

## Appendix 2b Environment & Green Investment

### Temporary Funding proposals

Active Parks	Page 2
Managing Climate Risk	Page 27

## Business Planning: Business Case – Investment proposal

Project Title: ‘Active Parks’ unit

Committee: Environment & Green Investment

2022-23 Investment amount: £40k

**Brief Description of proposal:**

To investigate establishing an Active Parks Unit within the County Council (alongside Public Health, Think Communities, and Environment) as a first concrete step in realising the benefits that parks can have to help tackle the linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity.

Date of version: 7 December 2021

BP Reference: N/A

Business Leads / Sponsors: Quinton Carroll

# 1. Please describe what the proposed outcomes are

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly changed the way we live our lives now and for the foreseeable future. During the 'lock down' parks became the only public open spaces where millions of people could exercise, relax and meet others for the limited periods allowed. At the time these spaces were quite rightly championed by politicians and scientists alike as key to maintaining people's physical and mental health as evidenced by numerous studies over many years. Many people used their local parks for the first time during the 'lock down' and as restrictions were eased parks became busier than they had ever been previously and continue to be so. Not only has the pandemic changed the relationship between people and their local parks for ever it has underlined the multiple and proven benefits these spaces provide for health and wellbeing as well as the environment.

As we move from managing the pandemic to implementing a COVID-19 Response and Green Recovery, there is an opportunity across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for a resilient recovery that tackles the linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity.

The two-year Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) is a programme sponsored by Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, all the District Councils, Nene Parks Trust and the Local Nature Partnership. The programme commenced in the autumn of 2019 and had only just started when the first 'lock down' came. For an ambitious programme that aimed to closely involve partners and stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the limitations on engagement as a result of the pandemic were, and continue to be, acutely felt. This was never more so for involving health colleagues who were, and continue to be, at the forefront of tackling the pandemic. Health and wellbeing and the benefits provided by parks and green spaces remain at the heart of the project and this particular business case, however the FPA programme now runs to March next year and there are other related projects that remain to be completed.

This business case presents the case for establishing an Active Parks Unit within the County Council (alongside Public Health, Think Communities and Environment) as a first concrete step in realising the benefits parks can help tackle the linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity. The case remains a 'work in progress' as the Future Parks Accelerator programme will not be fully complete until next year, however the evidence presented here is sufficient to support the case for investment.

This business case sets out the case for an Active Parks Unit as part of securing the legacy of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Project. Establishing an Active Parks Unit will enable Cambridgeshire County Council and partners to realise the 'added value' benefits of parks and green spaces for local communities including maximising their health and wellbeing benefits, the opportunities for restoring nature and for strengthening community resilience and community organisations.

## The Vision

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator is a two-year programme aimed at establishing joined up vision and sustainable future for parks and green spaces in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is part of a national programme involving nine local authorities funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Trust and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities aimed at exploring innovative approaches creating a sustainable future for the UK's urban parks and green spaces. The outputs from this work have shaped the guiding principles that informed this business case.

## The Future Parks Accelerator Outputs and Principles

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks programme is delivered in two phases, the first phase was a co-design phase whereby we engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders across several workstreams to explore the opportunities to sustainably manage parks and green spaces across the County and Peterborough.

Having undertaken this work, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator is now in the second phase of the programmes delivery, the Transition Phase. The aim of this second phase of work is to use what we have learnt during the co-design phase to develop an approach to sustainably management parks and green spaces at a County and Peterborough scale. What has emerged is a delivery model that respects local diversity and independence but seeks to realise the added value benefits of parks and green spaces.

In preparing the foundations to realise this vision the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator has three clear guiding principles based on the outputs of extensive stakeholder and partner engagement. These are illustrated below.

Figure 1 FPA Principles and Programme Outputs



Firstly, establishing arrangements for Collective Leadership across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for all parks and green spaces that is truly collaborative across partners; secondly designing a Model for Delivery that will secure the 'added value' benefits of parks but respect local diversity in provision and operations; and thirdly preparing a Plan for Open Space that connects partners in a flexible way but recognises parks as key infrastructure across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and helps secure new sources of finance.

## The Outcomes

Applying these guiding principles helps ensure the outputs of the project are aimed at using parks and green spaces more effectively to help achieve a range of longer term outcomes including:-

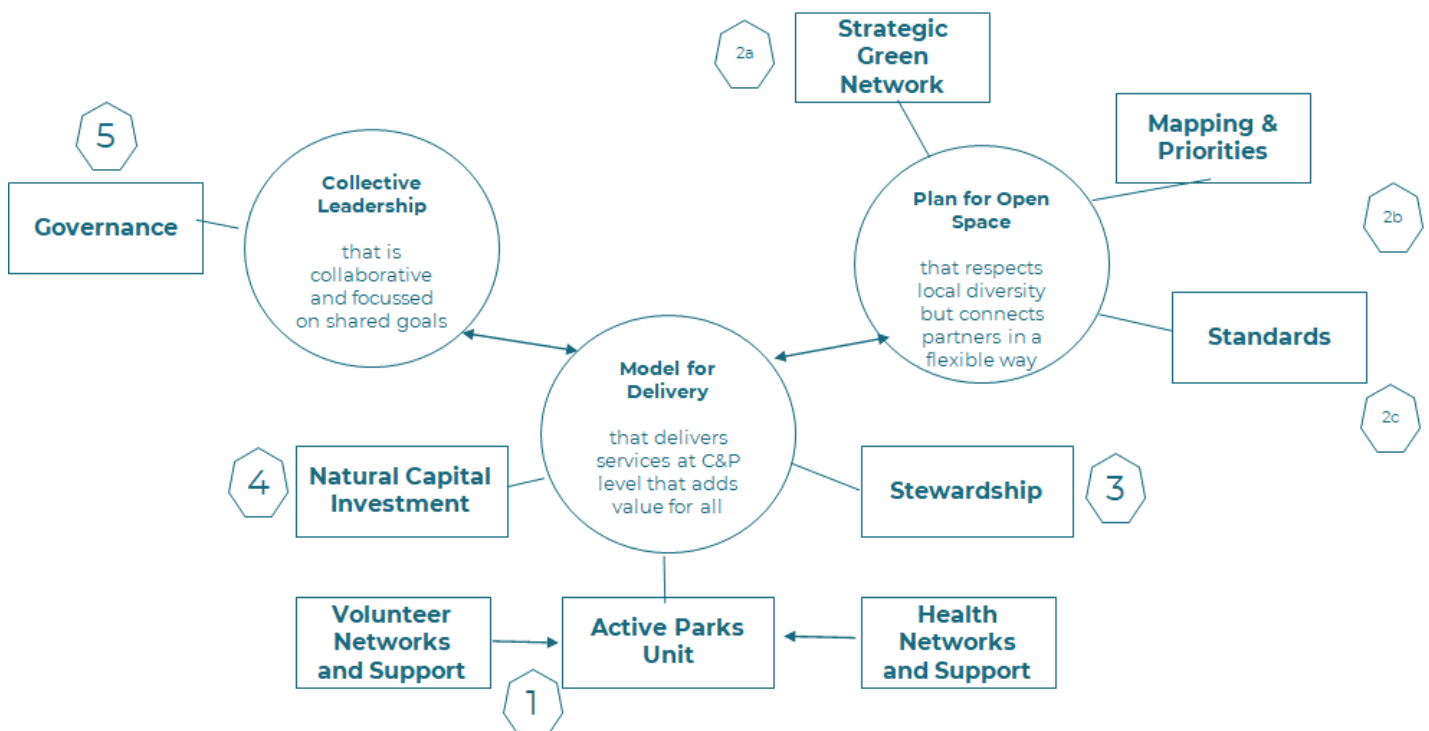
- improved physical and mental health;
- more nature restoration;
- strengthened community resilience;
- reduced carbon emissions;
- improved air quality;
- greater private and philanthropic investment into parks and green spaces and the wider landscape; and
- collective, co-operative and collaborative leadership across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including statutory and non-statutory partners.

The project is entering its last six months, with much work still to do, and is now seeking to establish arrangements for securing its legacy and the foundations for achieving its long term aims (as envisaged by the County and its partners in the original bid). This Business Case is focussed on one element of the emerging Model for Delivery namely the Active Parks Unit that will be charged with realising the benefits of parks and green spaces for local communities.

## The Future Parks Accelerator Projects

The diagram below illustrates the other on-going project areas and their relationship to the principles and the Active Parks Unit. The Volunteer and Health projects will create the supporting networks and tools for the new unit to work with.

