

# **Update on Fenland Projects**

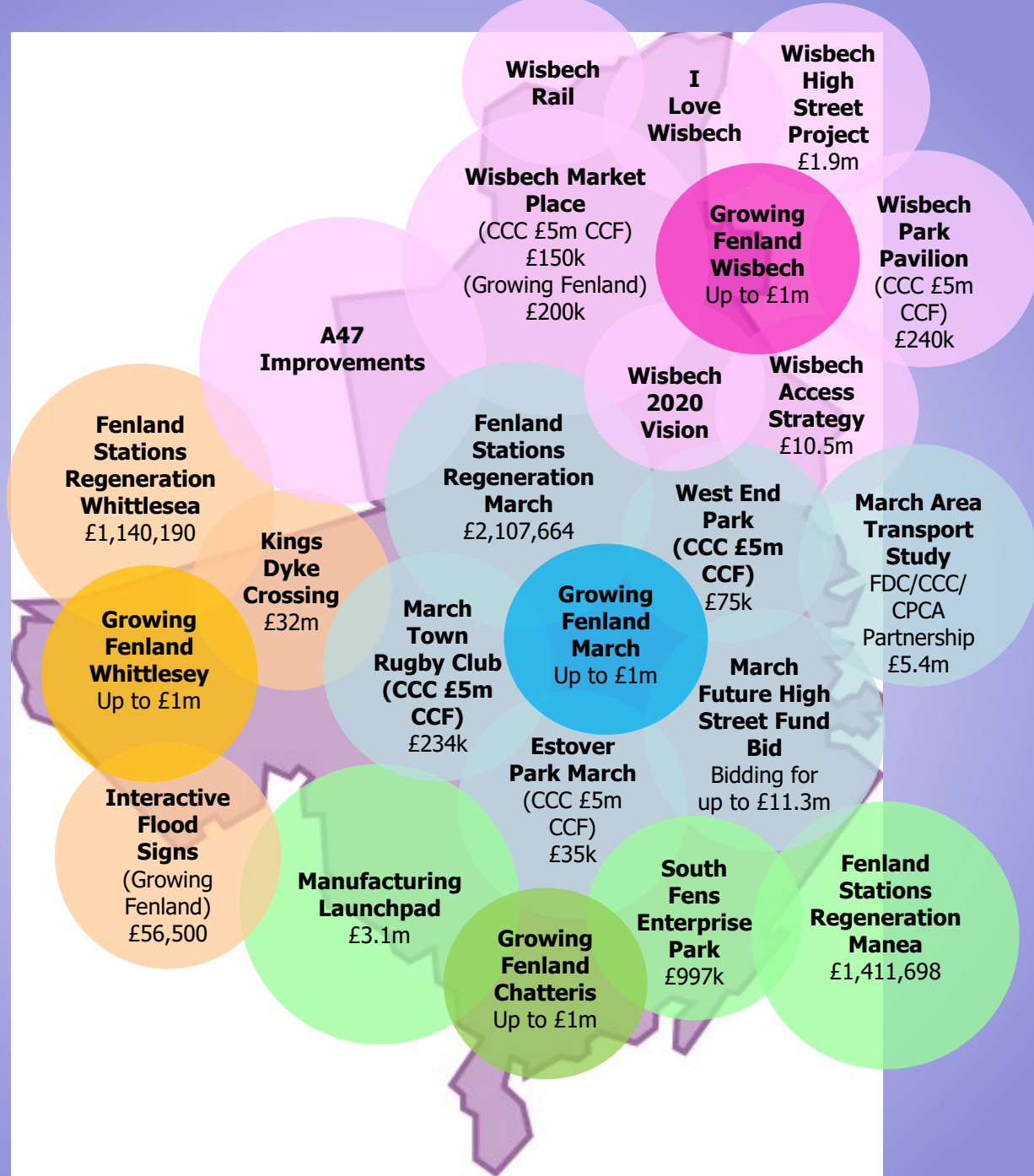
**FDC Overview & Scrutiny  
Meeting**

**9 November 2020**

# INTRODUCTION

- This is a high level overview of some of the projects being delivered in Fenland
- It focuses on projects which have been enabled through external funding
- It will highlight the links between some of the projects
- It is not an exhaustive list

# Fenland Projects



# Growing Fenland

- £200k of funding received from CPCA to develop economic town masterplans for their Market Towns Initiative (branding **Growing Fenland** in our district)
- Masterplans were produced by consultants Metro Dynamics in consultation with Growing Fenland Town Teams and stakeholders. The 4 plans also incorporated feedback from the public.
- All four masterplans and an overarching Strategic Report were approved by Town Councils, FDC Cabinet, CCC Communities & Partnership Committee and the CPCA Board.
- Up to £1m is available for each town to bid for. Projects which support recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are also encouraged.
- Please click on the following links for more information:

