, and employability skills training events. |

| |
|--|
| Project |
| Apprenticeships |
| We are currently working with a number of different providers providing internal apprenticeships, and will be developing frameworks for new apprenticeship posts from April 2017 as the new apprenticeship levy comes on stream. Engagement with local business is also being progressed with partners, including local colleges and the LEP. |

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Promote Fenland as a tourism and visitor destination

Business Plan Action: *Support the Cambridgeshire Fens Tourism Partnership to develop and deliver a comprehensive Tourism Strategy for Fenland, including the 'Visit Cambridgeshire Fens' website*

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Michelle Tanfield

| Partnership Activity |
|---|
| Cambridgeshire Fens Tourism Partnership Update |
| <p>The local tourism partnership continues to work to promote visits to Fenland. The focus remains on growing a social media following and developing the visitcambridgeshirefens.org website to increase the traffic to the site.</p> <p>In the next 2 months a fens promotional video will be launched, encouraging people to visit the area that will be shared via social media and on the website. Additionally, the website is being given a makeover to further encourage more traffic. These actions are linked to other marketing and promotion work highlighted in the tourism partnership action plan which will develop the fens as a tourism destination.</p> |

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration across Fenland

Business Plan Action: Deliver a proactive and effective shared Planning Service to enable appropriate growth and development

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Will Sutton

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC2 % of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks (or within agreed extension of time period) | 75% | 100% | 82% (91% for 15/16) | |
| <p>We determined 1 major application which was decided within the extension of time period agreed with the applicant.</p> <p>Over the year to date some 17 major applications have been determined, 14 of which were decided within 13 weeks or within the extension of time period agreed with the applicant.</p> <p>The Government tracks performance of Councils over a rolling 24 month period and requires that at least 50% of applications are determined in 13 weeks or within agreed extensions of time. The service is currently performing at 89%, well ahead of the Government target.</p> <p>Taking all applications received (majors, minors, other etc) we have received 830 applications in 2016/17. It was 797 applications for the same period on 2015/16 indicating a higher caseload for the authority.</p> | | | | |

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC3 % of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time period) | 80% | 97% | 88% (85% for 15/16) | |
| 34 applications were determined in the month with 33 of these being determined | | | | |

within 8 weeks or within an extension of time agreed with the applicant.
Over the year to date some 229 applications have been determined with 202 being decided on time.

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC4 % of other planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within agreed extension of time period) | 90% | 95% | 96% (96% for 15/16) | |

21 applications were determined, with 20 of these being determined in time / within the agreed extension of time. In the year to date 209 applications have been decided, with 200 being done so within time.

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|---|--------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| LPI EC1 Number of new affordable homes (annual figure) | 75 | 107 | 107 | |

16/17 - to end of October 2016, 107 affordable homes have been completed. Of these 95 were affordable rented and 12 were an intermediate tenure, eg shared ownership. The homes have been delivered over 6 sites, 5 through Circle Housing Roddons and 1 from Sanctuary. The anticipated affordable housing delivery is 177 dwellings for 2016/17.

15/16 - At this time last year 67 affordable dwellings had been delivered, over 4 sites, with a total of 76 by the end of the financial year, all of which were for affordable rented and all were delivered by Circle Housing Roddons.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration across Fenland

Business Plan Action: *Develop, enable and deliver economic, infrastructure and regeneration strategies / projects for Fenland through the Regeneration Action Plan (internal working document)*

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

Project

Progress against Regeneration Action Plan

The Council (in April 16) introduced a 'paid for pre-application planning service. The purpose behind this was to ensure that quality and timely advice is given to customers. Some 102 applications have been received (April to October 2016) with over 50% of these relating to schemes looking to development land for housing and some 7 proposals for various forms of commercial development. To date the service has been well received by customers.

Publicity and promotional material has been issued to developers and agents and posted on the Council's web site with the aim of attracting developers/investors to bring their commercial and housing development to our area and take advantage of the sites we have allocated and the resources we have in place to help facilitate the delivery of growth.

