

East Cambridgeshire
District Council

Council Meeting

25 July 2024

Agenda

Minutes and Recommendations

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR VISITORS TO THE GRANGE

Parking

Limited visitor parking is available during the daytime at the access area to The Grange, for people making short visits on Council business of up to 30 minutes. Ample free public car parking is available nearby for longer visits and location plans can be forwarded on request. On-site car parking is available for evening meetings after 5.00pm.

Access and Security

If you are visiting The Grange during normal office hours you should report to the main reception desk, where you will be asked to fill in a visitor's pass that must be worn at all times whilst you are in the building. Please remember to return your pass before you leave.

This will not apply if you come to an evening meeting: in this case you will enter via the rear access doors in the glass atrium at the back of the building and a Facilities Assistant will direct you to the room in which the meeting will take place.

Emergencies

In the event of a fire or any other emergency during the day, you will hear a continuous alarm. The designated officer or their deputy as set out in the displayed plans for each floor will take charge of any evacuation and try to ensure that no one is left within the areas for which they are responsible.

You should leave the building by the nearest available exit and go to the assembly point near to the exit barrier in the front car park. **Do not** use the lifts, and **do not** re-enter the building until someone advises that it is safe for you to do so.

If you discover a fire immediately operate the nearest fire alarm call point, inform reception or another member of staff, leave the building and go to the assembly point.

In the event of a fire or another emergency during an evening meeting, a member of staff will direct you to the nearest available exit.

First Aid

If someone feels unwell or needs first aid, please let a member of staff know.

Access for People with Disabilities

The Council Chamber and majority of Committee rooms are accessible to wheelchair users via the lift. There are specially adapted toilets on the ground floor (in main reception) and on the first floor of the building.

In the event of a fire or another emergency, wheelchair users will be guided to an area near to an exit to await the arrival of the emergency services.

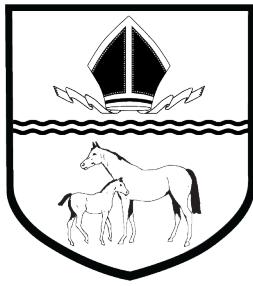
Toilets

Public toilets are on the ground floor in the main reception area.

If you are visiting The Grange for an evening meeting, the toilets in close proximity to the Chamber and Committee rooms are all clearly signposted.

Smoking

The Council operates a NO SMOKING policy in all its office buildings, including the car park to The Grange.



East Cambridgeshire District Council

NOTICE OF MEETING

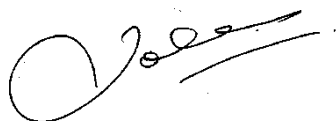
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held on **THURSDAY 25 JULY 2024** in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE, ELY, CB7 4EE**, commencing at **6:00pm** with up to 15 minutes of Public Question Time, immediately followed by the formal business, and you are summoned to attend for the transaction of the following business

A minute's silence will be observed as a mark of respect following the death of former Councillor Paul Cox, District Councillor for the Littleport West Ward from 2015 to 2019

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** **[oral]**
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes Public Question Time (PQT) – questions/statements can be submitted in advance or placed in the PQT box in the Council Chamber prior to the commencement of the meeting – see Notes below for further information on the PQT scheme.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** **[oral]**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** **[oral]**
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.
- 4. MINUTES – 23 MAY 2024** **Page 7**
To confirm as a correct record.
- 5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[oral]**
- 6. TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)** **[oral]**
- 7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10** **[oral]**
- 8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS** **[oral]**
- 9. CORPORATE PLAN** **Page 31**
- 10. SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES:**
Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review **Page 37**

- 11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS** **Page 61**
1) Mepal Neighbourhood Plan
2) Sutton Neighbourhood Plan
- 12. ECSS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT EXTENSION** **Page 65**
- 13. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED
AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT** **Page 67**
May & June 2024



J Hill
Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Council

NOTES:

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. Admittance is on a "first come, first served" basis and public access will be from 30 minutes before the start time of the meeting. Due to room capacity restrictions, members of the public are asked, where possible, to notify Democratic Services (democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555) of their intention to attend a meeting.