Figure 1 FPA Programme Outputs and Main Project Areas



## Securing the Benefits of Parks - The Active Parks Unit Proposition

The new Active Parks Unit will be focussed on securing the 'added value' benefits of parks and green spaces. It will respect local diversity in provision but work closely with local parks operations and stakeholders to activate parks and green spaces to achieve specific outcomes related to health and well-being, community resilience and nature restoration.

## 2. What evidence has been used to support this work, how does this link to any existing strategies/policies?

### Building the Evidence Base

#### Stakeholder Engagement

Over the last year the project has undertaken an extensive stakeholder engagement and co-design exercise working with hundreds of public, private and voluntary sector organisations and different communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It has worked closely with elected members from all the Districts, Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Councillors through this process and has had oversight and direction from an Executive Board with representatives from all partners including the Local Nature Partnership and Nene Park Trust. This process set the priorities and principles for shaping the legacy of the Programme, including the Active Parks Unit as reflected in this Business Case.

As part of this work, we conducted a large-scale stakeholder engagement exercise with a focus on the following objectives: developing a shared vision and common cause among partners, working collaboratively, building interest, capacity, and capability in volunteering, understanding aspirations of green space provision among new communities, and realising the health and wellbeing benefits of parks and green spaces.

There is substantial national and local evidence to be drawn on that demonstrates how parks can help tackle the linked challenges of public health, climate change, and biodiversity and how the contributions of parks can be valued to support better decision making. The evidence this Business Case draws on is given at Appendix A.

#### National Evidence

England is suffering a health crisis with diabetes, obesity, dementia and mental health issues rising unevenly across the population. Faced with these challenges, as well as those from Covid-19, there is an increasing focus not just on treating conditions, but also on prevention. This is reflected in the local objectives of partners across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Changing lifestyles and increasing healthy behaviours particularly physical activity, is seen as critical in helping people live more independent lives for longer. There is recognition across the health sector that outdoor activity can be an alternative or positive complement to other treatments. This applies to mental as well as physical health conditions and can be supported by green social prescribing, which involves referring patients to take part in environment and nature-based activities, such as, walking and cycling, community gardening, food-growing projects and practical conservation tasks such as tree planting.

Living in greener urban areas is associated with lower probabilities of cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, asthma hospitalisation, mental distress, and ultimately mortality, among adults; and lower risks of obesity and myopia in children. Greater quantities of neighbourhood nature are also associated with better self-reported health, and subjective wellbeing in adults, and improved birth outcomes, and cognitive development, in children.

Evidence that people in more affluent social groups generally visit the natural environment much more often than less affluent groups including some black and minority ethnic groups and those with a disability or long-term illness is well established. Often economically disadvantaged communities who have poorer health and educational outcomes do not have access to good quality natural green or blue spaces close to where they live or work.

The challenges for tackling childhood obesity vary across local authority areas, but many face common issues such as proliferation of fast-food outlets on the high streets and near schools; less active travel; limited access to green spaces and physical activity. These factors create an environment that makes it harder for children and their families to make healthy choices, particularly in some of our most deprived areas. It is recognised that green space is linked to greater levels of physical activity and associated health benefits. A study on obesity in a number of European countries found that people living in areas with large amounts of green space were 3 times as likely to be physically active than people living in areas where there is little green space. Parks and green space can increase life expectancy and reduce health inequality and are associated with opportunities for physical exercise and activity through organised sports or informal activity such as walking, cycling, running or children's active play and by increasing active travel through safe green corridors.

Parks also create important opportunities to bring people together and reduce isolation. They can help refugees and migrants build a sense of belonging in new communities. But they can also amplify social divisions and groups may exclude themselves from green spaces if they feel the space is dominated by one particular group (for example, if a park is overwhelmingly used by young people) or if they feel unsafe (for example, when a space is poorly maintained or attracts antisocial behaviour). They also provide opportunities for community engagement and local residents value the chance to be involved in designing and improving their green spaces (e.g. through volunteering). Community gardening offers new residents the chance to build social connections. Children appreciate the opportunity to have their say on park improvements. Schemes to include young people in the care of green spaces can enhance their personal development and increase their environmental awareness.

Nearly two thirds of people (63%) in England reported visiting green and natural spaces in the year to March 2021. Nearly all people (94%) felt spending time outdoors was good for their physical health and a similar number (92%) said spending time outdoors was good for their mental health. The vast majority of these types of visit (78%) are to urban parks, green spaces, playing fields and countryside parks. The importance of green space has been highlighted by COVID-19. A majority of the public now say that they appreciate green space more since social distancing (53%) and that protecting local green spaces should be a higher priority when lockdown ends (63%).



## Local Evidence

Whilst Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is generally healthy compared to the rest of England there are significant inequalities within the area and areas of concern particularly in respect of the behavioural risk factors to good health like physical activity and obesity. Peterborough and Fenland are significantly worse than the rest of England on these measures. Between 1 in 3 and 1 in 4 primary aged school children in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire are obese. Childhood obesity is not just a problem in Cambridgeshire - in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, the rate is even higher, with 23.2 per cent of children in Year 6 and 11 per cent of children in Reception classed as obese. Over 40,000 people in our area have Type 2 Diabetes. Over one third of adults in Fenland (33%) are physically inactive. The proportion in Peterborough (29%) and East Cambridgeshire (29%) is only just less than this.

9% of people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health suffer from depression – this increases to 11% in Fenland.

Most residents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough said they visit their local park or green spaces to socialise (46%), relax (50%), exercise (57%), spend time with children and families (52%), and see nature (52%). Nearly all residents asked (95%) said that investment in green space and nature recovery should be a priority in light of COVID19.

Huntingdonshire's consultation to support their Healthy Open Place Strategy (2020) reported that 38% of people were using parks more; 21% said they had not visited a park/open space since lockdown; and 35% reported using them less. Further more 75% value their spaces more, 92% believe these spaces make them happy, and 59% believe these spaces bring communities together.

Between 2010 and 2016 most people in Cambridgeshire (54%) engaged with nature in an urban park, country park or playing field with the vast majority (84%) engaging in this way in urban centres like Peterborough. This pattern proportion is likely to have increased in recent years if it reflects national trends.

The FPA Co-design phase brought together a wide range of stakeholders from both the Volunteering and Health and Wellbeing sector to discuss COVID-19, the effect on parks and green spaces use, and how these spaces could be used to support response and recovery. Key themes from these sessions included:

- Increased demand on spaces
- The need for more information and education to support and harness the newfound connections to parks to improve health and wellbeing
- Balancing access and use between people and nature

In Huntingdonshire stakeholders highlighted that the deprived and inactive communities that are most likely to benefit from the district's network of parks, green spaces, and play areas are the least likely to use them. Community engagement with people from deprived communities illustrated a need to break through the perceptions that "parks are not for me" and show clear benefits to families and individuals of using these spaces.

The quality of green spaces has a stronger bearing on health outcomes than quantity, and there is evidence that disadvantaged groups appear to gain a larger health benefit



and have reduced socioeconomic-related inequalities in health when living in greener communities. There is a sizeable body of research that underlines the importance of creating more, bigger, better and joined-up green spaces, especially near to where people live, and to address inequalities.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are areas of contrasting health and wealth, with significant inequality experienced by large areas of Fenland and Peterborough, and pockets across the rest of the region. COVID-19 has highlighted and exacerbated these inequalities, with more deprived areas experiencing a greater impact from the pandemic. The CAPCCG Health Inequalities Strategy (2020)<sup>27</sup> focusses on a number of key objectives, with Guiding Principle 4.4 pledging to 'partner with other organisations to take a place-based approach to address social determinants of health'. This is of particular interest in terms of collaboration and taking a joined-up approach to tackling inequalities using parks and green spaces as the vehicle to achieving improved outcomes for communities.

## Alignment with Key Objectives

Aligning Partner Objectives Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

Working across partners, and informed by the extensive engagement process, the following broad objectives arise for the legacy of the FPA project and provide some key priorities for the Active Parks Unit.

- Improving health and wellbeing
- Building community resilience
- Nature restoration
- Contributing to tackling climate change
- Creating strong governance and partnership arrangements that support shared priorities across Cambridge and Peterborough, respect diversity in local operational service delivery and encourage greater decentralisation of service delivery over time.