Since April, on major sites planning permission has been given for more than 260 dwellings as well as a scheme for 23 industrial units at Whittlesey, as well as a retail scheme on the outskirts of March.

The various regeneration headings show good progress with the majority of projects/initiatives being reported via this and the Environmental O and S report.

| Project |
|--|
| <p>Facilitating the delivery of the Local Plan broad locations and specific locations for growth</p> <p>Work is continuing to deliver the Broad Concept Plans (BCP) for Wisbech. This includes ongoing meetings of the project Steering Groups to ensure land owners and their representatives are fully involved. ATLAS, part of the homes and Communities Agency are continuing to assist us with good proactive for East Wisbech that we can then use to help bring forward the other sites. Specific detail in respect of the Wisbech sites are as follows:</p> <p><u>South Wisbech</u></p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop phase 2 Broad Concept Plan for this site. This will consider the infrastructure requirements and costs in more detail, along with brokerage arrangements to ensure funding for these requirements. A 2nd BCP for South Wisbech is expected to be complete by Summer 2017.</p> <p><u>East Wisbech</u></p> <p>Evidence base work development to support the BCP is ongoing. A public engagement process is also in preparation with events taking place in December 2016. A BCP for East Wisbech is expected to be complete by Summer 2017.</p> <p><u>West Wisbech</u></p> <p>Evidence base work development to support the BCP is ongoing. The outcomes of the Wisbech Access Strategy are needed to fully inform further work on this site. A bid for funds to complete the flood risk study that is required was unsuccessful. Other opportunities are currently being explored to find the funding required.</p> <p><u>West March</u></p> <p>Following an introduction meeting with landowners earlier in the year, save for a small number of landowners, there has not been significant interest in the progression of a Broad Concept Plan for the whole site.</p> <p><u>Chatteris, Hallam Land</u></p> <p>The affordability of the education contribution being sought by Cambs County Council (in the context of the early trigger points identified) is the issue holding up the issue of planning permission for the development. There is interest in the delivery of a 'free school' on the site and this has the potential to resolve the issue and work is being carried out to agree a proposal between the parties (chiefly DfE, Cambs County and the landowner).</p> |

Chatteris

A Broad Concept Plan was expected to be submitted for consideration by the Council in November but the promotor has indicated that this is more likely to be January / February.

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Ralph Butcher & Cllr David Oliver

Project

Support regeneration work across the district, including Fenland Renaissance project and Heritage Lottery Fund bid

2 grants have been issued since April, one in relation to Mud Walls in Whittlesey and the other for the repair of cracked walls at 130 High St Wisbech.

17 Streets Ahead cases have been closed since April, with 13 being done so following the enhancement of the property to an acceptable standard.

Wisbech High Street project received approval for a £2m grant from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). A project team has been formed along with the restart of the successful consultative group and the recruitment of a Townscape Heritage Officer to drive forward delivery of this important project.

The scheme involves both physical property improvements along with a comprehensive activity plan to engage with various local groups and the community to raise the profile of heritage in the town.

Project**Coalwharf Road Demonstration Project**

Officers have been tasked to prepare a feasibility study to consider a number of options, which include assessing the viability of an FDC-led development which links to work being undertaken on the Nene Waterfront sites. Further recommendations will be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Project**Support business and workforce stimulation and create homes by utilising FDC's strategic landholdings:**

- South West Wisbech
- Harecroft Road, Wisbech
- Wenny Road, Chatteris

The Council owns around 85.0 acres (34.4 ha's) of strategic landholdings across the District. Many of these sites are currently occupied in low value use such as for grazing or cultivation purposes or simply vacant. Where greater benefits can be derived from these sites, such as through development - the delivery of new homes or sites suitable for new businesses - the land is retained by FDC.

