

AGENDA

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 12 JULY 2021

1.30 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, FENLAND HALL,
COUNTY ROAD, MARCH PE15 8NQ**

Committee Officer: Linda Albon
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Whilst this meeting will be held in public, we encourage members of the public to view the meeting via our YouTube channel due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.

- 1 Appointment of Chairman for the Municipal Year
- 2 To receive apologies for absence.
- 3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year
- 4 Previous Minutes. (Pages 3 - 8)

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of 8 March 2021.
- 5 To report additional items for consideration which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified.
- 6 Members to declare any interests under the Local Code of Conduct in respect of any item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 7 Update on previous actions. (Pages 9 - 12)

Members to receive an update on the previous meeting's Action Plan.

8 Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-2021 (Pages 13 - 26)

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report reflects what has been undertaken and achieved by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel during 2020/21 and takes a forward look at the programme of work and challenges for the Panel in 2021/2022.

9 Council Response to COVID-19 - Future implications (Pages 27 - 38)

Presentation regarding Council response to COVID-19 pandemic in relation to service delivery by Fenland District Council.

10 Future Work Programme (Pages 39 - 44)

To consider the Draft Work Programme for Overview & Scrutiny Panel 2021/22.

11 Items which the Chairman has under item 5 deemed urgent.

Friday, 2 July 2021

Members: Councillor D Mason, Councillor A Miscandlon, Councillor G Booth, Councillor D Connor, Councillor M Cornwell, Councillor S Count, Councillor A Hay, Councillor M Humphrey, Councillor M Purser, Councillor R Skoulding, Councillor D Topgood, Councillor R Wicks and Councillor F Yeulett

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2021 - 1.30 PM



PRESENT: Councillor D Mason (Chairman), Councillor A Miscandlon (Vice-Chairman), Councillor G Booth, Councillor D Connor, Councillor M Cornwell, Councillor M Humphrey, Councillor M Purser, Councillor D Topgood, Councillor R Wicks and Councillor F Yeulett

APOLOGIES: Councillor S Count and Councillor R Skoulding

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Peter Catchpole (Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer), Anna Goodall (Head of Transformation, Customer Services & Democracy) and Justin Wingfield (Head of Business & Economy)

GUESTS: Councillor I Benney, Councillor C Boden, Councillor P Murphy, Councillor S Tierney, Paul Webster (CPCA) and Alan Downton (International Investment Service)

OSC44/20 PREVIOUS MINUTES.

Councillor Mason pointed out an error on the agenda in that the previous minutes to be approved should read 8 February 2021 and not 11 January 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of 8 February 2021 were confirmed subject to the following minor amendment:

- OS40/20 (top of page 4). Councillor Booth said Dan Horn had confirmed the number of pitches at Turf Fen travellers site were reduced from 8 to 4 some years ago which is why some people believed it was not in full occupancy.

OSC45/20 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS.

Members were provided with an update on the status of actions raised at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1. Councillor Connor stated his disappointment that Clarion have not got back to him regarding issues with premises at Doddington, which are still ongoing. He asked if Anna Goodall could contact Clarion on his behalf for them to contact him by telephone as soon as possible.
2. Councillor Connor still wants an answer in respect of future planning applications and how additional surface water is going to be dealt with. Anglian Water have said they do not plan to update infrastructure in the next five years so when will this be done? Local people are saying there is nowhere for additional surface water to go.
3. Councillor Booth said that he was still waiting for young driver accident statistics from Matt Staton. Also, he was waiting for information on when the Friday Bridge pumping station was likely to be refurbished and what is its design life expectancy?
4. Councillor Miscandlon said he had previously thanked Briony Tuthill from Anglian Water for attending a panel meeting, but we need to meet with someone who has more technical knowledge. As previously stated by Councillor Connor and Councillor Booth, we need to know about an infrastructure replacement programme as there clearly needs to be one due to the problems in the whole district. Councillor Mason confirmed that work is in hand to bring Anglian Water back to a future meeting and he will update the panel when he has more information.

5. Councillor Cornwell asked that as there are still many unresolved items we formally move these to the outstanding actions list so that they are not forgotten.

OSC46/20 UPDATE ON CPCA GROWTH SERVICE AND IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FENLAND

Councillor Mason welcomed Councillor Ian Benney, Justin Wingfield and external guests, Alan Downton from the Combined Authority (CPCA) and Paul Webster from the International Investment Service to the meeting.

The Update on CPCA Growth Service and Impact on Economic Development in Fenland report was presented in two parts. Councillor Benney gave a broad overview of the activity between FDC and the CPCA, followed by a presentation by Paul Webster and Alan Downton.

Councillor Mason thanked both Paul Webster and Alan Downton for their interesting presentation.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

1. Councillor Miscandlon also thanked Paul Webster and Alan Downton for their presentation, saying that as a former apprentice himself he was pleased to see emphasis on the importance of apprenticeships, of which he is an advocate, and looks forward to an exciting time ahead for that programme.
2. Councillor Wicks said it would be good for councillors to know more about grants available for small businesses to be able to promote them. He said that whilst he favours apprenticeships there are limited opportunities within Fenland for these as we only have three local further education hubs. He questioned whether they are conducting the courses that we will need to grow businesses within this area as he noted that engineering, business administration and business management were not available. Alan Downton replied that the CPCA needs to work with FDC to assess future requirements; not all courses are in place at the moment and there is still work to be done, but working together these issues can be addressed. Paul Webster added that there is a training allocation funding pot within the CPCA that can be accessed to develop new learning pathways as required. They will be demand-led in terms of what businesses are asking for to ensure a work force for the future. Their own programme is looking to have two local apprentices in the in the field of business management and business administration so they will also need access to that form of education as mentioned by Councillor Wicks.
3. Councillor Benney advised that the funding schemes change as the funds are available, however they tend to be oversubscribed very quickly but he will ensure Councillor Wicks is notified about them as they arise. Addressing Councillor Wicks' comments about suitable apprenticeships he pointed out that Chatteris has been awarded some £3.2m for an engineering training college. Furthermore, we have a delivery of homes within Fenland that we are not achieving because there is not the labour force here to deliver it. Too many young people are going to university when there are good, well-paid jobs available locally if we can get young people interested in building trade jobs such as quantity surveyors, electricians, plumbers etc. that require a whole range of skills that we can train young people in. He has pushed hard to encourage training centres to get apprenticeships within the building trade because there is a need and jobs are available at the end of it.
4. Councillor Wicks said that while he accepts the exceptional opportunities available in Chatteris there is a whole wealth of area within Fenland that needs to be developed on all skills, but training opportunities are very limited. It is the actual business sites that we are not blessed with so what is being done to develop a pool of business sites that can become available for development? Alan Downton said he would go back to the CPCA as he does not know what is happening on a local basis.
5. Councillor Booth asked Councillor Benney what the CPCA is doing specifically about apprenticeships as the presentation is looking at the future and the initiatives within it, such as the Kickstart scheme, are government-led. He had supported the inception of the CPCA

because it was envisaged that it would provide educational funding but four years later it seems we are only just now starting to put in place plans for the future. Regarding the fact that many courses on offer are not appropriate, we were told two years ago that it was recognised that many of the adult education courses on offer did not serve a purpose as they were not vocational training, with many more suited to hobbies. This is the main issue that we need to speak up on; we are missing opportunities here. Councillor Benney said he was under the impression that the funding towards apprenticeships was coming through the CPCA and he would investigate this further and get back to Councillor Booth. Paul Webster confirmed that Kickstart is a national programme for 18-24-year olds registered on universal credit but the CPCA has been working with schools, helping students to understand their development and career opportunities along with pathways to education and discussing the merits of apprenticeships versus a university education. There is also a team of business engagement advisors operating across the region; the CPCA complements them and helps by investing in the digital platform to make it more accessible to people wherever they are located and they are looking to scale up that work. Alan Downton said that the CPCA have appointed two new SROs and will ensure that they can inform what is happening immediately when the workshops commence. Councillor Booth said he still feels that opportunities are being missed and we need to ramp up the speed of delivery.