The meeting will be webcast and a live stream of the meeting will be available. Further details can be found at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-250724>. Please be aware that all attendees, including those in the public gallery, will be visible on the livestream.

Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Council's functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (e.g. offensive, slanderous or might lead to disclosures of Exempt or Confidential information). Up to 15 minutes is allocated for this at the start of the meeting. Further details about the Public Question Time scheme are available at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme>

The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting, if required.

Fire instructions for meeting: The instructions in the event of a fire at the venue will be announced at the commencement of the meeting.

Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".

If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: translate@eastcambs.gov.uk

If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

“That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”



East Cambridgeshire District Council

Minutes of a Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council
held at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE
on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Chika Akinwale	Councillor Mark Inskip
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith	Councillor James Lay
Councillor Anna Bailey	Councillor David Miller
Councillor Ian Bovingdon	Councillor Kelli Pettitt
Councillor David Brown (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Charlotte Cane	Councillor Caroline Shepherd
Councillor Lorna Dupré (from 6:15pm)	Councillor John Trapp
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Ross Trent
Councillor Mark Goldsack (Chair)	Councillor Lucius Vellacott
Councillor Martin Goodearl	Councillor Mary Wade
Councillor Keith Horgan	Councillor Alison Whelan
Councillor Julia Huffer	Councillor Christine Whelan
Councillor Bill Hunt	Councillor Gareth Wilson

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Prayers were led by
Revd Eleanor Whalley, Vicar of Soham.*

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were two questions placed in the question box.

Joan Wall, President of East Anglia Council of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, of 38 Lynn Road, Ely.

“Regarding the Council’s Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-2025 which says in its forward:

The Service identified a gap in supported accommodation for mental health and learning disability and worked hard to introduce partnership working with The Pringle Group to secure more properties in the district specifically for this client group. It details Pages 12/13 [the Service] approached The Pringle Group who purchase and develops fully supported properties for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. The Council now has direct referral rights into 3 properties in East Cambridgeshire and several outside of

the district for long-term supported accommodation. We currently partially fund a member of staff with a £7,000 grant on an annual basis. We continue to work with The Pringle Group to identify new properties.

Response from the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

“Thank you for putting your question, which was quite detailed, with no prior notification given, therefore I am not familiar with the detail, and I would like to ensure that we give an accurate answer. I also have not seen the FOI request or response and it would be helpful for us to review that as well before a proper, full, and accurate answer is given therefore I would like to take the question away and write to you with a written answer, which would be included in the record of the meeting.”

Response from the Cllr Julia Huffer:

“I was not aware that the funding had ceased therefore this has come as complete news to me. I will make strenuous investigations into this issue starting tomorrow morning. I will also consult with Cllr Bailey and Cllr Inskip to ensure the information you receive is accurate.”

Response from the Cllr Mark Inskip:

“I am concerned, as I was not aware that the funding had ceased, therefore I will be looking for the explanations as to why this has happened.”

Response sent after the meeting, from Housing & Community Advice Manager:

“The Council is still working in partnership with the Pringle Group and still has referral rights into their properties within East Cambs and across Cambridgeshire. East Cambs part funded a support worker for the first year in 2019, after that the Pringle Group were self-funding, and the accommodation was housing benefit sustainable therefore we didn't need to continue to fund this service. We continue to move clients into the accommodation and then move them into independent accommodation when they are ready to live independently. As an authority we are extremely aware of the need for further accommodation for very highly complex need cases, therefore we are launching a new project in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council called 'The Housing First' (an initiative that is supported by our DLUC Rough Sleeper Advisor) we will be funding a full-time support worker for our district and have already got a commitment from Sanctuary Housing of properties that can be used for a very high-level intensive support package for our clients. We are aware of other charities providing services for the homeless and have indeed worked in partnership with The Lighthouse for many years, we have given a yearly donation, funded them to provide our Severe Weather Provision (SWEP) and paid for room hire for the Ukraine Hub, we also gave them additional funding during the Covid 19 pandemic. Since 2019 East Cambs has funded/granted them £82,919. If there are other charity agencies within the district that we are not currently working in partnership with we are more than happy for them to approach us to ensure we are all joined up in ending rough/sleeping and providing relevant support to clients as and when needed. As our Homelessness Strategy is coming up for review in 2025 all changes will be incorporated into it.”