[Growing Fenland Town Reports](#)

[Growing Fenland Overarching Strategic Report](#)

# Growing Fenland

## Growing Fenland Bids approved by CPCA:

TOWN	PROJECT	CPCA FUNDING ALLOCATED
Whittlesey	Interactive Flood Signs	£56,500
Wisbech	Wisbech Market Place Enhancement Scheme	£200,000

## Growing Fenland Bids due to be submitted to CPCA Board meeting on 25 Nov:

TOWN	PROJECT	CPCA FUNDING TO BE REQUESTED
Chatteris	Chatteris Town Centre Renaissance Fund	£100,000
March	March Future High Street Bid – match funding	£900,000
Whittlesey	Heritage Visitor Centre	£500,000
Whittlesey	Heritage Walk	£218,000
Wisbech	Wisbech Water Park	£147,500

For further information [click here](#) to read FDC Cabinet report tabled on 21 October 2020.

# Cambridgeshire County Council £5m Communities Capital Fund (CCC £5m CCF)

- CCC launched their £5m Communities Capital Fund in April 2020
- Bids were invited for projects that would meet the funding criteria, which included:
  - Bringing people together and involving them in the design and implementation of the project
  - Improving local places and spaces that are important to communities
  - Helping to address physical and mental health priorities
- A number of bids were submitted from the Fenland area.
- Successful bids are shown on the next slide.
- For further information [click here](#) to read FDC Cabinet report tabled on 21 October 2020.

# CCC £5m CCF

PROJECT NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATED
March Town Rugby Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Club House facility</li> </ul>	£194,000
West End Park, March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve Park Run surface</li> <li>• Tarmac path from park entrance to bandstand</li> <li>• Enhance junior play area</li> <li>• Skate Park Fence</li> </ul>	£75,000
Estover Park, March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install fencing around whole site</li> <li>• Lay pathways and patio</li> <li>• Furnish kitchen and café area</li> </ul>	£35,000
Tower Hall, Friday Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide 'fit for purpose' disabled toilet and improve other toilets</li> <li>• Install solar panels with battery back up</li> </ul>	£36,000
Wisbech Market Place Enhancement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancements to Wisbech Market Place</li> </ul>	£150,000
Christchurch Outdoor Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details not available</li> </ul>	£15,000
Gorefield Extension to community parish hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details not available</li> </ul>	£198,000
Wisbech Park Pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convert existing changing room block into a community arts space</li> </ul>	£240,000

# Growth Deal Funding for Chatteris

- In February 2020, the CPCA allocated £997,032 to develop new business space at the South Fens Business Centre.
- The resulting South Fens Enterprise Park will provide accommodation for small and start up businesses through 'grow on' employment space and will complement the office space and conference facilities available in the South Fens Business Centre.
- In addition, the CPCA has also allocated £3.1m from the Local Growth Fund to create a manufacturing launchpad in Chatteris. The launchpad will be built in association with Metalcraft, one of the town's largest businesses working in the nuclear and medical sectors.
- The launchpad will support and grow existing businesses provision whilst increasing district-wide resources for economic development through the provision of skills training for local residents.
- This launchpad proposal forms part of the **Growing Fenland** plan for Chatteris and representatives from Metalcraft are part of the **Growing Fenland** Chatteris Town Team.



# Fenland Station Regeneration Project

- The majority of the funding needed for the **Fenland Station Regeneration** project was provided by the CPCA (£9.5m).
- A number of improvements are to be delivered at the district's stations in Manea, March and Whittlesey, including:
  - New waiting shelters for Manea and Whittlesea Stations
  - Car parking facilities at Manea and Whittlesea Station (including bus stop & taxi bay provision)
  - March station building redesign & improvements
  - Improved footpath and lighting at Whittlesea Station
  - A second ticket machine at Whittlesea Station
  - Additional car parking facilities at March Station (including bus stop & taxi bay provision)
  - Additional bicycle parking facilities at Manea, March and Whittlesea Station
  - GRIP (Governance for Railway Investment Projects) work for platform lengthening at Manea and Whittlesea Station and a footbridge at Whittlesea Station.

# March Future High Street Fund (FHSF)

- A bid for £9.3m has been submitted to the Government's **Future High Street Fund**, which combined with £2m secured from the CPCA could result in a potential £11.3m to bring forward ambitious proposals to revitalise March Town Centre.
- The scheme involves transforming Broad Street to include more pedestrian space and reduce traffic congestion. This work links to the **March Area Transport Study** which is being delivered in partnership with CCC/CPCA.
- If the bid is successful, the Market Place will be redeveloped to make it more of a community space and the Acre Road area of the town centre will be regenerated to bring vacant buildings back into use. Riverside enhancements are also planned.
- The **March FHSF** project is included in the **Growing Fenland** March plan.
- £900k of the £1m funding available for delivering the **Growing Fenland** March plan will be used for match funding for the **March FHSF** bid, if approved by the CPCA Board on 25 November.