6. Councillor Booth said in terms of grant funding there seems to have been no progress in the last few years of investment into Agri-tech. We were told that the Fens, with its strong agricultural economy and community, would be ideal to see investment in this area. Why are we not looking to invest more in this area as we should be leading the nation on this considering our position.
7. Councillor Benney responded that although he agrees with Councillor Booth's comments, people do need to come forward with applications in the first place. However, we now have additional FDC staff in the Economic Growth team and a list of businesses that they can start targeting to advise that there is funding available and encourage these applications. Unfortunately, the onset of COVID-19 had previously held up this work.
8. Councillor Cornwell asked how the CPCA intends to work with the emerging university in respect of skills education to identify how it will cover some of the technical shortages that businesses are having or expect to have, as he understands it will be more technical than academic, Paul Webster advised that although broad funding pots are available from the CPCA to create new learning pathways, to include digital skills and the traditional trade supply, it is up to the university to deliver their own plan and run from their own perspective. However, they have reached out and are waiting to engage with the university on their intentions in advance of its launch in about 15 months. We do have our own ability to change learning pathways without the university, however we are here to collaborate and work with strategic partners.
9. Councillor Cornwell said in effect the CPCA has appointed Anglia Ruskin to produce the university so surely they will have a say in what courses are needed; if not where is the linkage? Alan Downton said he has been working with Anglia Ruskin, and they have been undertaking workshops with businesses to ensure it is demand-led and this has informed the content and structure of courses going forward. Councillor Cornwell said he just wants to ensure that the money invested across the district and the work is being delivered in a coordinated manner to get best value from all the operations. Alan Downton said that he is heavily involved with the working groups and could assure Councillor Cornwell that the work undertaken is joined up.
10. Councillor Yeulett said the presentation was very interesting with a lot of information provided. The biggest challenge to our area is that of access and infrastructure. The north of the district has the most needs and deprivation and he would like to see a focus and improvement in the area with these proposals. Alan Downton said although he does not know the specific details about infrastructure in the area, he could confirm that the CPCA are looking at the bigger picture.
11. Councillor Benney agreed that infrastructure is a major problem for the whole of Fenland and a priority, particularly for Whittlesey as an artery into Fenland.
12. Councillor Miscandlon said the Skills Panel for the CPCA have previously been made aware

that not everybody wants a career, desk or computer job and agreed with Councillor Benney that jobs in the building trade are extremely important and skilled in their own right and can be extremely rewarding.

13. Councillor Topgood said his concern is that the scheme could stall and to ensure it does not would suggest regular updates and scrutiny of the results.
14. Councillor Cornwell said that we have a maritime centre in Wisbech and made a plea that this area be considered for further development in the future. Councillor Benney said the port is his area of responsibility and he has already looked to see what can be done there. Although Crab Marsh boat yard is full, it is being utilised and short of spending a lot of money on the quay there are restrictions because of the tides. However, he would be happy to discuss further with Councillor Cornwell.
15. Councillor Wicks wanted to make the point in referring to apprenticeships that everyone learns in a different way; not everyone is academically gifted, and this should not be forgotten that some people take longer than others to learn their skills.
16. Councillor Booth asked that it be added to the recommendation that members of CPCA and Cabinet take away the comments made this afternoon and ensure that the issues and concerns raised are addressed. Alan Downton said he had a note of all the comments.

Councillor Mason thanked Alan Downton and Paul Webster for their time.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the contents of the presentation and progress made in relation to Economic Growth activities between the CPCA and FDC and the impact of CPCA's Growth Service on Economic Growth in Fenland.

(Alan Downton and Paul Webster left the meeting).

OSC47/20 INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Mason welcomed Councillor Boden to the meeting to present the first Investment Board Annual Report

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

1. Councillor Booth recognised that there has not been the opportunity for the Investment Board to get fully up and running given the constraints of COVID-19 and suggested that we not wait for an update in a year's time. He noted that one of the aims of the Board is to invest in residential development and he asked what the approach is going to be regarding delivery of social housing. Councillor Boden said it is the Board's intention to be commercial and will be unlikely to pursue social housing unless legislation dictates it; the objective of Fenland Future Limited is to operate as any commercial developer in order to achieve a return.
2. Councillor Yeulett said the report referred to the Investment Board being created to be more 'fleet of foot' and asked what that meant. Councillor Boden said it refers to the need to move quickly i.e. with a speed greater than usual at local government level, to compete for investment opportunities with private businesses.
3. Councillor Miscandlon said whilst it is desirable to keep investment within the geographical area would the Board consider opportunities outside of Fenland. Councillor Boden said if the opportunity arose, it would not be ruled out but most of our real opportunities will lie within or close to Fenland.
4. Councillor Miscandlon said that Fenland owns some land, some of which is up for sale, therefore would it be in our interest to apply for planning permission to increase its intrinsic value, so that when sold we profit further. He also asked if there was a possibility of building our own houses although, bearing in mind that we transferred our housing stock, would it be the intention to go back into social housing and how would this affect our stock partner

Clarion? Councillor Boden said in respect of our smaller plots of land, although it would not be economically viable for us to build on these ourselves, it would be prudent to at least apply outline planning permission and or have a clawback provision within the sale so that if speculative development was achieved then we would get some recompense for that. For larger areas of land, we have to consider that we do not have the expertise to develop ourselves but look to work in partnership with a developer to build and cooperate with us. In any development we undertake there will be some obligation to have affordable housing, it may not be in the form of social housing, and it is not our intention to build social housing as there will not be the return, but it not our intention to reintroduce the social housing stock.

5. Councillor Mason said members would be interested to know what assets are placed on loan security or earmarked for that purpose. Councillor Boden said no further borrowing has taken place and therefore no assets are being used as security but if we were to borrow for future schemes this would be from internal borrowing or through the public works loan board.
6. Councillor Booth asked if we have been using clawback clauses and if we have been doing that on all the sites we have been selling to date as standard practice. Councillor Boden said it is standard practice but not on every site as that is dependent on the nature of the site itself.
7. Councillor Mason thanked Councillor Boden for his report and said given that the Board is newly formed, he looks forward to a larger report next year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel noted the Annual Report of the Investment Board.