Alignment with County Council Key Objectives:

These objectives are shared with all partners and support key strategies of the County Council including the central themes of Covid Recovery, for individuals and communities, and tackling the climate emergency. Furthermore, the legacy proposals for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough FPA, and the creation of the Active Parks unit in particular, will support the following CCC objectives to:

CCC Objective	FPA Legacy supports delivery...	Active Parks Unit Objective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• put climate change and biodiversity at the heart of the Council's work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by enabling nature restoration in parks</li> </ul>	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote biodiversity and increase Cambridgeshire's natural capital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by enabling nature restoration in parks and promoting parks as key infrastructure in the wider landscape</li> </ul>	YES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>create opportunity, promote diversity and do all we can to foster inclusion across the county</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by building the capacity of parks community groups to engage with their communities and help maintain their parks</li> </ul>	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage and participate in place-based partnerships with District Councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by further developing the elected member governance arrangements that oversee the work of FPA into an exemplar of multi-tiered, place based partnership working</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adopt a 'health in all policies' approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by co-ordinating the provision of green prescribing programme across parks and activating and animating parks for community benefit</li> </ul>	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>encourage more residents out of their cars, along with infrastructure development, the encouragement of sustainable travel, and securing safe routes and connections for pedestrians and cyclists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by mapping parks as key infrastructure alongside sustainable travel routes to encourage greater use and participation</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>form strong and positive partnerships as members of the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership in the areas of public health, climate change, public transport and sustainable homes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by further developing the elected member governance arrangements that oversee the work of FPA into an exemplar of multi-tiered, place based and partnership working</li> </ul>	YES

The aims of the Future Parks Legacy will be to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough COVID-19 Response and the approach to a Green Recovery. COVID-19 case numbers have been disproportionately higher in areas where people have least access to parks and green spaces such as areas of socio-economic deprivation and high-density housing.

Finally, the Peer Challenge Action Plan contains a recommendation for the County to “embrace the opportunity to reset, clarify and rebuild the different roles for the Combined Authority, the Greater Cambridges Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council and District Councils in place shaping and place delivery, and take the lead where appropriate”. The agreed response recognises that “partnerships across the Cambridgeshire system are deepening already, with improved relationships and a clearer route to delivery of shared objectives”.

## Securing the Benefits of Parks – The Partnership Proposition

The District Councils, Peterborough City Council and other partners invest over £10m per annum in maintaining public parks and green spaces. COVID19 shone a light on the value of parks and green spaces and the benefits they can provide for local communities (estimated to be circa £375m per annum). However, these benefits can only be secured and maximised by better and more co-ordinated action by partners with responsibility for health, the environment and community resilience, like the County

Council, and deepened partnership working with between the County and all the Districts and PCC.

The involvement and support of all the Districts, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough FPA is a key output of the project and demonstrates the collective and collaborative leadership approach required for effective place shaping. The Future Parks Legacy now provides an opportunity for the County, with its partners, to move from 'Place Shaping' to 'Place delivery' and continue this collective and collaborative approach. This involves orchestrating activity on parks and green spaces across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to the realise the opportunities for creating and securing the proven benefits of parks and the social and environmental value that they support.

### 3. Has an options and feasibility study been undertaken? Please explain what options have been considered.

#### Developing Options

The project adopted a mission-oriented project approach that used challenges to stimulate innovation across sectors and communities of interest. This is shown at Appendix B. Through a number of Task and Finish Groups, made up of a range of partners and interests from the public, private and voluntary sectors, workshops were held that tested a range of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough wide options for funding and operating parks; setting standards for parks; engaging with stakeholders for parks; and options for addressing the green space implications of housing growth in the County. These workshops resulted in the selection of preferred options for each challenge as follows:

Group and Commissioned Reports	Preferred Options established through Co-Design process
<p>Funding and Operating Model Group</p> <p>Project Opportunity and Options Assessment Report for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator - Finance Earth</p> <p>Work on-going in designing Model for Delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Added value" services at to be delivered at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough scale respecting diverse local operating models and avoiding duplication</li> <li>• Approach to Natural Capital Investment with partners via the creation of a single Environment Fund/Doubling Nature Fund to enable private and philanthropic investment</li> <li>• Single approach to Enterprise Investment across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</li> </ul>
<p>Mapping and Standards Group</p> <p>Cambridgeshire open space mapping &amp; standards summary report  <a href="https://cambsfutureparks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/cambridgeshire-open-space-mapping-and-standards.pdf">https://cambsfutureparks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/cambridgeshire-open-space-mapping-and-standards.pdf</a> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No single Open Space Standard across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</li> <li>• The creation of a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough map of all parks and green space and a whole Landscape approach to determining parks priorities</li> </ul>
<p>Stakeholder Engagement Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better sharing of information to improve connectivity, identifying key contacts,</li> </ul>

<p>Realising the health and wellbeing benefits of public open spaces report for future parks accelerator</p> <p>Building interest, capacity and capability in volunteering report for future parks accelerator</p>	<p>with a central hub and network across health and volunteering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation, co-ordination and management of green prescribing an health related programmes using parks and green spaces to support health outcomes</li> <li>• Creation, co-ordination and management of networks of parks community groups across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to build capacity to support health and community resilience outcomes</li> </ul>
<p>Growth and Development Group</p> <p>Work on-going</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single approach to Natural Capital mapping and priority setting for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</li> <li>• Best practice approach to Stewardship of new green spaces</li> <li>• Single portal for access to all-natural capital mapping for all stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough</li> </ul>

The above exercise was the Co-Design phase of the project and has resulted in five key functions requiring development for the legacy:

- An Active Parks Unit providing services supporting health, nature restoration, community resilience and climate change (which this Business Case addresses)
- Planning and mapping green space and natural capital
- Natural capital investment and fundraising
- Stewardship of new green spaces
- Governance arrangements to support the above that reflect the partners involved including Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, all the Districts, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Local Nature Partnership.

This Business Case relates to the first element of the FPA Legacy the creation of a unit to support parks services for health, nature restoration, parks community and voluntary organisation support and support of carbon reduction. Its relationship to the other elements of the legacy are yet to be defined.

#### 4. What are the next steps/ actions the Council should take to pursue it? Please include timescales.

##### Incubating the Active Parks Unit

Establishing the Active Parks Unit is the key step in securing the legacy of the project. The units focus on health, environmental and community resilience outcomes directly complements and supports Cambridgeshire County Council functions and services overseen by the Adults and Public Health Committee, the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee and the Environment and Green Investment Committee. The

detailed services proposed, are described in Appendix C, will be designed to complement existing service delivery and ensure the health and wellbeing, nature and community benefits of parks are realised for local people.

## Outline Financial Contributions from Cambridgeshire County Council

The proposed funding for piloting the first year of the Active Parks Unit is given below. How the funding for years 2 and 3 will be subject to negotiation during the pilot year. Work on the business model is on-going but the first draft of a potential staffing structure and costs is given at Appendix D. The business model of the unit is being developed by the FPA Project Team including representatives from all the Districts, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council including specific input from Community Connectors from the Think Communities Team.

Figure 2 Funding of the Active Parks Unit for 2022/23

Partner Contributions Under Consideration	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Pilot Year	To be agreed	
C&P Combined Authority	£75,000		
Cambridgeshire CC	£40,000		
Peterborough CC	£5,000		
Districts x 5	£25,000		
Future Parks Accelerator	£55,000		
Running Costs Pilot Year	£200,000		

Year 1 is a pilot year that will enable partners to incubate the model within County Council structures to ensure maximum synergy with Public Heath, Think Communities and Environmental Services.

5. Could this have any effects on people with Protected Characteristics including poverty and rural isolation? If so please provide as much detail as possible.