ii) Question from Mrs Jones, resident:

When it rains, the street gulleys fill up and it floods the junction of Deacons Lane and Lynn Road with water across both road and pavements, sometimes right across both road and pavements, sometimes right across the crown of the road, Anglian Water say gully cleaning is the responsibility of the Highways authority which blames blockages in the gulleys on the District Council not sweeping the highways adequately.

The north side of Deacons Lane and the west side of New Barns Road have residents' cars parked a lot of the time. Both these roads have Lime trees that shed lots of blossoms in the summer and then leaves in the Autumn, both these falls, in addition to heavy winds bringing down extra branches and leaves, cause a build-up of material on both sides of the road. All these falls regularly block the road, and lots of it rots down into black sticky leaf detritus(which is advised to be contaminated by oil from cars so not compostable by residents) making wading across the road unpleasant as well as slippy.

Sweeping was done fortnightly twenty-five years ago on both roads. Pavement sweeping happens not at all now and the roads are swept unpredictably. The areas covered by cars are never swept.

Despite a recent ad hoc request to sweep the north side of Deacons Lane, asking for car owners to be notified by the Council and for it to be done when residents had driven away to work, the street sweeps can at 7 am on a Saturday and 9 am on a Sunday and swept the south side only.

Could the Council Leader explain and the opposition lead councillor comment on why cannot the Council devise a notification scheme for residents to know on which day a regular road sweep will occur, preferably later in the day, so that if not away at work, they can park on the other side of the roads or in the Paradise car park for the day?"

Response from the Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

"I have had no prior notice of the question, but I can give some general information and then defer to the Deputy Leader as this is her area. I had a similar case raised with me not long ago elsewhere in Ely, so I am familiar with this as a problem. It does make life very difficult when cars are regularly parked in the same location and we have taken measures in the areas that I was overseeing, to find a way of dealing with that. As a bigger piece of work, it will form part of our Waste Strategy Review which we are getting ready to undertake. There is a regular sweeping schedule, but if cars are in the way, then I can understand the problem that is building up with detritus going down the gully; it can get very unpleasant therefore we need to get on top of it. I am pleased to hear that the ad hoc request was responded to promptly but not much good if it did not sweep the correct side of the road. As a short-term measure, we will certainly look to do what we can, to resolve the problem and

then this issue will form part of the Waste Strategy Review to look at how this can be dealt with on a more permanent basis.”

Response from the Cllr Julia Huffer:

“As someone who is surrounded by Lime trees, I feel your pain as they are dropping something all year round. On 10 June, the Waste Review working party is meeting again and both street sweeping and cleansing are part of that review, and this will be more closely looked at to find out what strategies can be put in place going forward. I will consult with the Director of Streetscene and find out what can be done about providing a better service on Deacons Lane.”

Response from the Cllr Mark Inskip:

“I am on the same working group looking at street cleansing and it is not just Deacons Road that has this problem. Sutton also has problems with straw lorries going to the straw-burning plant and when the streets are swept, you can see where the cars are parked. I know that work has been done to try and come up with a more regular schedule, but the problem of parked cars has not yet been discussed, which needs to be addressed in the coming meetings. If residents were aware in advance, then I am sure they would co-operate to make it more effective.”

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR 2024/25

Cllr Mark Goldsack was nominated as Council Chair by Cllr Anna Bailey and seconded by Cllr Julia Huffer.

Cllr Gareth Wilson was nominated as Council Chair by Cllr Lorna Dupre and seconded by Cllr Charlotte Cane.

A secret ballot was held in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1. Cllr Goldsack received 14 votes and Cllr Wilson received 11 votes.

It was resolved:

That Cllr Mark Goldsack be elected as Chair of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2024/25.