OSC48/20 TRANSFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE

Councillor Mason welcomed Councillor Tierney to the meeting to present the Transformation & Communications Portfolio Holder update.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Miscandlon said he feels we should encompass a broader method of communication than mentioned within the report, such as local radio. Not everybody has access to a computer or social media, and he asked what the Council could do about this. Councillor Tierney said the normal approach is to send out press releases, but the suggestion of including radio is something officers can take on board to ensure the maximum number of people hear the good news that FDC is doing, and so we will include as many forms of media that we can. The press team work hard but new ideas are always welcome.
- Councillor Boden advised that Fenland Youth Radio has just been added to FDC's publicity and press release list.
- Councillor Booth asked for clarification as to why some of the items on the list of projects were on the transformation programme as he thought they were things we would deliver naturally. He asked if it is the intention that the transformation programme overlooks all projects delivered across the district as opposed to more innovative projects. Councillor Tierney said his portfolio role is to act as a strategic lead on transformation and not to interfere with the work of other portfolio holders or committees; he will just ensure that loose ends are tied up. It does not matter that there are some additional projects in there, he will merely guide the overall direction of travel that we are taking.
- Councillor Booth raised the issue of complaints. He has commented many times before that a good quality organisation takes complaints as an opportunity to learn and improve as an organisation. He has previously asked for a breakdown of the nature of complaints as opposed to just the number. He asked for a commitment to provide this information going forward, i.e. broad themes and what action will be delivered to counteract further similar complaints. Councillor Tierney agreed it is important to look for patterns in the nature of complaints and to

identify any gaps in service delivery; he agreed that this can be done going forward but also giving regard to confidentiality where required.

- Councillor Cornwell suggested a weekly newsletter could be emailed to people who interact with their local authority. It will particularly keep the majority of more rural customers aware of what is going on. Less people now read newspapers and a large number of our residents do not get a local newspaper so often press releases are not seen. Councillor Tierney thanked Councillor Cornwell for the idea. He said part of his role is to stay ahead and not leave anyone behind. When we have new ideas, we can look at it but with a view to seeing if the amount of additional officer time makes it worthwhile. He pointed out that press releases do not just go to papers, but also to social media channels, which are growing fast. However, he will take away the idea of an opt-in mailing list and perhaps talk about it again at a later meeting.
- Councillor Booth asked what controls are in place to ensure that what we deliver engages everyone and that nothing falls in the gaps, and that we do not fall foul of our legislative responsibilities. Councillor Tierney responded that firstly officers have all the processes in place in respect of existing business and secondly it is the job of elected members and committees such as this to scrutinise and look for things that may be coming up and make officers aware of them. All the existing measures are there but it is incumbent on us all to ensure that nobody is left behind as he appreciates that technology is not for everyone and everybody should have equal access to the council.
- Councillor Booth asked that with the scale of change we are proposing does that not mean we should be considering additional layers of oversight to ensure nothing falls between the cracks. There is a cultural aspect we need to address to ensure that people come along with us and are not afraid to raise concerns.
- Councillor Tierney said he feels confident with existing systems but if there is anything that he is missing or not capturing he is open to hearing a specific example and seeing what can be done with that.
- Councillor Booth expressed concern that we have the correct culture for staff to be able to raise concerns or report issues on changes that are being delivered. The role of members is to set policy and they may have the oversight on democracy but are not seeing what officers are dealing with at the coalface on a daily basis. Councillor Tierney said there is a system for staff to report issues and raise concerns in a neutral way, but senior officers can check and see that system is robust.

Councillor Mason thanked Councillor Tierney for his time this afternoon.

The Overview & Scrutiny Panel considered the progress made in delivering the Transformation and Communication Portfolio during 2020 - 2021.

OSC49/20 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Mason pointed out that members commented at the February meeting that a rolling 12-month Future Work Programme be developed. This work is underway and will be circulated for comment prior to being brought back to the panel at the next formal meeting.

3.37 pm

Chairman

Agenda Item 7

ACTION NUMBER MEETING DATE MINUTE NUMBER		UPDATE	TIMESCALE
<p>ACTION 1 08/06/2020 OSC43/19</p>	<p>Cllr Booth would like county council to state what rates they will charge pre-schools (this should have been an action recorded under OSC38/19, item 21).</p>	<p>Response from Sector Development and Funding Manager, Early Years' Service, Cambs County Council</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council wrote recently to a range of early years and childcare providers occupying buildings on school sites as part of its ongoing work to achieve consistent occupancy arrangements.</p> <p>The ongoing work looks at whether market rents are affordable for Early Years settings or not and then proceeds to adjust the rent downwardly if there is lack of affordability that would threaten the sustainability of the provision.</p> <p>This activity supports the Council's responsibilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and developing the local economy for the benefit of all; • Obtaining best value in respect of all its financial dealings, including those in its role of being a landlord; and, • Maintaining its assets in order to protect their value over time. <p>This process has been extended to address the impact of the Coronavirus on early years provision, looking at rent deferment and rent holiday options. Both options were presented in the letter.</p> <p>These measures are designed to make occupancy easier for early years and childcare providers, with more consistent, realistic and affordable property charges. Providers will be asked for certain information relating to their business in order to access the remedial measures on offer. This again is in the interests of consistency and fairness. There is no intention to increase rents in any of this activity.</p>	<p>Cllr Booth requested a watching brief on this item and that it stay on the Action Plan</p>
<p>ACTION 2 08/06/20 OSC44/19</p>	<p>Cllr Booth requested further information on what the police will be doing to enhance their enforcement role in relation to</p>	<p>Response from Neighbourhood Inspector Ian Lombardo</p> <p>The team have been working on a bid for exhaust noise reading equipment and I'm pleased to say this has been successful and the kit has been ordered.</p> <p>A constant complaint is the drivers with loud exhausts driving at speed through the towns and villages and until now we</p>	<p>Cllr Booth requested a watching brief on this item and for it to stay on the Action Plan</p>

	<p>speeding prevention.</p>	<p>didn't have a calibrated bit of equipment to register the level of excessive noise coming from these vehicles and therefore found it difficult to prosecute. It links in with the speeding aspect as the loud racing sound of the exhaust encourages the driver to driver faster. A day of action will be taking place in the near future.</p> <p>Norfolk have had this kit for a couple of years and have been extremely positive about it. It's especially useful at car cruises as it's a nice and simple way to break them up as the drivers don't want to get fined and as it's a calibrated machine, they can't argue with it at court. Local officers continue to target road related offences including speeding during their routine patrols.</p> <p>We regularly update the community about action that is taken regarding these matters via our social media pages and monthly councillor reports.</p> <p>The teams will and do undertake dedicated speed enforcement when other priorities allow and support local communities to set up their own speed watch schemes. We continue to look for new ways to work with our partners to ensure that the roads in the fenland area are as safe as possible. Work is developing to set up an email address for the Police neighbourhood teams dedicated to Local Councillors and partners to feed in concerns such as hot spots for speeding which the team can then respond to.</p>	
<p>ACTION 3 07/09/20 OSC11/20 Q1</p>	<p>Cllr Skoulding asked that a follow up letter is sent to all the residents of Lake Close, March giving them an update of when the unfinished road works will commence</p>	<p><u>Update on Lake Close:</u></p> <p>Further to the feedback you received through an email by Member Services on the 5th October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of multiple failures to deliver the agreed programme of works by Fosters ...with the latest being the 7th December ...Clarion had had no alternative but to commence termination procedures in line with the contract against Fosters. • As soon as the termination date was reached, Clarion commenced discussions with a new contractor Bowie Construction. You may recall that Bowie stepped in a year ago at this location to undertake emergency works relating to the drainage. • Bowie undertook at their own expense and time some temporary works around the site to improve the appearance of the roads and the safety of them in relation to the raised ironworks. • Clarion have contacted the County Council to appraise 	<p>Response sent to O&S by Member Services email 5th October – further update provided</p>