Three of these key strategic sites include:

South West Wisbech

The Council's landholdings extend to approximately 42 acres (17ha's) in this area and are contained within the adopted South Wisbech Broad Concept Plan (BCP) area. The BCP will enable the development of these sites in a planned and methodical way. Officers representing FDC's landholding interest have a key seat on the Broad Concept Plan group and steer future

Harecroft Road, Wisbech

One of FDC's smaller strategic sites measures approximately 2.2 acres (0.89ha's). The Harecroft Road site is strategically important in that it forms one of the key access points which might serve the West Wisbech Urban extension. The development of a Broad Concept Plan for the West Wisbech site continues to make progress, with funding being sought to secure the necessary studies which will enable the creation and adoption of a West Wisbech BCP.

Wenny Road, Chatteris

This site forms part of a larger residential development area to the East of Chatteris, which is subject to agreement with adjacent landowners and a developer to take forward the site for development. The developer is currently preparing a Broad Concept Plan, which once approved, will enable the submission of a Planning Application for development and will act as a trigger for disposal.

Portfolio Holder:**Cllr Ralph Butcher / Cllr Will Sutton****Project****Coordinated approach to flood risk management and local drainage issues**

During June 2016 Fenland experienced rainfall values that were generally above "average" some of the "events" have been intense but of short duration. According to Middle Level Commissioners records, the 15th appears to have been the worse day. On the 15th June the Environment Agency rain gauge located at the sewage treatment works in March measured 18.8mm of rain between 4 and 6pm. On the 16th June, it measured 18.6mm between 3 and 5pm.

A detailed flood report was prepared and sent to March Town Council who are keen to monitor flooding issues following the extensive flooding which took place in August 2014, since which time monthly flooding updates have been provided.

New surface water sewer networks across the country are designed to cope with a rainfall event with an annual probability of a 1 in 30 year however older systems (like many of the systems found in our market towns) were not designed to this specification. The intense rainfall events we have seen in this area over the past few years are greater than this annual probability and are becoming more frequent. As the drains are not designed to cope with events greater than 1 in 30 probability, after a certain point, the rainfall is unable to drain away quickly and so collects on the surface. Once the rain has stopped the water then drains away more easily as there is capacity in the system. After heavy rainfall events, if surface water on roads does not drain away within two hours of the rain stopping, this should be report through to the Highways Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council. If the rain does drain away within two hours, it is likely that the intensity of the storm was greater than the design capacity of the surface water sewer system and it is unlikely there is a problem (such as a blockage) with the drainage system.

The Highways Authority has a duty to maintain highway drainage, including road drains/gullies, pipes, manholes and outfalls. Issues such as blocked gullies, off lets, and other grates that take highway water, as well as water discharging from roads and footways, should be reported to them by calling 0345 045 5212 or reporting the issue online:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/HighwaysReports/Highways/ReportProblem1.asp>
[X](#)

Anglian Water has responsibility over Anglian Water surface water sewers and foul sewers. Issues with these systems need to be reported on 03457 145 145. Anglian Water lines are open 24/7, and customers should receive a reference number, which they can then quote in any future correspondence with Anglian Water.

All outstanding issues which remain following the flooding experienced in March in August 2014 are being looked into but for many areas there is currently no further work that the Risk Management Authorities can undertake without investing large sums of money which are not available at this time. It is recommended that residents who are worried about flood risk check their risk of surface water flooding using the risk of flooding from surface water maps on the Environment Agency website:

<http://watermaps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiyby.aspx?topic=ufmfsw#x=357683&y=355134&scale=2>

Residents at risk of flooding should take the time to prepare a personal flood plan, an Environment Agency template can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

It is the responsibility of the home owner to protect their property from flooding. Residents can get advice on protecting their property from flooding from the following organisations:

National Flood Forum:

<http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/> 01299 403055

Flood Advisory Service:

<http://www.floodadvisoryservice.co.uk/> 0800 970 3950

Know your flood risk:

<http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/flood-advice-guidance> 0844 844 9966
info@knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk

It is recommended by all Councils that the Parish Councils prepare a plan to cover emergency incidents that occur in their area (including flooding).

Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership meetings are held quarterly with representation from County (Flood & Water, Highways, Emergency Planning), Districts, EA, AW, IDB's, and Highways England where strategic flood risk management is discussed and co-ordinated. Of note from the most recent meeting held on 5 September 2016 is a new funding stream introduced by EA to support Local Levy Pipeline Projects. Funding is subject to a bidding process and can fund a range of flood risk activities including feasibility studies, address skills gaps, or improve community resilience. It is proposed that the pipeline project studies will then feed into the main 6yr Local Levy Projects Programme.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| BUSINESS PLAN AREA: | Economy |
| Business Plan Priority: | Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration across Fenland |
| Business Plan Action: | <i>Promote sustainable transport (infrastructure and community) initiatives within Fenland, including rail, road and community transport</i> |
| Portfolio Holder: | Cllr Simon King |

| Project |
|---|
| <p>Rail Development Strategy</p> <p>Manea and Whittlesea Stations Feasibility Study In June 2016, FDC has been awarded £359,000 on behalf of the Hereward Community Rail Partnership (HCRP) to enable detailed engineering and feasibility studies to go ahead relating to Manea and Whittlesea Stations. The study work will focus on the Station master planning projects to lengthen the platforms at both stations and the provision of a footbridge at Whittlesea station.</p> <p>An initial study completed last year confirming that the lengthening of the platforms at both stations is technically possible, together with the bridge at Whittlesea. This latest funding enables the project to move to the next level, with the final outcome being a preferred option for each project. This new study is expected to take between 12 and 18 months.”</p> <p>Details of the initial feasibility study for Manea and Whittlesea stations can be viewed on FDC website through the link below: http://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/11323/Manea--Whittlesea-Railway-Stations-Feasibility-Study-Report-2015</p> <p>Anglia Rail Franchise Abellio Greater Anglia (AGA) has now been named as the preferred bidder for the long term Anglia Rail franchise commencing in October 2016 until October 2025. A meeting with Abellio was held in early October 2016. The key points from this meeting about the new franchise as they relate to Fenland and the Hereward CRP are as follows:</p> <p>Services and Trains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ipswich to Peterborough service will go hourly from December 2019. This will include hourly stops at Manea, March and Whittlesea. Most of the journeys towards |

Ipswich will be extended to Colchester.

- The new hourly Ipswich/Colchester to Peterborough service will operate 7 days a week. The Sunday service will include hourly stops at Manea, March and Whittlesea
- The new hourly service will operate using new trains. Every carriage is to be replaced with new ones. 3 or 4 carriage Stadler bi-mode trains will operate on regional routes
- Every new carriage will have super-fast Wi-Fi that will be free of charge to customers along with plug sockets and air conditioning as standard

Stations

- All stations including Manea, March and Whittlesea will be fitted with new digital customer information screens. These will combine Wi-Fi, help points, CCTV and the information screen into one unit
- All stations including Manea and Whittlesea (March already has these facilities) will have at least one ticket machine
- Every station including Manea, March and Whittlesea will undergo a deep clean and refresh within the first 15 months of the franchise

Fares and tickets

- New tickets will be available including lower fares to Stansted Airport and a railcard for 50+ year olds offering discounts. Flexible tickets offering discounts to regular users who travel frequently on the same route (but not every day) will be available. Customers will be able to purchase cheaper advance tickets up to 10 minutes before a train's departure

Community Rail Partnerships (CRP)

- £3.5million will be invested in CRPs including the Hereward CRP. This will include an enhanced package of funding, technical support and business planning. We will provide more specific details on what this means for the Hereward CRP when information is made available to us.

Cross Country Rail Franchise

During September 2016, Government announced that Cross Country Trains have been awarded a short term franchise until October 2019. For the first time for this franchise it includes funding for Community Rail Partnerships. £340,000 is available for CRPs across the network over the 3 years of the franchise. We are currently waiting for further details about what this will mean for the Hereward CRP.

March Station Masterplan Consultation

The March Railway Station Masterplan public consultation closed on 24th October 2016. 70 questionnaire responses were returned to FDC or completed on line. From the 4 consultation events conversations were held with around 350 people. The consultation results are currently being analysed and a report with the final analysis will be available before end of December 2016.