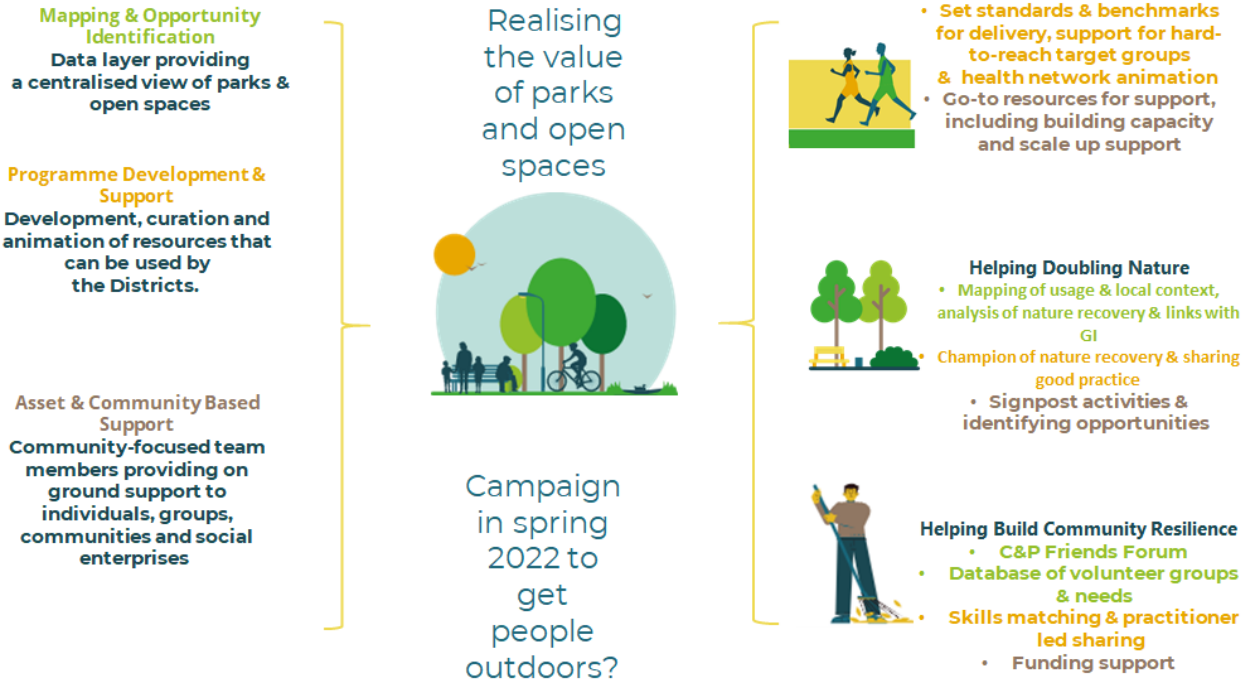
Key branches of service delivery for the Active Parks Unit will be as follows:

- Mapping and opportunity identification – Providing a centralised view of parks and green spaces and related activities.
- Programme development and support – Development, curation and animation of resources that can be repeatedly used throughout the Districts and Peterborough City. In the long term, provide strategic and programme development support.
- Asset and community-based support – Community-focused delivery of on the ground support to individuals, groups, and communities seeking to utilise parks and green spaces.

The main functions and related outcomes are illustrated below. More details of the functions are given at Appendix C.

Figure 3 Main functions of the Active Parks Unit

## Cambridgeshire & Peterborough “Active Parks” Unit



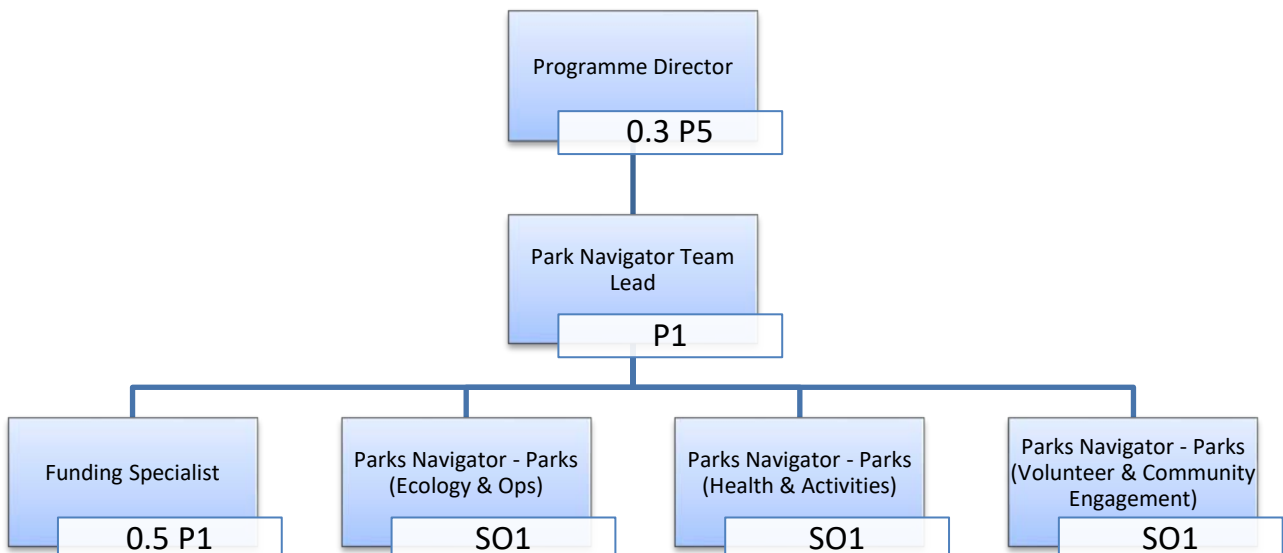
Outline Business Case

### Initial Purpose and Structure of the Active Parks Unit

Mission of the Active Parks Unit will be to realise the benefits of parks and green spaces for local communities by activating and animating these spaces. This will be achieved by working closely with local parks operations teams.

The proposed structure of the Active Parks Unit is as follows:

Figure 4 Proposed Structure of the Active Parks Unit





The purpose of the Parks Navigator will be to work across local partners to create and deliver a programme of work to increase the park's local communities' engagement with and use of their parks. This could include delivering nature activities, health initiatives, community engagement and developing the parks into a community hub for the neighbourhood. The detailed costs of the Active Parks Unit are given in Appendix D.

## Outcomes and Outputs

The project has assembled a strong evidence base of the location, quality and accessibility of parks and green space and their spatial relationship to deprivation; health inequalities; housing and population growth; and related natural capital features. From this work it will be possible to identify and prioritise interventions across parks aimed at directly addressing health inequalities in key locations such as Peterborough and Fenland, restoring nature within parks where opportunities arise as identified through natural capital mapping, tackling climate change by providing tree planting opportunities and building the capacity of parks related community groups growing the number of volunteers and boosting their capacity to help maintain and operate parks. Again, this will be directed at those local communities with the highest level of deprivation and reporting the worst health outcomes.

Detailed mapping work continues to identify areas of deficient green space and links to inequality as well as identify those green spaces that can deliver multiple benefits.

The Active Parks Unit will seek to deliver the following outputs in Phase 1. These are still under development as part of the Business Model work.

Figure 5 Active Parks Unit Outputs and Outcomes

First Draft Outputs and Outcomes – To be further developed			
Service	Output	Outcome	Measures
Overall Outcome/Impact - Nature Recovery			
Champion Nature recovery for parks and green spaces	Advocacy, communication of successful projects restoring nature in parks and green spaces, engagement with the LNP.	Increased nature restoration projects in parks and green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Of nature restoration projects in parks and green spaces.</li> <li>Impact measurement: m2 of land restored for nature</li> <li>Biodiversity change</li> </ul>
Signpost activities & identify opportunities for nature restoration in parks and green spaces at the community scale.	Opportunities, to deliver nature-based activities in parks and green spaces identified. Volunteer numbers	Volunteers capacity in delivering nature-based activities in parks and green spaces. Increase number of nature restoration projects in parks and green spaces. Long-term outcome to increase the biodiversity in parks and green spaces and steer traffic away from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Of nature restoration projects in parks and green spaces (delivered by volunteer and community groups)</li> <li>No. Volunteer and community groups with Nature recovery plans in parks and green spaces.</li> <li>Impact assessment: change in the state of nature in parks and</li> </ul>

First Draft Outputs and Outcomes – To be further developed			
Service	Output	Outcome	Measures
		sensitive sites, such as SSSI.	<p>green spaces with nature recovery plans after 2 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity change</li> </ul>
Overall Outcome/Impact – Strengthened Community Resilience			
Co-ordinate, maintain and market database of volunteer groups and opportunities	Increased volunteering activity and capacity across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Better skills match for volunteers or groups depending on their needs leading to better learning and increased capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Volunteer groups engaged with the Volunteer network (attend at least one event a year)</li> <li>No. Volunteers taking part in capacity building skills matching service sub-categorised by a) Receiving support, b) delivering support, c) both</li> <li>Database will also provide a baseline for Volunteer participation rate in parks and green spaces (no. Volunteers / 1,000 population)</li> <li>No. Volunteer groups per park / green space</li> </ul>
Volunteer / group skills matching	A programme in which Volunteer groups are matched with individual volunteers or other groups with a particular area of knowledge, expertise or experience.	An increase in capacity and capabilities in volunteer groups, without significantly increasing the capacity burden onto Local Authority parks managers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Volunteers taking part in capacity building skills matching service sub-categorised by a) Receiving support, b) delivering support, c) both</li> </ul>
Parks Forum set up and co-ordination	Volunteer groups across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are connected to share best practice case studies, current activities and future aspirations.	Opportunities for collaborative working to deliver activities at scale identified and perused.	No. Volunteer groups engaged with the Volunteer network (attend at least one event a year)