		<p>them of the failure of the existing contractor and CCC have provided assurances about undertaking their relevant inspection once required to allow the road to be adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglian Water have confirmed that there remains 1 more CCTV survey inspection of the drains which if satisfactory will result in the drains being adopted without further delay. • Bowie are currently mobilising the resource to undertake the resurfacing works and Clarion have impressed on them the importance of undertaking this work as a priority. • Bowies have confirmed that they won't be able to start for at least 4 weeks due to all the issues surrounding Covid (either staff having it, staff self-isolating or parents having to home school children). Sadly, this is not unique to Bowies and is something Clarion are experiencing on many of their development sites. <p>Clarion have liaised with residents expressing concern as required and intend to send the letter referenced when they have the start date confirmed</p>	
<p>ACTION 4 08/02/21 OSC41/20 Q9</p>	<p>Cllr Booth asked for accident statistics concerning young drivers</p>	<p>Matt Staton of CCC Road Safety Partnership agreed to obtain this data and forward it on.</p> <p>Table circulated 05/07/21</p>	<p>Response received 23/04/21.</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>ACTION 5 08/03/21 OSC45/20</p>	<p>Cllr Connor has had no contact from Clarion re tenant issue at Doddington</p>	<p>Cllr Connor has now updated Clarion with the tenant in Doddington who had a concern and Clarion have made contact with that tenant to advise how the issue can be progressed and who they need to contact in Clarion if there are further concerns</p>	<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>ACTION 6 08/03/21 OSC45/20</p>	<p>Cllr Connor still wants an answer re future planning applications and how additional surface water will be dealt with.</p>	<p>Anglian Water have stated they have no plans to update infrastructure in the next five years. Anglian Water to be invited back to a future O&S panel meeting for an officer with technical knowledge to be able to respond to ongoing member concerns.</p>	<p>TBA</p>

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Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny	
Date:	July 2021	
Report Title:	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	

1 Purpose / Summary

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report reflects what has been undertaken and achieved by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel during 2020/21 and takes a forward look at the programme of work and challenges for the Overview and Scrutiny in 2021/2022.

2 Key issues

The Local Government Act 2000 sets out the requirements of a modernised democratic structure for local authorities. The Act includes the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Committee.

Article 6 (3.4) of the Council's Constitution sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's terms of reference. There is a stated requirement for the work and working methods of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to be reported annually to the Council.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 For the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review and approve the draft annual report for forwarding to Council.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	-
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor David Mason - Chairman - Overview and Scrutiny Councillor Alex Miscandlon - Vice Chairman - Overview and Scrutiny
Report Originator(s)	Anna Goodall – Head of Transformation, Customer Service and Democracy Amy Brown - Head of Legal, Procurement and Member Services

Contact Officer(s)	<p>Paul Medd - Chief Executive 01354 622202 paulmedd@fenland.gov.uk</p> <p>Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director 01354 622201 pcatchpole@fenland.gov.uk</p> <p>Anna Goodall – Head of Service agoodall@fenland.gov.uk</p> <p>Amy Brown - Head of Service abrown@fenland.gov.uk</p>
Background Paper(s)	Overview and Scrutiny reports, Agendas and Minutes 2020/21

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

1 CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the annual report in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The report focuses on the work undertaken by the panel during the past twelve months as well as providing a forward look to 2021/22.

The continuation of the global COVID pandemic during 2020/21 has brought about significant challenges to local residents and businesses, as a result the Council has changed its approach to service delivery as well as delivering new services, to ensure those most vulnerable in our communities receive support during these unprecedented times. These changes have included the introduction of the Community Hub, providing support to individuals directly impacted by the pandemic, as well as delivering a wide suite of business grants, to help support local businesses that have suffered a financial impact as a result of the pandemic.

One significant change arising from the coronavirus pandemic has been to the operation of the Council's public meetings. During 2020/21 the government temporarily removed the legal requirement for local authorities to hold public meetings in person. The District Council quickly adapted and made use of the technology available to hold public meetings virtually, therefore continuing to make critical decisions on the delivery of its services for Fenland residents in a way that was both transparent and accessible to the public. More recently the legal requirement to hold public meetings in person has been re-introduced in addition to ensuring meetings are COVID secure. The District Council continues to ensure meetings are accessible online to continue to facilitate public engagement

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel continues to hold our Cabinet colleagues to account for the performance and delivery of services within their portfolios. The Panel has received regular performance updates and have been reassured that services continue to perform well. The work programme remains ambitious and focusses on issues that are of paramount importance to local residents and businesses, as we remain steadfast in our approach of adding value to the decision making process whilst utilising the Overview

function to ensure new and emerging policies and procedures are fit for purpose and can successfully achieve their objectives.

2020/21 was a busy year for the Overview and Scrutiny Panel as the District Council continues to have significant ambition to transform how services are delivered in order to secure sound outcomes for local residents whilst also being an effective, efficient Council that is fit for the future.

I have been privileged to be able to work with a committee of elected members both past and present, who have all taken an active and enthusiastic role in the Overview and scrutiny process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members and officers for their ongoing support and co-operation with the Overview and Scrutiny function this year. I would also like to thank the many representatives of partner organisations that have taken the time to contribute so positively to our work.

Councillor David Mason

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny

2 THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 2020-2021

Councillor David Mason - Chairman

Councillor Alex Miscandlon - Vice Chairman

Councillor Gavin Booth

Councillor David Connor

Councillor Steve Count

Councillor Mike Cornwell

Councillor Michael Humphrey

Councillor Mark Purser

Councillor Robert Skoulding

Councillor David Topgood

Councillor Bob Wicks

Councillor Fred Yeulett

3 INTRODUCTION

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

- 3.2 The Local Government Act 2000 requires Councils to have a committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions or actions affecting the authority's area or residents. Scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that local government remains effective and accountable. Scrutiny ensures that executives are held accountable for their decisions, that their decision-making process is clear and accessible to the public and that there are opportunities for the public and their representatives to influence and improve Council policies.
- 3.3 The power to scrutinise was further expanded by the Police and Justice Act 2006, which provided powers to scrutinise the work of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, known locally as the Safer Fenland Partnership.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides more powers to local government to scrutinise other partner organisations. It also brings in other provisions that affect how scrutiny committees work, including powers over the creation of joint committees.

- 3.4 More recently, The Localism Act 2011 consolidated the wide range of scrutiny legislation into a single place, largely unamended from previous legislation. This aims to increase local accountability and transparency of public services as well as enhancing the involvement of local service users
- 3.5 All Overview and Scrutiny meetings are held in public session and attendance and involvement of the public is actively encouraged either via questions or suggestions for our work programme.