Railway Station Footfall

The Hereward Community Rail Partnership has recently received the latest footfall

figures for Manea, March and Whittlesea Stations. The information is from October 2015 to October 2016 with the last 12 monthly figures having been available up to May 2016. These figures show an increase in the use of all 3 stations as follows:

- Manea – 12,473 journeys an increase from 12,057 in May 2016.
- March – 389,112 journeys an increase from 387,123 in May 2016
- Whittlesey – 29,178 journeys an increase from 28,931 in May 2016

| Description | Target 16/17 | Achieved | Cumulative for 16/17 | Variance |
|--|---|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Performance Measure | | | | |
| Maintain existing use of dial a ride to 2014/15 figures through the concessionary fares scheme | Maintain 14/15 level 14,308 Journeys | 1531 | 10,815 | |

Since April 2008, FDC has provided a Concessionary Fares scheme for community transport services. This means that any Fenland resident who has a Cambridgeshire bus pass and is a member of the local Community Transport organisation, can travel free of charge on the Dial a Ride Service.

- **What is Dial A Ride?**

Dial-a-Ride (DAR) services provide door to door transport for those people who do not have access to a car, where there is no public transport, or where they cannot access public transport. These services in Fenland are operated by Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT). To use these services customers must be members of FACT. Membership is subject to meeting the eligibility criteria for Dial a Ride services.

- **FACT Membership**

To use FACT services you have to be a member. DAR is not available to the general public. To become a FACT member you pay a 12 month subscription fee of £10 and you must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- have no access to your own car during the day
- There is no public transport available
- Public transport is limited and does not meet your needs, eg a hospital appointment
- You have difficulty using public transport due to disability or frailty

FACT currently has around 1,423 members in Fenland District (30 September 2016).

Concessionary fare journeys are on target for 2016/17. This target is an increase in journey numbers based on the same period for 2015/16. At the end of October 2015 the cumulative journey total was 10,412.

Project

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) (dependent on ongoing funding):

- Increase the number of people walking, cycling and using public transport

LSTF/Transition year funding

In 2015/16 The Wisbech Travel Choices project was successfully delivered using LSTF funding. Government announced transition year funding for 2016/17 as a replacement for LSTF. A bid was submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council for £60,000 for Fenland. This was to continue the work in Wisbech and to take forward some small projects in Chatteris and Whittlesey. This was to be a 10 month project. In May 2016 it was announced that the Cambridgeshire bid was unsuccessful.

Access Fund

Cambridgeshire County Council submitted a bid to the Government Access Fund during September 2016. This includes £285,000 for Fenland Travel Choices work for 3 years from April 2017. Should this bid be successful it will allow the travel choices work successfully carried out in Wisbech during 2015/16 to be delivered in the rest of Fenland. An announcement about the outcome of the bid is expected in December 2016.

Wisbech Bus Service project

This project commenced in July 2016. Following the withdrawal of the Stagecoach 66 bus service between the Horsefair Bus Station, Weasenhams Lane and Tesco on Cromwell Road during May 2016 we are looking at options for a replacement service. Due to low passenger numbers the previous service was considered unviable and reinstating the same service is likely to have the same problems. We have set up a Wisbech Bus Service Project to develop a local approach to designing a bus service. This is based on lessons learnt through the Hereward Community Rail Partnership that have been successful. The aim is to have a new bus service, initially as a 12 month pilot project from April 2017.

The public are currently being asked to give their views to help with the design of the new bus service. Further details can be found from the web link below. Local residents and businesses are also being made aware of this through leaflets being posted door to door, meetings, posters and questionnaires being made available in a range of venues across Wisbech.

<http://www.fenland.gov.uk/wisbechbusserviceproject>

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration across Fenland

Business Plan Action: *Actively engage with partners on the feasibility and delivery of major infrastructure projects across Fenland, including A47 and A605 improvements and the Wisbech-March-Cambridge / Peterborough rail link*

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Simon King

Project

Seek improvements to the A47 in Cambridgeshire

Work is continuing to progress on option development for the A47 Guyhirn Roundabout scheme. The latest progress meeting was held in September 2016. The main issue raised was the timetable and the potential to deliver the project more quickly than 2020. It was explained that the number of environmental designations around the site have to be considered in detailed, these matters will affect the timetable as they determine the process that the project will have to take to be delivered. It is currently uncertain as to whether the project can be delivered earlier.