Cllr Goldsack then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chair of Council.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Christine Colbert and Cllr Katherin Holtzmann.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR 2024/25

Cllr David Brown was nominated as Council Vice-Chair by Cllr Mark Goldsack and seconded by Cllr Anna Bailey.

Cllr Christine Whelan was nominated as Council Vice-Chair by Cllr Lorna Dupre and seconded by Cllr Inskip.

A secret ballot was held in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.1. Cllr Brown received 15 votes and Cllr C Whelan received 11 votes.

It was resolved:

That Cllr David Brown be elected as Vice Chair of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2024/25.

Cllr Brown then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Vice Chair of Council.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received from Councillors.

6. MINUTES – 20 FEBRUARY 2024

It was resolved unanimously:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 February 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7. ELY WEST WARD DISTRICT BY-ELECTION RESULT

The Chair welcomed Cllr Ross Trent to the Council and looked forward to working with him.

It was resolved:

That the result of the Ely West Ward By-Election be noted, and Councillor Ross Trent welcomed as a new District Councillor.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

1) Chair's Engagements

The Chair referred to the list of Chair's engagements for the year and declared that his policy was only to attend meetings that were of real relevance to the residents of East Cambridgeshire. Highlights from the year included the Armistice/Remembrance Day at Ely Cathedral and events at the US RAF bases.

2) Retirement of Tracy Couper, Democratic Services Manager

The Chair expressed the Council's best wishes to Tracy Couper on her retirement, thanked her for her hard work and stated that she would be a loss to the Council. Tracy was presented with a bouquet from all Members and Officers.

9. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

10. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

(i) Preventing Abuse and Intimidation of Public Officials

Cllr Lucius Vellacott proposed the Motion and Cllr Wade seconded the motion.

East Cambridgeshire District Council, hereinafter referred to as the 'Council', notes that:

- It is a privilege and a responsibility to be elected to a public office, which Members feel proud to enter into. It is an equal privilege and responsibility to serve local government as an officer.
- The intimidation and abuse of councillors and candidates, of any party or none, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy, prevents elected Members from representing the communities they serve and deters individuals from standing for election. It also undermines effective discussion, understanding and accountability for the benefit of local people.
- According to the Local Government Association, this intimidation and abuse is greatly increased with respect to social media, which has greater implications for younger people becoming or serving as councillors or officers.
- Increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse, towards both officers and Members, distracts from the material priorities of local communities and is preventing the engagement of a wide range of people and viewpoints in the democratic process.
- Preventative actions, support and responses should be in place to ensure that Members, candidates, and officers feel safe and able to fulfil their obligations to the best of their judgement and ability.

The Council resolves, in response to this information, to:

- Officially subscribe itself to the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign, which endeavours to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and support those in public life more generally who may face abuse and/or intimidation.
- Use the LGA template letter to write to Lucy Frazer MP and Steve Barclay MP to ask them to work with His Majesty's Government and the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of public officials at every level of government.
- Subsequently, instruct the Chief Executive to publicise the Council's membership thereof to all Staff and Members and display the LGA

Debate Not Hate posters at The Grange Reception and Council Chamber, and to actively encourage its Parish Councils to do the same, citing the above information.

- Instruct the Chief Executive and Democratic Services Manager to undertake a 4-yearly review (before each full election to the Council) of the support available to councillors, officers and election candidates in relation to abuse, intimidation and safety, and report this to the Finance and Assets Committee and to all candidates.
- To have this information uploaded to a page as part of the new website development, and to display the LGA's Debate Not Hate logo in the website footer.
- Work with the local Police and the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of public officials and their families, including prevention.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors, candidates and officers, whether in person or otherwise, and support them to uphold the most exemplary standards of respectful debate, individual accountability and public service.