Main responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny

- 3.6 The role of Overview and Scrutiny has five broad functions:

3.7

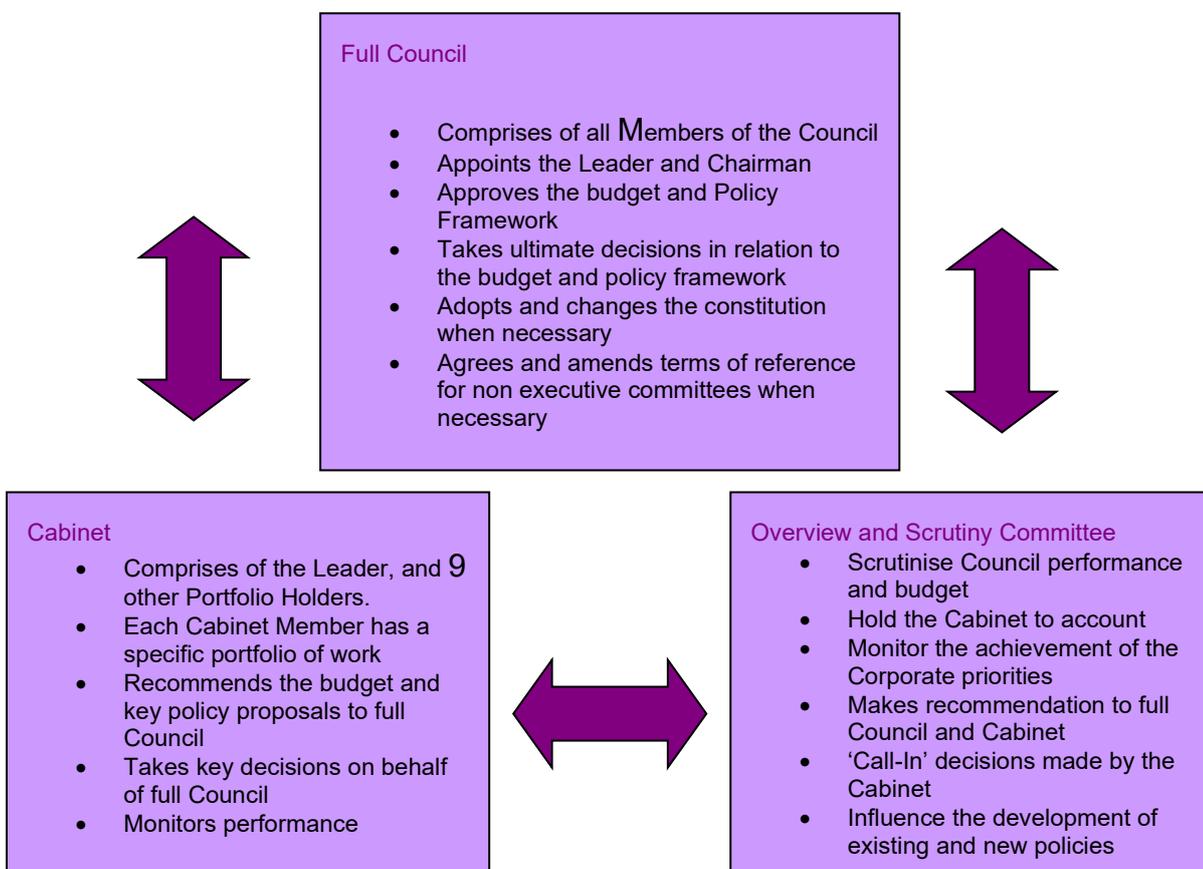
- Holding the Council’s Executive and its statutory partners to account in the public interest. This enables more transparent and effective decision making.
- Supporting the development of effective policies and initiatives which have a beneficial impact on the community through policy overview and development.
- Contributing to continuous improvement in the delivery of the Council’s corporate priorities.
- Having a positive impact on the work and outcomes of external agencies and providers of public services.
- Aiding Councillors in engaging with their communities and undertaking the role of community representatives and leaders.

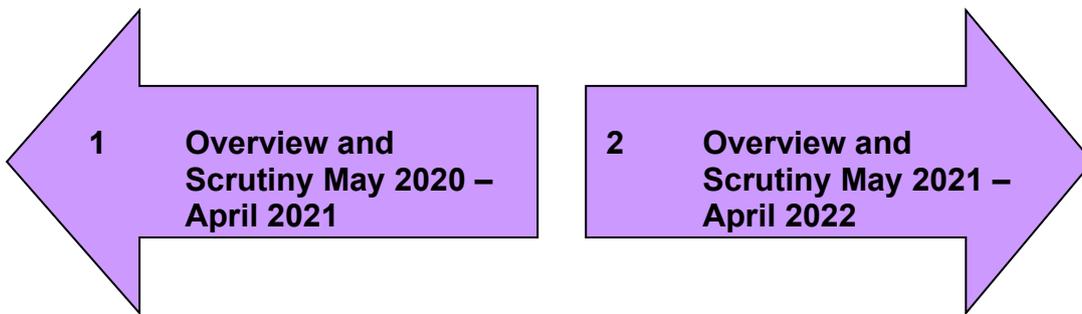
Overview	Scrutiny
Advising on the development of policies.	Ensuring that the Council’s policies have been effectively implemented by the Cabinet.
Recommending how the Council’s corporate priorities can be delivered.	Helping to monitor and drive improvements within the Council’s corporate priorities.
Bringing a wider perspective to problem solving.	Holding decision makers to account
Examining broader issues affecting local communities.	Ensuring all service providers within a local community are providing ‘value for money’

Appointing Members onto Overview and Scrutiny

- 3.8 During 2020-2021, following a recommendation by the Leader of the Council, it was the responsibility of the full Council to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Panel at their annual meeting in May. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel consisted of twelve members drawn from the political groups in the same proportion as they are represented on the Council as a whole.

Relationship between Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council





4 A BACKWARD LOOK TO 2020 - 2021

What the Overview and Scrutiny Panel achieved in 2020/2021

External advisors/partners

- 4.2 The panel looked at an array of different topic areas; most could be dealt with by drawing on the knowledge and expertise of Fenland District Council Councillors and Officers. However, sometimes there is a need to call in external advisors to help the panel with their knowledge and to provide a different vantage point.
- 4.3 As will be explained later, a greater emphasis has been placed on Local Authority scrutiny, of and with partner agencies. Fenland’s Overview and Scrutiny Panel is already undertaking this partnership working in a positive spirit, demonstrating its collaborative approach. The table below highlights the external partners the Overview and Scrutiny Panel have already engaged with, when undertaking the scrutiny function during 2020/21:

Agenda item	External Advisor/Partner	Organisation
Anglia Water	Briony Tuthill	Anglia Water
Wisbech Rail Project Update	Roland Potter	CPCA
Fenland Projects Update	Russell Beal	Anglia Water
CPCA Growth Service	Paul Webster	Gateley Economic Growth Service -Director
	Alan Downton	CPCA Senior Responsible Officer

Freedom Leisure	Matt Hunt Dan Palframan	Freedom Operations Director Freedom Area Manager
Safer Fenland partnership (SFP): Annual Scrutiny	Inspector Ian Lombardo	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Anglia Revenues Partnership - Annual Review	Paul Corney Adrian Mills	Anglia Revenues Partnership

4.4 As well as working with individual partners, the panel have also scrutinised other elements of partnership working through each of the respective corporate priority areas. The panel will continue with this successful approach during 2021/22.