Highways England and their contractors are currently developing options for the scheme and a public consultation on the options that can be taken forward is expected in early 2017.

The most up to date information about each scheme is added to the Highways England website. A link for which is below:
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a47-corridor-improvement-programme/>

This work does not preclude the further pressing of the A47 upgrade case via both the A47 Alliance and the Garden Town proposal.

Project

Wisbech Access Strategy & Wisbech – Cambridge Rail Line

Wisbech Access Study

Through Local Growth Deal One Funding, £1 million has been allocated to the Wisbech Access Strategy. The announcement from Government stated:

“£1m has been allocated to Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP to support the development of a package of measures to support growth and regeneration, improve accessibility and address congestion in and around the town of Wisbech. Government will provide up to a further £10.5m for scheme delivery for the Wisbech Access Strategy, on condition that the development work results in an acceptable and deliverable package of transport measures.”

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398855/13_Greater_Cambridge_Greater_Peterborough_Growth_Deal.pdf

The Wisbech Access Study has been commissioned using the £1 million funding. This is to develop the transport projects that are required to deliver the scale of housing and employment growth allocated in the Fenland Local Plan. The study is focusing on the following areas in Wisbech:

- o Cromwell Road and Elm High Road
- o Freedom Bridge Roundabout
- o Wisbech Bus Station
- o New River Crossing – to west of the Town Centre
- o New Western Link Road- to west of the Town Centre
- o Wisbech Southern Access Road
- o New A47 Junctions to access the Wisbech East and Wisbech South Development

Work on the above projects to date has been of a technical nature to consider possible options for each scheme and to understand any technical constraints. No decisions other than technical ones have been taken to date. During October and November 2016, a Member Steering Group is being established for this project to ensure Cllrs are fully engaged and able to make decisions at the appropriate time.

Wisbech to Cambridge Rail Line

Work is continuing on this County Council led project, supported by the LEP with strong support from the local MP. There is also strong co-operation between all the other partner organisations involved and a willingness to want to make the project happen, including the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail and the Office of Road and Rail (ORR). FDC is supporting this project by attending meetings and providing information where it is relevant to do so.

Here is a link to Cambs CC website which includes all the latest reports and updates in respect of this project:

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/68/transport_funding_bids_and_studies/3

Project

A605 Kings Dyke Level Crossing

County Council Officers are now preparing all the documents for the procurement process to confirm which organisation will construct the project. Ground investigation surveys were completed during July 2016 to support the procurement process. The current timescale for the end of construction is mid-2018.

Significant discussion is also taking place with Network Rail (NR) in respect of the railway element of this project. The Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) is now in place between NR and CCC. This sets out how the two organisations will work together. Possessions to access the railway line for the bridge to be built are in progress. Possessions are being discussed for alter 2017 and early 2018. Early discussions are also taking place about an Overbridge Agreement which will be needed between NR and CCC. This will set out all the design details and is likely to be confirmed once the contractor is in place.

BUSINESS PLAN AREA: Economy

Business Plan Priority: Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration across Fenland

Business Plan Action: *Use the Council's surplus assets to support and deliver sustainable economic and residential growth across the district*

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Ralph Butcher

Project

Surplus Asset Disposal Programme

As part of the first tranche of approved auction disposals, Officers have now sold 8 of the initial 10 sites approved by Cabinet and maintain the 100% sales record at each auction.



The remaining two lots of the first tranche are to be auctioned in January 2017, with a further tranche of sites is being worked up for potential auction disposal. These sites include some where anti-social activities are taking place and it is hoped that such sites can be re-purposed to prevent such activities and reduce the cost and burden to the public purse, whilst also producing a capital receipt for the Council.



It is anticipated that Cabinet will be able to consider the next tranche of sites later in the 2017. In preparation for disposal in 2017/18.