First Draft Outputs and Outcomes – To be further developed			
Service	Output	Outcome	Measures
Funding options development for Volunteers	Volunteers are supported through the process of accessing funds – such as grant funding applications and/or crowd funding. Increased funds available	Increase resource injection into volunteer and community groups. Increase delivery of activities in parks and green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Of successful funding bids</li> <li>Value of external funding secured</li> </ul>
Overall Outcome/Impact – Improve Health and Well Being			
Manage a database of health-based organisations and activities delivered in parks and green spaces.	Increased take up of social prescribing via signposting health-based opportunities in parks and green spaces to providers and commissioners.	Better access to services provided in parks and green spaces that contribute to better health and wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Of referrals / participation rate</li> <li>No. Individuals accessing health-based services in parks and green spaces</li> <li>Survey data: Self-reported level of health and wellbeing</li> </ul>
Develop support materials to new PCNs (primary care networks)	Link patients and social prescribers with appropriate green space. Promotion of parks and green spaces for health and wellbeing. Promotion of specific parks where facilities and activities are appropriate for green prescribing activities.	Improved accessibility of parks and green spaces for people with health conditions and disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. Projects / strategic interventions in areas of deprivation and health inequalities.</li> <li>Baseline – Jim Roquette data</li> <li>No. Of health-based activities taking place in parks and green spaces</li> <li>Participation rate of health-based activities in parks and green spaces. Sub-categorised by target group. (Per 1,000 population for example or by number of 'referrals')</li> </ul>
Set standards & benchmarks for delivery of health-related activities in parks and green spaces.	Consistent delivery of health-related activities in parks and green spaces,	Improved self-reported health and wellbeing among targeted groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality of health-based interventions in parks and green spaces (I.e., do these</li> </ul>

First Draft Outputs and Outcomes – To be further developed			
Service	Output	Outcome	Measures
	ensuring a minimum standard quality of care.		<p>activities meet the standards we set)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey data: Self-reported level of health and wellbeing</li> </ul>
Marketing support, particularly hard to target groups	Promotion of parks and green spaces for health and wellbeing. Delivery marketing campaigns & messages that reach members of the public / subgroups with low park usage.	<p>Increased use of parks and green spaces by target groups.</p> <p>Increase number of target groups engaging in health and wellbeing activities in parks and green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation rate of health-based activities in parks and green spaces. Sub-categorised by target group (per 1,000 population or by number of 'referrals')</li> </ul>
Health network animation	Engagement with public health representatives and parks practitioners to enable a more joined up approach to the delivery of health-based activities in parks and green spaces.	Increased number of health-based activities in parks and green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance rate to events</li> <li>No. Of health-based activities taking place in parks and green spaces</li> <li>Impact assessment: where actions followed up</li> </ul>
Go-to resource for getting support to deliver health and wellbeing activities	<p>Park's Navigator will be able to respond to enquiries by signposting or connecting social prescribers, parks practitioners or volunteer / community groups to necessary contact for the delivery of health-based activities in parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Support to scale up some of the</p>	<p>A more coordinated, joint-up approach to the delivery of health and wellbeing activities in parks and green spaces.</p> <p>A reduction in barriers to delivering health and wellbeing activities in parks and green spaces</p> <p>Higher standard of service for the delivery of health-related activities in parks and green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance rate to events / participation rate (I.e., percentage of people subscribed to a volunteer network who engage in activities)</li> <li>Impact assessment: where actions followed up and no. of joint / partnership projects perused</li> <li>Survey data</li> <li>Quality of health-based interventions in parks and green spaces (I.e., do these</li> </ul>

First Draft Outputs and Outcomes – To be further developed			
Service	Output	Outcome	Measures
	smaller organisations that are currently providing green social prescribing activities, or signpost to other capacity-building programmes as appropriate.		activities meet the standards we set)
Local capacity building and scale-up support for the delivery of health and wellbeing activities in parks and green spaces	Support to scale up some of the smaller organisations that are currently providing green social prescribing activities Critical friend to business planning, connecting initiatives to funding, matching complementary organisations to fill gaps in capabilities and block barriers to services	Higher standard of service for the delivery of health-related activities in parks and green spaces.  Quality assurance of sites and activities delivering health and wellbeing activities in parks and green spaces  Public health representatives and social prescribers are better able to run health-based activities in parks and green spaces. New services and/or services unlocked for underserved populations are developed through smart coordination of existing activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of health-based interventions in parks and green spaces (I.e., do these activities meet the standards we set)</li> <li>• Survey data</li> <li>• No. Of health-based activities taking place in parks and green spaces</li> </ul>

6. What financial and non-financial benefits are there and how will you measure the performance of these? Are there any dis-benefits? These MUST include how this will benefit the wider internal and external system.

### The Value of Parks

Parks as public goods deliver positive economic externalities in the form of better physical and mental health, reduced carbon and improved air quality. They are a feature natural capital that supports social and economic activity. These benefits flow from ecosystem services and these can be measured as benefits that would be lost if a

green space were removed or changed – or the benefits gained by providing a new parks or greenspace. This approach to valuing the benefits of parks is called Natural Capital Accounting and is now a recognised approach to valuing non-financial benefits in the HMT Green Book.

### National Evidence

The Wellbeing Value associated with the frequent use of local parks and green spaces is worth £34 billion a year, and parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits and excluding any additional savings from prescribing or referrals.

For every £1 spent on parks in England an estimated £7 in additional value is generated for the health and wellbeing of local people and the local environment. Parks provide natural benefits to the communities valued at £6.6bn annually including £2bn of avoided health costs. These benefits are worth £140 per year for every urban resident. Parks are a really smart low cost investment in civic infrastructure. But these returns are not the only reason for places to invest in parks.

### Local Evidence

Applying this approach in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough parks provide benefits worth £375m per year in benefits (or £25 per visit) made up of physical and mental health benefit, amenity value and carbon sequestration. The vast proportion of this is received in mental and physical wellbeing benefits which account for £317 million per year of value across Cambridge and Peterborough. This is physical health benefits of per visit £7 and mental wellbeing benefits per visit £14.

It is estimated that for every £1 spent on maintaining parks and green spaces across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough over £40 are received in benefits making parks a smart investment.

Small greenspaces are a vital source of value for urban residents in densely populated areas, creating nearly twice as much value per hectare as the largest greenspaces which tend to be located in less densely populated areas.

Going forward, increasing the frequency of greenspaces and the level of physical activity in these spaces could unlock even greater value from existing parks.

Figure 6 Measuring the Benefits of Parks

Key Benefit	Measure	Baseline	Target & Timescale
Mental Health	Natural Capital value	To be assessed	Increasing values of three years by increasing visits and accessibility
Physical Health	Natural Capital value	To be assessed	Increasing values of three years by increasing visits and accessibility
Carbon Sequestration	Natural Capital value	To be assessed	Increasing values of three years by increasing vegetation, canopy



Key Benefit	Measure	Baseline	Target & Timescale
			cover and tree planting etc
Amenity Value	Natural Capital value	To be assessed	Increasing values of three years by increasing visits and accessibility

## 7. Are there any identified risks which may impact on the potential delivery of this? What is the risk if we do not act?

The major risk is that if the council (with CPCA) do not take the initiative to incubate this project then it will not happen and therefore the benefits to nature, community and residents will not take place and they will not get the benefits of green spaces.

A further risk lies in the rapid growth and development of the county. A key factor of FPA is understanding the delivery of new green spaces as a result of development, and with the demands of new local plans and the OxCam Arc there is a poor-quality open space with all the associated failings that can bring.

A further risk is lack of engagement by the operators of public green spaces. However, all partners have been engaged with the FPA to date and this proposed model does not impact on the autonomy of those operators, instead bringing shared/added benefits.

There is also considerable reputational risk for the Council if the outputs of the FPA Project are not taken up. The National FPA Programme is designed to enable public sector partners to innovate and create new solutions to sustaining and improving parks and green spaces. The particular theme for the C&P FPA Programme was partnership and multi-tiered working and this is also a strong theme for the new administration. If the legacy of the FPA Project is not secured an opportunity for demonstrating innovation in this key area will be lost.

## 8. Scope: What is within scope? What is outside of scope?

In scope - publicly owned/accessible parks and green spaces across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Out of scope – Nat Cap Investment, mapping and info, stewardship, governance

Out of scope – Cambridgeshire County Council's farm estates.