How the work of Overview and Scrutiny is linked to the Council’s corporate priorities

4.5 Fenland District Council’s Business Plan is the vision for the future of Fenland, clearly setting out a series of priorities that will be the focus of the organisation for the next twelve month period. To ensure these priorities are correct, deliver on targets and achieve outcomes, the Overview and Scrutiny work programme reflects the Council’s priorities to ensure robust scrutiny in meaningful priority areas is achieved.

4.6 The table below illustrates how agenda items link in with Fenland’s priorities:

C – Communities

Env – Environment

E – Economy

QO – Quality Organisation

Topic/Issue	C	Env	E	QO
Progress against corporate priority: Environment				
Progress against corporate priority: Economy				
Progress against corporate priority: Communities				
Fenland Community Safety Partnership (FSP) /Crime Disorder and Reduction partnership				
Freedom Leisure				

CPCA Economic Growth Service				
Fenland Project Update				
Annual meeting with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive				
Draft Business Plan and Budget				
Council Tax Support Scheme				
Fees and Charges				
Anglia Water				
Review of Anglia Revenues Partnership				
Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy				
Commercial Investment Strategy				
Culture Strategy				
Wisbech Rail Update				

5 Specific reviews undertaken in 2020- 2021

- 5.1 A Member Led Review of the Anglia Revenues Partnership was commenced during 2019-20. The review was initiated as Members had raised questions regarding the performance of the Anglian Revenues Partnership at a meeting of Full Council. In addition The Overview and Scrutiny considered the Annual Report in respect of Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) during their February 2020 meeting. During those discussions Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed that as the partnership had been in existence for the past 6 years without a formal review it would be timely to conduct a Member Led Review of the Service to ensure the partnership continued to achieve value for money for Fenland in comparison with the other member Councils.
- 5.2 The aims of the review were as follows
- To examine the current Anglian Revenues Partnership including its structure, performance and governance arrangements.
 - To consider each constituent councils audit plan where relevant to the ARP including their respective findings and recommendations in relation to ARP.
 - To consider the current vision and aims of the partnership to ensure relevant and up to date.
 - To consider feedback from key internal and external stakeholders received in relation to the Anglian Revenues Partnership.
 - To consider the current and future direction of the partnership to ensure aligned to Fenland priorities.
 - To consider wider issues that might impact the performance of the partnership including the wider rollout of Universal Credit.
- 5.3 The Member led Review Group had two review meetings during which they received detailed performance metrics and feedback from audit reviews undertaken by other constituent Council members. Unfortunately, the review commenced immediately in advance of the COVID 19 pandemic, which adversely impacted the timescales for the formal completion of the review.

- 5.4 The Member Led Review of ARP recommenced in October 2020 and the resulting recommendations were presented to and full endorsed by the December 2020 Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.
- 5.5 The Review group identified the following findings:
- 5.6 that the COVID pandemic undoubtedly has had an impact on the work of the ARP. As a result the partnership is seeking to further improve the digital offering to customers therefore ensuring that those who can self-serve do so.
- 5.7 The use of 'friendly reminders' in terms of non-statutory reminders for council tax has shown that people can change their behaviour without receiving statutory notices, which are harsher in nature because of the legislative information they have to contain. Therefore, ARP have identified that more people respond positively and pay when targeted with the 'softer' approach and ARP are investigating that further
- 5.8 Regular data cleansing is required as during the work to provide business rates relief it is evident that ARP are not always notified when one business leaves a premise and another moves in.
- 5.9 ARP has taken a more holistic approach to help vulnerable customers who cannot engage digitally; it is therefore not a case of just ensuring these customers pay their council tax but also seeing how they can be signposted to other areas of support.
- 5.10 The COVID pandemic has resulted in FDC and the partnership working more closely together and in terms of the grants available, track and trace payments, hardship fund, council tax support consultation and the various reliefs. This close working partnership approach has made service delivery seamless to resident and business customers.
- 5.11 The review team learnt that good work is being done with the FDC empty homes officer and the staff at ARP to build a complete picture in relation to empty properties which has resulted in successfully bringing a number of these properties back into use within the district.
- 5.12 A disaster recovery process exercise had been undertaken just prior to the start of the initial national lockdown. One of the outcomes was the need to provide laptops for staff should a requirement arise for them to work from home if an office had to be shut down. As a result, and with the relevant IT teams working together, almost half the staff had already been issued with the equipment before and there was already a programme in place to supply remaining staff with laptops before the pandemic peak hit the Country initially. ARP are now considering a longer-term series of projects in respect of what working arrangements for staff will look like as part of the 'new normal'. Staff have been consulted regarding the future and 75% would like to work more from home. ARP will be reviewing desk sharing and accommodation requirements, which could bring about further potential savings. Early indications are that people find the work/life home balance is better and where measurable, it has been found that productivity has been higher.
- 5.13 Members previously raised questions during the January 2020 Council meeting in relation to perceived performance issues within the partnership. ARP acknowledge that they had several vacant posts across the service, which was impacting performance in some areas. A successful recruitment exercise took place during the spring of 2020. All staff have been successfully inducted and trained electronically during the pandemic. In addition generic roles were created a year ago where colleagues are trained in benefits and council tax billing; this creates upskilling but also greater resilience and flexibility to deal with peaks and troughs of work. Feedback from staff is that they have welcomed that, and it has provided them with reassurance that as housing benefit claims reduced due to the onset of universal credit, there was no need for uncertainty in respect of their job security or the ability of the partnership to accommodate this change of focus.
- 5.14 Members of the review team noted that at one time Cambridgeshire County Council in addition to FDC provided funding in respect of Council tax debt recovery work as both

organisations benefit from collecting any associated outstanding debts. Currently CCC do not fund debt recovery within Fenland which has impacted the approach to debt recovery in this area in spite of the fact that FDC do continue to fund this work.

- 5.15 The Recommendations resulting from the Member Led Review were as follows:
- 5.16 That the Overview and Scrutiny panel encourage the relevant Portfolio Holder and officers to continue to encourage the County Council to provide funding for the Council Tax debt recovery work. **(This Recommendation has now been successfully achieved with the implementation of the Cambridgeshire Fraud Hub)**
- 5.17 The group also recommend that when the Anglia Revenues Partnership is considered on an annual basis within the Overview and Scrutiny Panel that the Panel are provided with a broader context of the partnership to help inform their understanding and associated discussions.

