

Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	20 February 2023	
Report Title:	Recycled Whittlesey Market Towns funding - Consideration of Grant Funding Agreements with the CPCA for project delivery	

1 Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the success of applications to the CPCA to put in place new projects supporting the community in Whittlesey, recycling the remaining Market Towns funding of £455,000 following the cancellation of the Whittlesey Heritage Centre project.

2 Key issues

- 2.1 As part of the Growing Fenland work for the town of Whittlesey, the town team requested £500,000 to develop a heritage centre for the town. This facility was to be situated on Forterra land, adjacent to a local nature reserve about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile outside the town.
- 2.2 Following the CPCA's approval of the grant to Whittlesey Town Council, the Town Council developed a working group consisting of three elected Members. Work on the design of the facility took place between 2021 and March 2022. Whilst a design exists, there is a substantial gap in funding between the expected cost of the new building and the funding available. Other funders have been considered with no success – the funding gap is too large and requires a national funder such as the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- 2.3 The project team has considered the location and the gap in funding, alongside market conditions, and believes that continuing with the project at this time is unlikely to produce a facility in a timely, affordable manner. As the project will not give good value for money to the taxpayer, the project has been cancelled.

3 Recycling the remaining Market Towns Funding of £455,000

The Whittlesey Town Team discussed other options for the remaining funding to improve community assets within Whittlesey. The Town Team has settled on several community focussed projects. These projects either reflect priorities within the Growing Fenland Whittlesey Masterplan document or issues that are important to the community and have arisen since that report was originally developed.

- £265,000 Strategic Outline Business Case – Whittlesey Southern Relief Road
- £55,000 Community basketball / tennis / netball facilities; lighting upgrade and secure fencing
- £110,000 Add to the existing solar PV provision on the Manor Leisure Centre swimming pool building to improve sustainability
- £20,000 Improvements to the marketplace; removal of trip hazards and consideration of improved power supplies for community events and the market
- £10,000 In partnership with the library team, the development of a heritage display in the local library featuring one of the Must Farm Long Boats or a replica, and other items from the dig alongside interpretation boards telling the story of Must Farm

4 Acceptance of Grant Funding

Following a recent application to CPCA, these projects have now been approved, with Grant Funding Agreements (GFA) to be developed shortly.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 That Cabinet notes the revised Whittlesey Growing Fenland projects as highlighted above.
- 5.2 That Cabinet authorises the S151 officer to enter into Grant Funding Agreements (GFA) with CPCA to allow the delivery of the projects within each GFA, with each project managed using the FDC project management methodology and any cost limited to the total sum of grant funding available.

Wards Affected	Whittlesey Wards	
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/02FEB23/01 Whittlesey Southern Relief Road KEY/07DEC22/04 Other Whittlesey Market Town Fund projects	
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Chris Boden	Leader of the Council
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