Cllr Vellacott congratulated the Chair on his re-election and stated that the Motion had been the result of cross-party working and recognised the increasing problem of abuse and intimidation facing Councillors, Officers and Candidates. Local changes were necessary to address this issue. Councillors and Officers were highly regarded, but those who spoke up for their communities often experienced baseless accusations, threats, and unnecessary attacks on their character. The online world made it difficult to escape these attacks, especially for younger individuals. These attacks undermined respect, productive conversation, effective communication and accountability. Therefore, East Cambridgeshire District Council would officially support the Local Government Association's Debate not Hate Campaign. This Campaign showed that the Council stood behind its Councillors, Candidates and Officers and wanted the community to understand their roles and show mutual respect. All support would be evaluated, and any incidents would be documented and reported to the Finance & Assets Committee before each District Council Election. This information would be made public on the Council's website and the Council would collaborate with the Police and the Community Safety Partnership to eliminate threats to public officials. The Council follows strict standards of respect and expects others to do the same in return.

Cllr Wade seconded Cllr Vellacott's motion and mentioned as a new Councillor, she was thankful for the support given by officers and Members. She suggested that it would be helpful for new Councillors to meet and share their experiences and contribute to the 2027 induction programme for new Councillors. Cllr Wade also mentioned the importance of following guidelines on safe engagement from national and council sources and suggested monitoring cases of inappropriate behaviour towards Councillors. Cllr Wade emphasised the need for truthful communication and the allowance of different opinions in debates and urged all Councillors to support the Motion.

Cllr Sharp welcomed the cross-party Motion and mentioned that a similar one had been approved at Cambridgeshire County Council. He reminded Members that the Motion would also protect officers who might face abuse and, encouraged all Councillors to back the Motion.

The Leader expressed her support for the Motion and the cross-party working involved, as she had experienced abuse, received threatening messages and faced negative online comments. Members needed to stand by each other, and she encouraged them to support the Motion.

Cllr Alison Whelan stated that Members should consider how their words might provoke supporters to act inappropriately. She expressed hope that openly discussing this issue, would show disengaged individuals that Members were there to assist residents.

Cllr Goldsack explained he had seconded the same Motion at Cambridgeshire County Council and would take responsibility for setting up an annual meeting to engage with new Councillors.

Cllr Vellacott proposed an amendment to the Motion to include the proposed annual meeting for new Members, this amendment was agreed with the seconder, Cllr Wade.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was declared to be unanimously carried.

(ii) Two Child Limit to Benefit Payments

The Two-child limit to benefit payments was introduced in 2017. It prevents families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than two children in the household.

Council notes the recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one in ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- There is a strong correlation between families affected by the two-child limit and those who are living in poverty.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however, it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.

In East Cambridgeshire, 1,160 children in 330 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments. That is 6 per cent of all

children in the authority area. At the same time, 3,226 local children are living in poverty.

The Council strongly believes that the two-child limit to benefit payments is a cruel and harmful policy that should be scrapped. Research from the University of York has shown its introduction has had no positive impacts on employment and earnings. Instead, it has dragged hundreds of local families into poverty.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister indicating East Cambridgeshire's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped—which would help 1,160 children living in East Cambridgeshire.
- Further instruct the Chief Executive to write to both MPs covering the East Cambridgeshire area, asking them to commit their public support to the campaign to end the two-child limit to benefit payments.

Cllr Cane proposed the Motion and stated that poverty did not have a single definition. It was generally understood that individuals, families and groups were considered to be living in poverty when they lacked the resources to access a proper diet, participate in activities, and have living conditions and amenities that were considered standard and accepted in society. Children born into poverty were at a higher risk of being underweight at birth, faced challenges in survival during their first year of life, suffered from asthma and other childhood illnesses, experienced poor mental health, and struggled to meet educational milestones at a young age, leading to slower progress in secondary school. These factors can have long-term effects on their education achievements, job prospects and earning potential. It has been suggested that removing the two-child limit on benefits could help lift a significant number of children out of poverty. In East Cambridgeshire, there were 3,226 children experiencing poverty and half of them belonged to households impacted by the two-child limit policy. The estimated cost of removing the two-child cap was £1.3 billion. Allowing children to remain in poverty came at an annual cost of approximately £39 billion. Cllr Cane emphasised the importance of all Members supporting the Motion. Additionally, an amendment had been made to the recommendations to ensure that the letters were sent on 8th July 2024. This adjustment was necessary as a General Election had been called on 4th July 2024, before the Motion was submitted.

