

DECISION NOTICE - OFFICER/ MAYORAL

To grant a permission or a licence, affect the rights of individuals, to award a contract or incur expenditure over £250k, to amend budgets, or apply a Key Decision over £500k.

5 DECISION INFORMATION		
1. DECISION TITLE	Market Towns Programme Phase 1	
2. DECISION No.	ODN006-2025	
3. DECISION DATE	27/02/2025	
4. FORM AUTHOR	Grace Crawford Grace.Crawford@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk	
5. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) approval of Change Requests under £1m related to timing changes and reallocation of funding through the Single Assurance Framework. The Change Requests were reviewed by the Investment Panel on 12 th February and recommended to be sent to the CEO for approval, subject to completion of actions agreed. All actions raised at the Investment Panel on 12 th February have been addressed.	
6. AUTHORITY FOR DECISION	Chief Executive Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	
7. DECISION TYPE	Officer	
8. DECISION OWNER	Rob Bridge	
9. KEY DECISION INFORMATION	FORWARD PLAN DATE	
	FORWARD PLAN NUMBER	
	DATE OF DECISION	
	DATE REPORT PUBLISHED	
	APPROVAL HYPERLINK	
	IMPLEMENTATION DATE	
	EXEMPT INFO/ ANNEX	
DECISION OVERVIEW		
10. SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS	This is a programme level change request to seek approval to extend project timelines of two projects and re-allocate funding underspends to other projects. 1. Wisbech Shop Watch Radio Scheme – underspend of this cancelled project totalling £33,800, with £25,000 to be reallocated to installation of outdoor electricity supply in Wisbech Park and the remaining £8,800 to be returned to the CPCA (<i>this is a new project that originally came through the SAF as a Concept Paper but the Investment</i>	

	<p><i>Panel advised on 12th February 2025 to include this in the Market Towns Programme Phase 1 Change Request and to go to the CEO for approval)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Ramsey Public Realm – carry over of remaining allocated funding totalling £236,347 to 2025/26 3. Soham to Wicken Fen Cycle Way - carry over of remaining allocated funding totalling £300,000 to 2025/26 4. Whittlesey Community Projects – reallocation of underspends totalling £65,000 to other linked projects.
<p>11. PROJECT BACKGROUND</p>	<p>Wisbech Park</p> <p>The original project (Wisbech Shop Watch Radio Scheme) was cancelled due to difficulties over the last three years in trying to achieve access to the Shop Watch aerial system that is installed on a building which had been – but no longer is – leased to Fenland District Council. In addition, it had originally been understood that the Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council’s joint CCTV service would “monitor” the new Shop Watch Radio Scheme. That is now, for operational reasons, no longer feasible. Furthermore, the local Constabulary has made it clear recently that it would not participate in the scheme.</p> <p>This change request is to utilise the funding which had been allocated to Wisbech Town Council for a new project in Wisbech Park. This is the remaining budget from the £1 million allocation for Market Towns projects in Wisbech.</p> <p>The installation of an outdoor electricity supply will facilitate/generate additional use of Wisbech Park, as a community space for leisure, recreation, sports and other community activity (such as targeted youth work and health and wellbeing-related activity); the annual Armed Forces Day event and the annual WisBEACH Rock Festival (delivered by Wisbech Town Council); all this helping to develop community cohesion and integration and a “sense of place” for local people.</p> <p>When community events are held, there is a considerable increase in footfall in not only Wisbech Park but also in the town centre, which has benefits for the local economy (and, hence, retention and creation of jobs). This has been evidenced by the footfall counters which have been installed in Wisbech Market Place (funded by CPCA).</p> <p>The CPCA has previously allocated funding to other activities in Wisbech Park, such as the splash pad and the new pavilion, and the approval of this project will facilitate further development and use of Wisbech Park. Fenland District Council, as the owner of Wisbech Park, shares the view of Wisbech Town Council in this matter and, hence, is supportive of this application.</p> <p>The additional use of Wisbech Park should help the financial viability of the new pavilion which has been constructed (now operated and managed by Wisbech Town Council via a lease with Fenland District Council), to which CPCA was the major funder.</p> <p>The provision of an electricity supply would prevent the need to use generators (which are costly to hire and run, use fossil fuel, are noisy and produce fumes and odour).</p> <p>As the owner of Wisbech Park, Fenland District Council (FDC) would undertake the procurement exercise on behalf of Wisbech Town Council. In that exercise, FDC would use its experience of a similar project in Chatteris to develop this project, using identical specifications for power and learning from the Chatteris project to deliver the Wisbech one</p> <p>Although the proposed electricity supply would be the responsibility of Wisbech Town Council, which would be its primary user, the council would make its use available to local community groups and bodies to support activities and events which they deliver in the town’s park. The Town Council sees that arrangement as one way that it can assist in the</p>

delivery/provision of a wider range of community activity in an important community space in the town. This would result in cost savings (because of no longer needing to use electricity generators), as have been articulated elsewhere within this document, for all groups or organisations that require access to an electricity supply to be able to deliver their activities in Wisbech Park.

The Town Council would meet any additional expenditure required to ensure the delivery of this project.

With regard to the ongoing sustainability of the proposed facility, Wisbech Town Council will make budgetary provision for annual running costs, as well as any costs of operational repairs and maintenance costs.

Ramsey Public Realm

The Ramsey public realm project is part of a wider high impact scheme which incorporates improvements to the public realm, pedestrianisation of parts of the Great Whyte in Ramsey, the development of small semi-permanent retail units (shop in a box) to be located in the pedestrianised area and also the improvement of off street car parks which will be used to mitigate the loss of on street parking spaces.