6 Overview and Scrutiny Call – In

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel have the opportunity to scrutinise Executive decisions that have been made, but not implemented through the ‘call-in’ mechanism.
- 6.2 In accordance with the Council’s constitution, decisions of the Executive or a Portfolio Holder decision are published within 3 working days. There is then a further 5 working day period prior to the implementation of the decision in which Members are able to call in the decision. If the necessary number of Members, either the Chairman or Vice Chairman of any panel, or any 3 members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel or any 10 Members of the Council, ask for a decision to be called in for scrutiny, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel has to meet within 15 working days to consider the issue. Whilst this process takes its course, the decision taking process is suspended. If no call-in occurs, the decision is adopted.
- 6.3 If, having considered the decision, the Panel remains concerned about it, then it may refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns or, in exceptional circumstances, refer the matter to full Council. If referred back, the decision maker shall then reconsider the matter within a further 10 working days and amend the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If however the Panel decides not to refer the matter back, no further action is taken and the decision can take effect.
- 6.4 The call-in procedure does not apply where the decision being made by the Executive is deemed to be urgent i.e. where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council’s or the public’s interests. This should be clearly stated in the record of the decision. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel or in his/her absence the Chairman of the Council must agree that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency. Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel together with the reasons for the urgency.
- 6.5 Because of the nature of the call-in procedure, it is generally recognised as a mechanism of last resort. Indeed Government guidance states that it would clearly be detrimental to efficient decision making if every individual decision of the Executive were called in for overview and scrutiny as a matter of course.
- 6.6 The call-in procedure is therefore utilised when other means of influencing decision making have failed. Fenland District Council did not utilise the call in procedure at all during 2020/21.

- 6.7 Decisions made by the Executive where the matter was deemed urgent were taken on 4 occasions during 2020/21. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel were updated on these matters accordingly.
- 6.8 The urgency decision making powers were utilised in relation to the following matters and discussed at the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Freedom Leisure, June 2020
 - Council Tax Support Scheme, September 2020
 - The purchase of land in Manea, December 2020.
 - Funding Agreement, December 2020

7 A FORWARD LOOK TO 2021/2022

7.1 Policies and measures affecting scope of Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.2 The profile of scrutiny is changing nationally and as a result much is expected of us in response to the Localism agenda, more so now in the wake of the global COVID 19 pandemic. This could include community involvement, scrutiny of and with partners, scrutiny of crime and disorder issues, supporting the scrutiny of health services as well as supporting the scrutiny of the Combined Authority.

Overview and Scrutiny amending its role

- 7.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel remains committed to achieving value for money and ensuring the Council is efficient and cost effective in the delivery of its corporate priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel are also keen to focus on areas where they are able to add the greatest value being forward focused therefore making recommendations to Cabinet whilst also having a positive impact on the future direction and future focus of the Council and its policies.

Fenland's Priorities

- 7.4 In Fenland's Business Plan 2021-2022 the Council's corporate priorities are:

- Communities
- Economy
- Environment
- Quality Organisation

- 7.5 It is important that the work of Overview and Scrutiny complements these priorities to ensure services are being delivered to highest quality and any scrutiny work adds value. In addition the current Business Plan outlines the fact that Our Cabinet members have selected a number of projects to contribute towards our 'Council for the Future' agenda. These projects have a variety of aims; from tackling areas of particular need within the district, to transforming services and the wider organisation sustainably to be fit for the future. The Overview and Scrutiny work programme will also be informed by the Council for the Future agenda.

What the Overview and Scrutiny Panel will achieve in 2021-2022

Strategic Priorities

- 7.6 We will aim to raise the profile of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny work by better communicating our successes. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel will continue to articulate recommendations associated with the work plan and monitor how effectively the recommendations have been received and endorsed by the associated decision making bodies.

Work Programme

- 7.7 The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is a detailed programme that indicates the topics that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel will scrutinise. The work programme will be developed early in the new Council year setting out what the key areas of focus will be. Topics already identified for inclusion include:

- Crime Disorder and Reduction Partnership
- Local Health Partnership update
- Review of Anglia Revenues Partnership
- Planning shared service review
- Council Tax Scheme
- Draft Business Plan and Budget
- Progress of Corporate Priorities: Economy, Environment, Communities and Quality Organisation
- Council for the Future Transformation Projects
- Commercial Investment Strategy annual Update
- Anglia Water
- A key area of focus for the future will inevitably be the impact of the Coronavirus including its impact on services and the Council's finances. We will also need to look at what lessons can be learnt from the Council's response to the crisis and plans for recovery both in the short, medium and longer term.

8 CONTACTS

- 8.1 Work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel is enhanced by the involvement of Fenland residents, service users, our partners and local businesses as they bring an alternative perspective whilst also providing external challenge. If, therefore, you would like further details about any of the work mentioned in this report, or on how residents and partner organisations can contribute to the work of Overview and Scrutiny within Fenland we would very much welcome your input, please contact:

8.2

Councillor David Mason - Chairman Overview and Scrutiny

DMason@fenland.gov.uk

Councillor Alex Miscandlon - Vice Chairman Overview and Scrutiny

AMiscandlon@fenland.gov.uk

Linda Albon - Member Services Officer

lalbon@fenland.gov.uk

Amy Brown - Head of Legal, Procurement and Member Services

abrown@fenland.gov.uk

Anna Goodall - Head of Transformation, Customer Services and Democracy

agoodall@fenland.gov.uk

Covid Update

“To update O&S on the actions taken to date by the Council in dealing with the impact of the Covid pandemic, where we are now, and what’s next”

To date.....

- Over **2,265** requests for service received to our **Community Hub** to provide assistance and signpost services to the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Over **385 Isolation Payments** made to support people on low incomes if they cannot work during their self-isolation period.
- Secured temporary housing for **57 rough sleepers** and are supporting them to move onto safe, long term homes.
- Over **£35m business grant** payments paid to over **2,000 businesses** who have been significantly impacted.
- Successful roll out of **virtual Council meetings** and a Covid compliant Annual Council

To date (cont).....

- All core refuse, recycling, garden waste and cleansing services have all been delivered since the start of the Covid outbreak.
- All 4 Customer Service Centres remain open for customers to book appointments for complex requests. 50 customers have had a face to face appointment.
- We have had over 110,000 visits to our Covid webpages that offer advice and support for residents and businesses.
- PayPoint functionality enabling residents to pay a Council bill via cash or card at any PayPoint locations has taken over £1m with over 8,300 transactions.
- Delivery of Covid compliant elections were successfully carried out for the May 2021 local elections.

To date (cont).....

- Environmental health responded to more than **400 requests for advice and guidance** in relation to covid compliance.
- Over **800 contacts** with small and medium enterprises to offer bespoke support using funding through the High Street Fund
- Close working with **public health partners** to develop data flows and actions to support both workplaces and vulnerable groups such as those in houses in multiple occupation.
- Resourced the **local contact tracing service**, encouraging more reluctant residents to take part in contact tracing
- Over **50 workplace outbreaks supported** with infection management, workplace testing, advice, and access to vaccination
- **Support for employees** testing positive to ensure workplace safety and effective isolation support

To date (cont).....

- Co-ordination of **Mobile sites** for PCR testing (people with symptoms) in Fenland.
- Co-ordination of **Rapid Testing** and **Pop-up** sites for Lateral flow testing (people who do not have symptoms) in Fenland.
- Publicise a range of **communications, publicity and campaigns** from national Government and Public Health England to members, staff, residents and businesses.
- Work with **community groups, community centres and businesses** to publicise targeted campaigns on a variety of communication channels for our hard to reach groups and residents (translated materials/targeted comms)
- Community Champions have undertaken 2,400, 1-2-1 sessions with clients including homeless, rough sleepers, Lithuanian and Polish school parents and the Muslim Prayer Group.

To date (cont).....