## Appendix A - Supporting Evidence

Health and GI - Natural England A Rapid Scoping Review of Health and Wellbeing Evidence for the Framework of Green Infrastructure Standards NEER015 <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4799558023643136>

Healthy New Towns Programme - NHS Putting Health into Place. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/innovation/healthy-new-towns/#:~:text=Covers%20developing%20preventative%20and%20integrated,integrated%20and%20high%2Dquality%20services.>

Promoting healthy weight in children young people and families - Public Health England - [Promoting healthy weight in children, young people and families - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Improving access to green spaces Public Health England - [Improving access to greenspace: 2020 review \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Why should we invest in parks? National Heritage Lottery Fund <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/publications/parks-people-why-should-we-invest-parks#:~:text=Parks%20investment%20helps%20to%20reduce,do%20not%20usually%20use%20parks.>

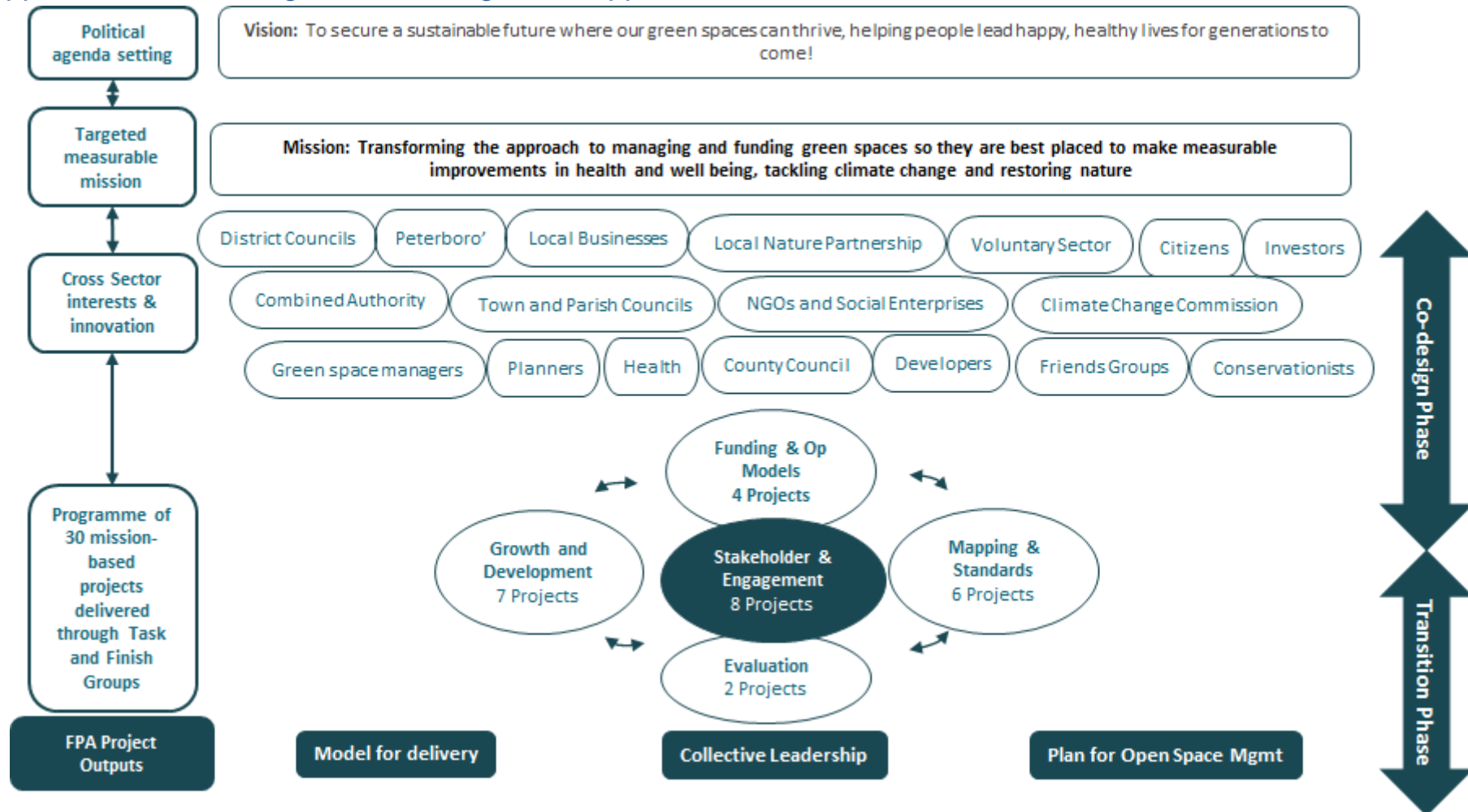
Stakeholder Engagement Workstream Project 4 NEW COMMUNITIES <https://cambsfutureparks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/cp-future-Parks-cew-communities-report-July-2021.pdf>

CAMBRIDGESHIRE OPEN SPACE MAPPING & STANDARDS SUMMARY REPORT <https://cambsfutureparks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/cambridgeshire-open-space-mapping-and-standards.pdf>

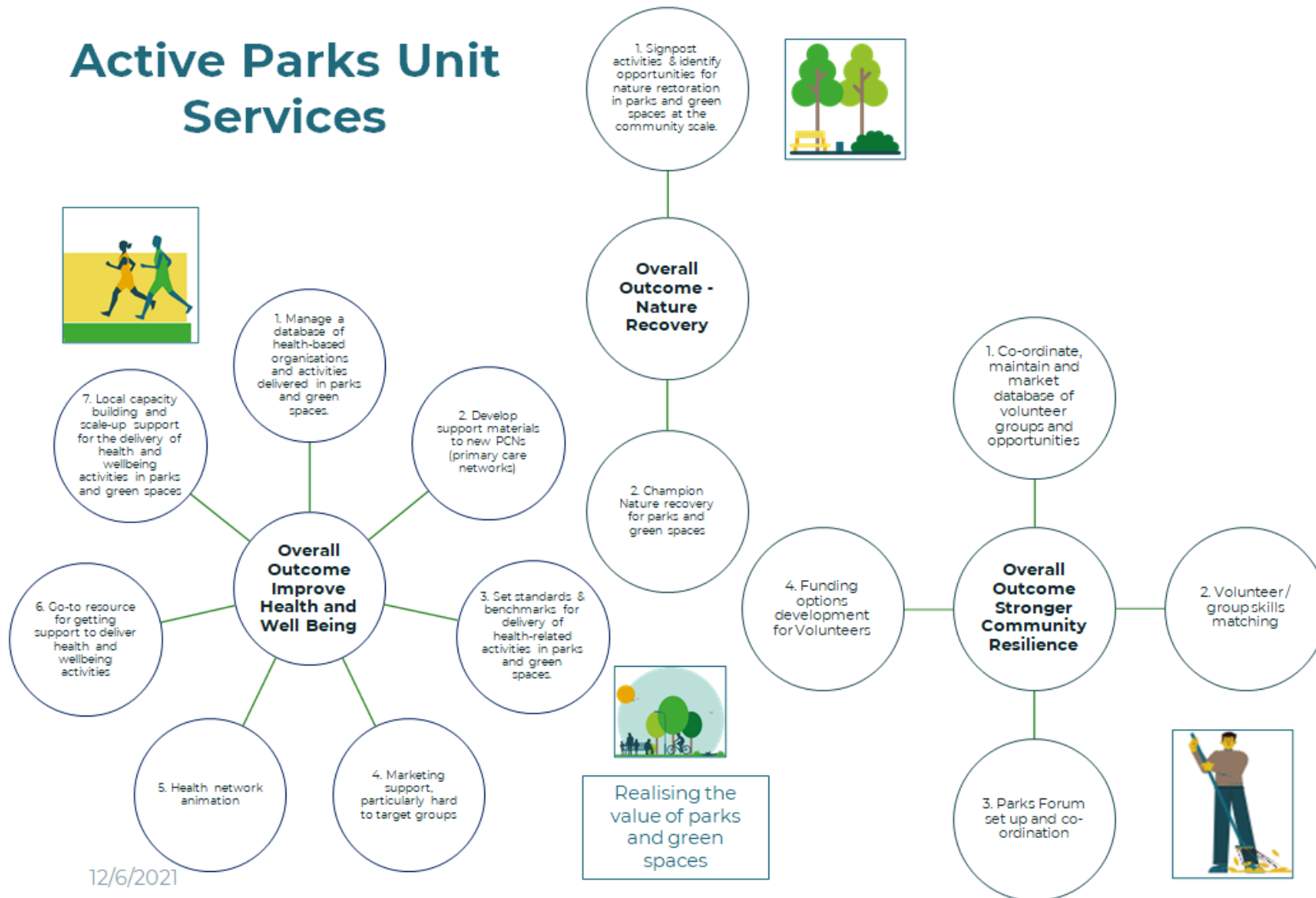
Project Opportunity and Options Assessment Report for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Finance Earth

Stakeholder Engagement Workstream Project 5 Realising the health and wellbeing benefits of parks and public open spaces