This is a complex and interlinked programme which requires all elements to be confirmed and in place before phased delivery can commence. The wider scheme includes funding of £1,15M of recycled LGF, which is programmed for spend and completion in 2025/26.

HDC originally sought to utilise the Ramsey Public Realm project funds in order to improve and expand the parking provision at Mews Close Off Street car park by January 2025. However, in order to deliver these works it is important that the full scheme is confirmed, so that we can ensure that these works genuinely add value and mitigation to the final scheme.

HDC consulted with the local community in late September and this consultation identified a number of areas to improve upon and adjust. As a result, a number of changes were proposed to Ramsey Town Council which have now been agreed. As the programme is not only highways based but also proposed the development of small retail units, it is necessary to secure planning consent. To this end HDC has commenced pre-application discussions with the Planning Authority.

As a result of these changes and the further work required in developing proposals, which will confirm the loss of on street car parking spaces, HDC elected not to proceed with resurfacing and remarking of Mews Close Off Street car park, intending instead to progress these works once all design elements were finalised and planning consent secured. HDC also wished to better link to the CPCA Mobility Hubs concept. Discussions have been held with CPCA officers to this end and a provisional agreement for incorporating a car club into the scheme has been made.

The change proposed will move the budget available for Ramsey Public realm into 2025/26, with works (car parking and related mitigation of off street parking loss, including introduction of a car club) commencing in Q2 of 25/26. At this point, planning consent for the main 'shop in a box' scheme and associated pedestrianisation will have been secured with a contractor in place.

Soham to Wicken Fen Cycle Way

The project supports the construction of a cycle way to deliver a year-round sustainable travel connection between Soham's new station with the Wicken Fen nature reserve and national cycle network.

The project brief is to upgrade the existing route to a shared facility for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. A signing strategy will be implemented, aiming to upgrade the

	<p>existing signage of the route from Soham to Wicken, with a focus on the link between Soham train station and Wicken Fen.</p> <p>Environmental/ecology constraints on site has moved the construction phase into financial year 2025/6. There is evidence of water voles in the ditches along the NMU route, meaning that some of the works need to be carried out under licence and within set licensable periods.</p> <p>Whittlesey Community Projects</p> <p>The delivery of a portfolio of four mini-projects for the town of Whittlesey – (1) Community Sports Improvements at Manor Leisure Centre – installing fencing and LED lighting to the existing netball/tennis/basketball facility; (2) Whittlesey Market Place improvements; (3) Heritage Library Display; (4) Manor Leisure Centre Solar PV improvements – installing additional solar PV units onto the swimming pool building.</p> <p>The Solar PV additions on Manor Leisure Centre is nearing the construction phase, with procurement now completed. The estimated costs for this project was originally £110k. However, it is now estimated at £65k.</p> <p>(A) As costs have now changed, we request the following change;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Project to include new pool covers at the facility to further increase energy efficiency (estimated cost iro £20,000) 2. The Project to include new heat exchange unit for the swimming pool to further increase energy efficiency (estimated cost iro £13,000) 3. £12,000 of the reduced expenditure to be ported to the Whittlesey Southern Relief Road project (an existing project with the Market Towns Programme), following recent identification of additional costs to deliver this work. <p>(B) An additional request for the underspend of Whittlesey Tennis Courts re-furb (£20k) to be re-allocated to improving energy efficiency at the Manor Leisure Centre to ensure its ongoing operational viability. This would complement the energy saving improvements that the Growing Fenland funded additional solar panels will also bring.</p>	
<p>12. FINANCE INFORMATION</p>	<p>VALUE OF DECISION</p>	<p>N/A – change requests. Funding already approved.</p>
	<p>BUDGET CODE</p>	<p>Market Town Wisbech CX1603 Market Town Ramsey CX1602 Market Town Soham CX1608 Market Town Whittlesey CX1604</p>
	<p>BUDGET DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Capital</p>
	<p>FUNDING TYPE</p>	<p>Grants</p>
	<p>FUNDING APPROVAL</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>FUNDS AVAILABLE</p>	<p>Yes</p>
	<p>OTHER COMMENTS</p>	
<p>13. PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS</p>	<p>DIRECT AWARD JUSTIFICATION</p>	<p>N/A Grant funding agreement with FDC who are undertaking the procurement exercise on behalf of Wisbech Town Council.</p>
	<p>REGULATION RISKS</p>	<p>N/A Grant funding agreement with FDC</p>

	VFM JUSTIFICATION	FDC would use its experience of a similar project in Chatteris to develop this project, using identical specifications for power and learning from the Chatteris project to deliver the Wisbech one.
14. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS	LEGAL RISKS	The project change requests have gone through the SAF process and have had internal scrutiny.
	CONTRACT/GRANT INFORMATION	Deeds of variation to GFA's will be required where funding is being used for existing grant funded projects and new GFA's will be needed for new projects.
15. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/ MITIGATION		
16. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION		
17. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION		
DECISION APPROVAL/ CONSULTATION		
PROCUREMENT	NAME	Chantel Allott
	DATE	04/03/2025
	COMMENT	As per comments in section 13
FINANCE	NAME	Bruna Menegatti
	DATE	27/2/25
	COMMENT	Approved – assuming funds come from unused Market Town funds.
LEGAL	NAME	Reena Roojam
	DATE	04/03/25
	COMMENT	Approved as per comments above.
CHIEF OFFICER/ DIRECTOR	NAME	Richard Kenny
	DATE	27/02/2025
	COMMENT	Approved in meeting with Grace Crawford
OVERALL APPROVAL		
DECISION MAKER (CEO)	NAME	Rob Bridge
	DATE	27/02/2025
	COMMENT	Approved in SAF CEO meeting