- The majority of our workforce have been enabled to **work from home**, with a small core of staff in the main offices.
- All IT users have a **laptop**, and are enabled to use **remote access** and **Microsoft Teams**.
- We are maintaining split teams across all key services to ensure ongoing **business continuity**.
- We provide a pilot **Lateral Flow testing** process for all staff who are currently working a Fenland Hall.
- We continue to report the **Financial impact of Covid** to MHCLG.
- Provide a **weekly Covid update** to Cabinet and the leader of Fenland Independents Alliance.

Where now.....

- Continue to support the CCG to promote the Covid-19 **vaccination programme** in Fenland.
- Continue to support our partners to promote the testing programme in Fenland. In particular, **mobile testing, rapid testing** and **testing in businesses**.
- Continue to support our vulnerable members of our community via the **Community Hub**.
- Continue to **publicise, process and distribute Business Grants** in line with Government guidelines. Including recovery schemes like the **Whittlesey and Wisbech Capital Grants Scheme**.
- Work with Town Council's, Community Groups and Volunteers to deliver the Government's '**Welcome Back Fund**' initiative.

Where now (cont).....

- Work with Peterborough and South Holland to deliver the key objectives with for Covid **Enduring Transmission pilot**. Pilot focusses on areas where **rates remain stubborn and embedded** in areas of our community.
- Focus on:
 - Ensuring workers will not experience financial hardship
 - Ensure payments are channelled through a trusted third sector organisation
 - Work to increase job security for employees
 - Ensure that workers travel to their workplaces in ‘safe’ transport
 - Ensure workers can meet their rent payments or pay their mortgages
 - Ensure people have accommodation where they are able to self-isolate

Where now (cont).....

- Continue to deliver actions from the Council's Covid **Outbreak Management Plan**
- Continue to support the **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Outbreak Management Plan**; ongoing workplace cases, support local contact tracing
- Continue to develop community engagement via our **community champions** providing a direct link to communications and information to all communities.

What next.....

- Develop and take forward the actions outlined in the **Council's Recovery Plan**, including the **Welcome Back project**.
- Support **businesses** to recover from the Covid disruption. Develop **advice, support and expertise** for licensed and non licensed businesses in Fenland.
- Support **residents and communities** to recover from the Covid pandemic by identifying community support requirements and available funding opportunities.
- Services continue to respond to changes in changing epidemiology and **government guidance and legislation**
- Understand the full **financial impact** of the pandemic and identify short and long term objectives to balance the budget.

What next (cont).....

- Further develop commercial opportunities through the **Fenland Future Ltd** programme.
- Given the success of the majority of workforce working in an agile way, integrate these new ways of working and future financial benefits in the **Accommodation project**.
- Continue to build on the successful **transformation processes** through the **My Fenland project** that have been developed during Covid.
- Support transformation by developing and delivering an **organisation and skills programme** to embed the change process.

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Overview and Scrutiny – Draft Work Programme 2021-2022

All Formal meetings are held via Zoom until further notice,
and thereafter will be held in the Council Chamber at Fenland Hall

Meeting Dates

<u>Agenda Despatch Date</u>	<u>Informal pre-meeting</u>			<u>Formal Overview & Scrutiny Meeting</u>		
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pre-Brief</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Thursday 3 June 2021	Monday 7 June 2021 - Cancelled	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 14 June 2021 - Cancelled	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 1 July 2021	Monday 5 July 2021	2.00pm	Via Zoom	Monday 12 July 2021	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 2 September 2021	Monday 6 September 2021	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 13 September 2021	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 30 September 2021	Monday 4 October 2021	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 11 October 2021	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 28 October 2021	Monday 1 November 2021	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 8 November 2021	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 25 November 2021	Tuesday 30 November 2021	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 6 December 2021	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 6 January 2022	Monday 10 January 2022	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 17 January 2022	1.00pm	1.30pm

Thursday 27 January 2022	Monday 31 January 2022	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 7 February 2022	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 24 February 2022	Tuesday 1 March 2022	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 7 March 2022	1.00pm	1.30pm
Thursday 28 April 2022	Tuesday 3 May 2022	2.00pm	Room 38	Monday 9 May 2022	1.00pm	1.30pm

13 September 2021

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
1.00 – 1.30pm Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Progress of Corporate Priority – Communities	Communities	Councillor Lynn Councillor Miss Hoy Councillor S Clark Councillor Seaton Dan Horn, Phil Hughes, Annabel Tighe Carol Pilson
	Council Tax Support Scheme (deferred from July?)		Cllr Boden Cllr French Mark Saunders Peter Catchpole
	Local Government Ombudsman annual review of complaints		Councillor Tierney Peter Catchpole David Wright
	2021 Planning Shared Service Annual Review	Economy	Nick Harding Councillor Mrs Laws Carol Pilson
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

11 October 2021

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Annual Meeting with the Leader and Chief Executive	Quality Organisation	Councillor Boden Paul Medd Cabinet and CMT
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

8 November 2021

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Freedom Leisure Review	Communities	Councillor Sam Clark Carol Pilson Phil Hughes Simon Bell Representative from Freedom
	Wisbech 2021 Vision & Wisbech Rail Update	Communities	Councillor Boden Councillor Seaton Simon Machen Wendy Otter Russell Beal (Anglian Water) Adrian Chapman (Cambs County Council and Peterborough City Council) Rowland Potter (CPCA)
	Culture Strategy	Quality Organisation	Carol Pilson Phil Hughes Councillor Chris Seaton
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

6 December 2021

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Annual review of Anglia Revenues Partnership	Communities	Sam Anthony / Peter Catchpole Councillor Mrs French Paul Corney (ARP) Mark Saunders
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

17 January 2022

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Draft Budget	Quality Organisation	Cabinet CMT
	Draft Business Plan	Quality Organisation	Cabinet CMT Dave Wright
	Fees and Charges	Quality Organisation	Councillor Boden Peter Catchpole Cabinet Mark Saunders & Neil Krajewski
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

7 February 2022

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	FDC Enforcement Review	Communities	Councillor Murphy Carol Pilson Annabel Tighe
	Progress of Corporate Priority – Environment	Environment	Councillor Murphy Councillor Tierney Phil Hughes, Mark Mathews, Annabel Tighe Carol Pilson
	Community Safety Partnership	Communities	Councillor Lynn Carol Pilson, Dan Horn, Alan Boughen and Aarron Locks Police
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

7 March 2022

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting			
	Review of Clarion	Communities	Sue Stavers (Clarion) Dan Horn Councillor S Clark Carol Pilson
	Transformation & Communications Portfolio Holder update		Councillor Tierney David Wright Peter Catchpole
	Update on CPCA Growth Service and impact	Economy	Simon Machen

	on Economic Development in Fenland		Councillor Benney Justin Wingfield
	Commercial Investment Strategy	Economy	Councillor Boden Peter Catchpole
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

09 May 2022

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting			
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2021/22	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall

TBC July 2022

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ Officer/ External Witness
13.00 to 13.30 Pre Briefing			
13.30 to 15.30 Meeting	Appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year		
	Council Tax Support Scheme Report	Quality Organisation	Councillor Mrs French Councillor Boden Peter Catchpole Mark Saunders
	Draft Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report		Amy Brown / Anna Goodall
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions		Anna Goodall
	Future Work Programme 2022/23	Quality Organisation	Chairman Amy Brown / Anna Goodall