## Appendix B - FPA Programme Management Approach



## Appendix C – Active Parks Unit functions and services



## Appendix D – Active Parks Unit – Phase1 Staffing Structure

Role	# FTE	Pay Grade	Salary (Unweighted)		Reporting to
Programme Director	0.3	P5	£58,893	£17,668	Governance model for Parks Unit
Funding Specialist	0.5	P1	£33,816	£16,908	Programme Director
Park Navigator Team Lead	1	P1	£33,816	£33,816	Programme Director
Parks Navigator - Parks (Ecology & Ops)	1	S01	£27,741	£27,741	Park Navigator Team Lead
Parks Navigator - Parks (Health)	1	S01	£27,741	£27,741	Park Navigator Team Lead
Parks Navigator - Parks (Volunteers)	1	S01	£27,741	£27,741	Park Navigator Team Lead
				£151,615	
Weighting factor, benefits, NICS	30%			£45,484	Personnel costs
				£197,099	

## Business Planning: Business Case – Investment proposal

Project Title: Managing Climate Risk

Committee: Environment & Green Investment

2022-23 Investment amount: £340k

2023-24 Investment amount: £260k

2024-25 Investment amount: £50k

Brief Description of proposal:

To reduce organisational and area-based carbon emissions to avoid future costs associated with climate change impacts; and to support delivery of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy which is currently under review.

Date of version: 22 November 2021

BP Reference: N/A

Business Leads / Sponsors: Sheryl French

## 1. Please describe what the proposed outcomes are:

This proposal supports the following Cambridgeshire County Council outcomes:

- Cambridgeshire: A well-connected, safe, clean, green environment
- A good quality of life for everyone
- Communities at the heart of everything we do

The proposal covers:

### (i). Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)

To create a spatial representation of Cambridgeshire's current energy system and future energy requirements to strategically plan what and where energy infrastructure is needed to get net zero. Undertaking this work will benefit Cambridgeshire and the Council as it will provide opportunities for the Council to use its buildings and land assets to host or support energy projects to achieve net-zero place making and commercial benefits. The Plan will identify green energy generation and distribution opportunities, retrofitting of existing buildings and set out the strategic partnerships and scale of funding that will be needed to deliver the change to a smart energy system.

### (ii) Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund.

Engage partners and businesses in the development of a detailed business case for a Fund which will invest in local carbon off-setting projects and sell carbon credits to support businesses and communities to decarbonise. This Fund will look to accelerate carbon avoidance, invest in carbon removal and invest locally in projects to manage hard-to-treat carbon emissions. The Fund will support SMEs (small to medium enterprises) and large businesses to reduce carbon emissions first and offer local carbon offsets for hard-to-treat carbon reductions. This brings businesses and communities together in a shared effort to decarbonise and will drive down emissions faster than they would otherwise. The Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project will be taken through the carbon credit accretional process to allow carbon credits for this project to be sold to start the process.

### (iii). Climate change and energy services team.

Revenue funding to support the development and delivery of capital funded energy and low carbon projects. This will cover project costs including communications, setting up and managing retail functions for energy sales e.g. Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project and marketing of power and heat products such as power purchase agreements for local consumers.

### (iv). Supporting growth and communities.

Technical carbon and climate inputs are required to support the Council's input on planning applications, local plan development, Nationally Significant Infrastructure

projects, advising on new and existing procurements to set carbon footprints for supply chain and advising members. In addition, Government has set up a range of decarbonisation funds (22 grant pots currently available) to apply for funding. Increasingly these require greater levels of specialist input on carbon and climate.

The outcomes from the 2022/23 interventions are listed below:

(i) A Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP):

- Engage stakeholders and partners in the scoping and development of a LAEP
- Agree the strategic framework for Cambridgeshire to develop a future smart energy system at lowest cost for our communities and businesses
- identify how Council buildings and assets can facilitate low carbon place making by becoming anchor loads, or for hosting energy infrastructure
- Identify which Council buildings and assets can be developed for energy projects to develop commercial returns
- Identify how to integrate existing energy investments and projects into a wider smart energy system for Cambridgeshire

(ii) A Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and business advisory service will:

- Support SME's to understand their carbon footprints and make plans for decarbonisation
- Collaborate with Cambridgeshire businesses on opportunities for carbon offsetting locally for hard-to-treat carbon emissions
- Collaborate with communities and partners to develop a pipeline of low carbon projects that cut carbon emissions locally
- Attract investment into decarbonisation projects in Cambridgeshire to deliver faster and deeper reductions to emissions than otherwise
- Invest in local carbon avoidance and removal to provide confidence that emissions are reduced and verified
- Accredited Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project to sell carbon credits as a first project

(iii) The Energy Team is currently delivering a £100 million investment programme into capital projects covering school and building retrofits, solar farms, district heating and smart energy grids. On average 15% of relevant staffing costs can not be fully capitalised. For new projects e.g. Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project, revenue costs for retail and sales function need to be covered.

The outcome from this investment will be carbon footprint reductions for schools, community and the Council.

(iv) Additional specialist carbon and climate skills to support the development of a data framework for carbon for the Council to inform decisions; assess planning applications; assess procurements and to apply for decarbonisation funding. Government has a range of decarbonisation funds and competitions to apply for to help the Council and communities reduce carbon emissions



The outcome from this investment will be carbon reductions from growth, reductions of scope 3 emissions and inward investment from successful decarbonisation competitions and grants.

## 2. What evidence has been used to support this work, how does this link to any existing strategies/policies?

Nationally, Government has set a target of 78% reduction of CO2e emissions by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050.

The Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy and targets are under review. Below is a list of the existing climate mitigation targets for the Council and its communities.

### Existing Targets

- Reduce the council's scopes 1 and 2 by 50% (compared to 2018 levels) by 2023. (retain as interim target to the proposed target)
- All buildings we own and occupy to be fossil-fuel free and all car and van fleet to be electric by 2025
- Reduce the council's scope 3 by 50.4% (compared to 2018 levels) by 2030
- By 2030, sign up to a shared target with partners and the community to deliver 50.4% GHG emissions reductions by 2030 for Cambridgeshire (based on 2018 baseline)
- Net zero carbon for Cambridgeshire by 2050 (area target)
- All council directorates to implement measures to ensure their services are adapted to climate change by 2025
- 100% of Council strategies include policies that tackle Climate Change and provide natural capital enhancement by 2023
- Deliver 20% biodiversity net-gain across all Council property, land projects and wildlife site by 2050

The JAA (Joint Administration Agreement) action plan has committed to the Review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and its completion by December 2021 to inform business plan proposals. The JAA action plan also includes the development of a Net Zero Programme and Resource Strategy to inform the Medium term Finance Strategy by March 2022. The latter will inform the 2023/24 business planning process and this business case is providing the interim 2022/23 interventions that are needed to continue to build skills, plans, mechanisms and attract funding for delivery.

The interventions are to support the JAA ambitions to put climate and nature at the heart of decision making. This means alignment with the new Corporate Framework and triple bottom line accounting, as well as supporting the decentralisation agenda that includes Think Communities and Happy at Home. The interventions are also supporting the COVID-19 Green recovery Plan 2020 and will inform the Council's Commercial, Investment and Asset Management Strategies.

(i) Local Area Energy Planning has been developed by the Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) funded by Government and its toolkit has been tested by three Local Authorities. The proposal is to use the ESC or equivalent toolkit and then use the information and evidence to compete for government funding to support delivery of these decarbonisation plans.

(ii) The Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation fund is in its second year of development with CUSPE researchers. The output from 2021/22 research will provide the fund model and strategic case. A detailed business case in collaboration with businesses and partners will then be developed to generate buy-in and commitment to the Fund. Already SME's are asking the Council for this type of fund and support for decarbonisation of their businesses.

(iii) and (iv) The Council reports annually on its carbon footprint for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and the annual carbon footprint for Cambridgeshire. The projects for schools and CCC buildings are reducing the Council's direct carbon footprint and the larger projects are reducing emissions more broadly for Cambridgeshire. However, to increase the pace and scale of emission reductions the Council needs to use its policy levers and powers to design out emissions from growth, support supply chain emissions reductions and attract investment into decarbonisation projects locally.