# Wisbech Projects

- There are a number of projects being delivered in Wisbech, some of which overlap and some of which are complimentary.
- The first project launched in 2012 was the **Wisbech 2020 Vision** project. It was borne out of discussions between the then leaders of FDC and CCC along with the MP for North East Cambridgeshire.
- At that point there was limited partnership working in Wisbech and the high levels of deprivation were perhaps not fully appreciated by all stakeholders. The CPCA was not yet in existence and so one of the main priorities of the vision was to work with partners and lobby ministers to address the limited transport links in and out of the town.
- The various versions of the **Wisbech 2020 Vision** have included a number of objectives, many of which were challenging to deliver due to the wide scope of the project, the lack of a dedicated resource and the need for partnership working.
- Since the launch of the **Wisbech 2020 Vision** project, delivery of additional projects has occurred partly due to alternative funding streams being made available but also through groups working on individual parts of the original vision.
- Work is ongoing to streamline these Wisbech projects as part of a review of the **Wisbech 2020 Vision**

# Wisbech Projects - timeline



# Wisbech 2020 Vision Priorities

<b>Cross-cutting theme: Working better together</b>		<b>Partners at the centre of the Wisbech 2020 Vision will:</b>
	<b>Theme 1: Education and skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Equip schools in Wisbech to attract the very best teaching talent</li> <li>b) Place schools and libraries at the centre of community life</li> <li>c) Build better links between schools and regional businesses</li> </ul>
	<b>Theme 2: Health, wellbeing and cohesion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Deliver new initiatives and pilot new ideas to improve health &amp; wellbeing</li> <li>b) Shape new and improved health facilities in Wisbech</li> <li>c) Support the community to grow together and address areas where there is a lack of cohesion</li> </ul>
	<b>Theme 3: Infrastructure and the built environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reduce journey times between Wisbech - Cambridge and Wisbech - Peterborough and reduce the perceived distance</li> <li>b) Redouble efforts to secure improved national road connectivity</li> <li>c) Accelerate development at existing allocations and undeveloped sites</li> <li>d) Secure further investment in Wisbech's outstanding built heritage and leave a positive legacy for future generations</li> </ul>
	<b>Theme 4: Local economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Position the agri-food cluster at the centre of the Wisbech economy and help it to thrive</li> <li>b) Increase engagement with businesses to help them flourish and help grow the economy</li> <li>c) Restore the image of Wisbech as the proud economic and social Capital of the Fens.</li> </ul>

# Wisbech High Street

- £1.9m of grant funding was allocated from the Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Scheme for the **Wisbech High Street** project
- The project aims to restore a number of buildings on **Wisbech High Street** and bring empty properties back into use
- A new retail unit and flats will be built at the derelict former Cook's Butchers site at no.24
- Throughout the project, the history of **Wisbech High Street** premises has been documented and is shared on the project's website (see below)
- In addition, heritage related activities such as photographic workshops, heritage construction skills courses, and archaeological investigation and recording have been planned
- Please access the Wisbech High Street website for further information:  
<https://www.highstreetwisbech.org.uk>

# Wisbech Access Strategy

- The **Wisbech Access Strategy** is a package of individual transport schemes that aim to improve the transport network in Wisbech
- £10.5m has been accessed to deliver infrastructure improvements
- Phase 1 schemes are in the final stages of detailed design. Construction work is expected to commence in early 2021:
  - A47 Broadend Road
  - A47/A1101 Elm High Roundabout
  - A1101 Weasenham Lane Roundabout
- For further information, please access the Council's website:  
<https://www.fenland.gov.uk/wisbechaccess>
- An update on Wisbech rail will be given by CPCA representatives at today's O&S Committee meeting

# I Love Wisbech

- The **I Love Wisbech** Team is a subgroup of the **Wisbech 2020 Vision** Steering Group and includes representatives from local Councils, local businesses, voluntary groups and the arts and culture sector.
- They are focussing on the themes emanating from a public consultation exercise carried out in 2018 as part of a 'Prevention at Scale' pilot project sponsored by the Local Government Association (LGA) – themes shown on next slide.
- The LGA worked with a small number of local areas to deliver prevention at scale for a particular condition or risk factor that will have a significant impact on health improvement for the local population.
- The **I Love Wisbech** project has evolved to cover a wider range of themes (following public consultation) and a number of working groups have continued to meet virtually throughout 2020.
- Funding received was used to secure assistance from Hunts Forum who have helped to facilitate meetings and collate information. A temporary project manager will soon be recruited to carry on in this role.
- The **I Love Wisbech** team aim to work together to bid for funding and then deliver projects in the local area.



# I Love Wisbech Priorities