## Stakeholder engagement

During October and November 2021, three webinars were held engaging with the community, businesses and partners. The key messages include:

- Align ambitions with partners and businesses to create greater impact
- Lead by example
- Support communities and businesses to decarbonise
- Provide data and evidence to inform decisions and wider engagement

In addition:

- A large number of parish councils in Cambridgeshire have declared climate emergencies and are looking to make a difference. However, a lot of the place making mechanisms such as infrastructure are in the remit of others. [Climate change \(nalc.gov.uk\)](https://www.nalc.gov.uk)
- Young people have sent messages via the pre lockdown Climate Strikes . [Young people resume global climate strikes calling for urgent action | School climate strikes | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/09/26/young-people-resume-global-climate-strikes-calling-for-urgent-action)
- Cambridge University climate risk report for Cambridgeshire highlights the impacts on our communities. [Preliminary report on climate risk in the Cambs Peterborough region 2020-2099\\_final.pdf \(hubspotusercontent40.net\)](https://www.hubspotusercontent40.net/Peterborough-region-2020-2099-final.pdf)
- Key businesses in Cambridgeshire are pledging to become net zero businesses.
- <https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/news/blog/why-the-transition-to-net-zero-is-business-business>
- <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/business/arm-commits-to-achieving-net-zero-carbon-by-2030-9147684/>

### 3. Has an options and feasibility study been undertaken? Please explain what options have been considered.

The review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy is underway and engagement with Members, management teams, partners and stakeholders has taken place during October – November 2021. The Steer from the cross-part workshop with Councillors on 5 October and webinar on 12 October include:

- (i) Whole organisation engagement and delivery of targets
- (ii) Wider engagement and support for communities and businesses
- (iii) Alignment with partners and
- (iv) identifying the mechanisms and strategic partnerships to deliver at scale

Presentations given on the review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy (that were undertaken during September – November 2021) also included internal management teams, the Greater Cambridge Partnership Officer Management Team; Lead Officers on Climate at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and a presentation to the Officer Climate Working Group (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021).

Specific work on Local Area Energy Planning and Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund has been underway since 2020/21 and has engaged with teams in Business Intelligence as well as with district Council and CPCA partners. Intervention (iii), revenue funding for the Energy team has been discussed with the Director of Resources and identified for inclusion in this business case.

#### Deliverability

The Council has been building skills and knowledge since 2014 on energy infrastructure, the energy market and how to develop and deliver energy projects and retrofits for decarbonisation. This skill building was designed as a result of a 'Carbon Assessment of the Long Term Delivery Plan' undertaken by Cambridgeshire Horizons in 2009/10 that showed Cambridgeshire's growth agenda adding significant carbon footprint to Cambridgeshire. The strategic intervention to build skills and capacities has resulted in the current £100Million energy programme of living lab projects. However, it is now timely to build on this work and scope a more coherent plan for the local area for both energy and decarbonisation.

### 4. What are the next steps/ actions the Council should take to pursue it? Please include timescales.

The following steps are needed:

- ✓ Complete the Cambridgeshire University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) Projects on heat zones (for Local Area Energy Planning) and Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund by January 2022.

- ✓ Work with partners and the CPCA to discuss LAEP with a view to scope what is needed and set up a Strategic Board to oversee the development of the LAEP and the Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund. Engage with the Energy System Catapult, Eastern New Energy to scope the work programmes, undertake stakeholder mapping. April- September 2022
- ✓ Commission phase 1 of the evidence base for the LAEP and the detailed business case for the Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and engage with and get the buy-in from stakeholders/partners Sept 2022- March 2023
- ✓ Map the wider landscape of funding, investment, bonds, grants, competitions, developer contributions, economic incentives, green levies, finance instruments to facilitate the above. March 2023- September 2023.
- ✓ Set up communications, marketing and sales functions to promote and commercialise energy projects April 2022- March 2024
- ✓ Bring forward skills and capacities to inform work on the Local Government Associations low carbon procurement toolkit for supply chain, a carbon data framework for the Council, government funding etc. April 2022- March 2024

### High Level Timetable

Task	Start Date	End Date	Overall Responsibility
Complete CUSPE projects	July 2021	January 2022	Sheryl French and Dan Quantrill
Convene Strategic Board and scope work programme for LAEP and CDF	April 2022	September 2022	TBC
Commission phase 1 of the evidence bases for the LAEP and CDF	September 2022	March 2023	Strategic Board
Set up marketing, sales and comms function for energy projects and recruit new skills and capacity planning and inward investment etc	April 2022	March 2024	Sheryl French

5. Could this have any effects on people with Protected Characteristics including poverty and rural isolation? If so please provide as much detail as possible.

The most vulnerable in society will suffer the biggest consequences of climate impacts unless interventions are in place to moderate impacts. Delivering change into rural

communities costs more and it is important this work advocates for the vulnerable and the rural communities to prevent them getting left behind and falling into poverty.

An Equality Impact Screening has been completed for this proposal and, if the budget is approved, the impact will be assessed across the three different aspects of the bid as the projects are scoped.

**6. What financial and non-financial benefits are there and how will you measure the performance of these? Are there any dis-benefits? These MUST include how this will benefit the wider internal and external system.**

### Financial Benefits

#### Cost avoidance:

The Council's carbon emissions in 2019/20 across scopes 1,2 and 3 were estimated at 206,579 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. BEIS has published its central scenario carbon price for 2021 @ £245 per tonne to inform policy assessments. If the Council does nothing to reduce its carbon emissions, the risk value of these carbon emissions in today's price undiscounted is @ £50+million.

BEIS forecasts an increase in the per tonne price of carbon over time. If nothing is done to reduce the Council's carbon footprint the Council's risk increases as a result of (i) increased costs for fossil fuels (ii) tighter regulation on carbon emissions reducing asset values for assets with high emissions. This could result in reduced rents or additional investments to mitigate emissions in the future.

Wider society will pick up costs from climate impacts. Overheating, droughts and flooding could increase costs for maintaining roads and infrastructures and this could impact the health of our communities creating greater burdens on the NHS. If flooding events become more prevalent, Insurance companies will increase premiums and or choose not to insure companies/homes in areas of flood risk vulnerability. Other key areas of risk are agriculture and nature – the impacts of both water, (flood and drought) as well as loss of nature (e.g. for pollination, soil health) will reduce land productivity.

Key Benefit	Measure	Baseline	Target & Timescale
CO <sub>2</sub> e reductions to limit temperature	Carbon footprint organisation	2018 baseline	Net Zero by 2030 scope 1 and 2,

rise and climate impacts	and Carbon footprint area	2017 baseline	50% reduction on scope 3 by 2030 Net zero by 2045
Air quality improvements	Via Local Authority Air Quality Strategies	2021 baseline	
Support for Cambridgeshire businesses to adjust to new product development and changes	£invested in carbon credits as part of the Cambridgeshire Fund		£ invested in local projects to reduce carbon emissions
Infrastructure planning for low carbon places		No LAEP in place No heat zones in place	LAEP plan in place and heat zones

7. Are there any identified risks which may impact on the potential delivery of this? What is the risk if we do not act?

Risk	Mitigation	RAG (should the risk occur)	Overall Responsibility
Delivery risk: Insufficient net zero skills in the Council to lead and support the delivery of carbon reductions	Initial skills gaps and capacity identified and included in the business plan for 2022/23	Amber	Executive Director Place and Economy and Assistant Director of Climate Change and Energy Services
Delivery Risk: Delays to getting the right strategic and resourcing framework for Net-Zero	The Review of the CCES is underway to identify 'interim' investment funding in the business plan 2022/23. A detailed resourcing strategy for net zero will inform	Green	As above and

	the 2023/24 business planning process.		
<p>Risks of not acting:</p> <p>Greater resource pressures from higher energy bills,</p> <p>More community demands on services e.g.flood risk;</p> <p>Greater spend on repairing and maintaining infrastructure</p> <p>Less inward investment to the community</p> <p>Reputation as not leading by example having declared a climate emergency</p> <p>Opportunity to benefit commercially from a green recovery and transition diminishes</p> <p>Regulatory change results in more costs to the Council</p>	Local Area Energy planning; building retrofit plans	Green	As above

## 8. Scope: What is within scope? What is outside of scope?

Potential capital/revenue requirements total £340,000 on staff and consultancy on capital and revenue schemes. Please see table below.



Invest to Save (avoiding future carbon costs and climate impacts)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	CO2e reductions @£245t/CO2e price in 2021	TOTAL
Local Area Energy Planning	£80,000	£80,000	£80,000	Estimate 3.6 MtCo2e reductions by 2045 equivalent value of + £1 billion	£240,000
Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund	£80,000	To be reviewed	-	TBC	£80,000
Revenue support for marketing, sales, comms for energy projects	£120,000	£120,000	£70,000	Cumulative contractual savings of 100,000 tCO2e from 2017-2021 on current investments valued at £24.5M and more forecast from 2021-2025	£310,000
Support for growth and Communities	£60,000	£60,000	To be reviewed	TBC	£120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£340,000</b>	<b>£260,000</b>	<b>£150,000</b>	<b>CO2e reductions</b>	<b>£750,000</b>