The Leader clarified that restricting the number of children was not within the jurisdiction of East Cambridgeshire District Council and alternative methods could yield the same outcome. There has been a significant decrease in the number of children who live in poverty since 2009/10, with evidence suggesting that parental employment played a key role in reducing the risk of long-term poverty. Efforts have been made to enhance employment opportunities, including providing 30 hours of free childcare. Additional financial support had prevented 1.3 million from falling into poverty in 2022/23, while the National Living Wage had also seen an increase. Cllr Bailey believed that the Government's strategy was fair and proportionate, noting that the restriction did

not apply to expenses relating to care, free school meals and child benefits. As a result, Cllr Bailey was in favour of the Government's approach to this matter, she did not support the Motion.

Cllr Trapp expressed that the situation was devastating and emphasised that no child should go hungry. As a result, he affirmed his support for the Motion.

Cllr Vellacott acknowledged Cllr Trapp's input but noted there were measures in place to assist those with the lowest income. He expressed his inability to support the Motion as it did not propose any specific action for the Members.

As seconder to the Motion, Cllr Inskip emphasised that the Council had previously communicated with the MP about community energy. He expressed concern that failing to take similar action now would be contradictory and disagreed with the Leader's opinion that the current policy was appropriate; he asserted that every child should have an equal opportunity for a good beginning in life. Therefore, he urged Members to support the Motion.

Cllr Cane, as proposer, concluded by urging Members to support the Motion requesting the new government to eliminate the policy. He emphasised that the policy was not financially effective and highlighted the importance of ensuring that all children had access to proper nutrition and adequate rest.

The Motion was lost, with 11 votes in favour, 12 against and 3 abstentions.

(iii) Accessible Play

This Council:

Acknowledges the Essential Role of Play: Believes that opportunities for outdoor play should be accessible to and inclusive of all children and young people. Recognizes its role in ensuring this is the case for playgrounds under its control and in promoting high standards of inclusivity in playgrounds maintained by other bodies, including parish councils.

Addresses Accessibility Concerns: Notes that not all current playgrounds meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities, including but not limited to children and young people using wheelchairs or special educational needs, including but not limited to children and young people with autism, and commits to addressing these gaps.

Playgrounds as Essential Community Hubs: All children and young people have a right to play, which must be supported and reflected in our playgrounds. They are essential for community engagement and childhood development and must be designed and built with inclusivity as a foundational principle.

This Council resolves to:

1. **Audit and Assess:** Undertake or commission an audit of all playgrounds within East Cambridgeshire, including those managed by external

- bodies, to assess levels of inclusive provision and identify areas needing improvement.
2. Strategic Reporting: Receive a report to the appropriate Committee detailing the outcomes of the audit, along with a proposed council policy on inclusive play that sets specific, actionable standards for all playgrounds in the East Cambridgeshire area.
 3. Funding and Implementation: Cost a programme to increase the inclusivity of its playgrounds to the standards agreed in the policy. Identify potential sources of funding and explore the feasibility of directing specific funds to parish councils for the development or enhancement of their playground facilities and consider how to fund accessibility improvements in play areas maintained by developers.
 4. Community and Parish Council Engagement: Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase awareness and knowledge of inclusive play needs among all local parishes in East Cambridgeshire. Encourage parish councils to apply these inclusivity standards in their playground projects, ensuring local community involvement in the planning process, especially when developers are required to provide play areas.
 5. Planning and Collaboration: Work closely with its planning department to integrate inclusivity expertise into the planning and approval processes for new developments. Ensure that new playgrounds meet high standards of inclusivity from the outset. Actively consult with parents and carers of children and young people with SEND needs in collaboration with the Parish Council during the planning and design phases of the playground.
 6. Transparency: Ensure the local community is made aware of accessible features and inclusive equipment in local playgrounds via effective channels, including the ECDC website, social media platforms, and information boards.

Cllr Akinwale proposed the Motion, emphasising the importance of inclusive public spaces in fostering a cohesive community where everyone felt welcomed and had equal opportunities. She expressed gratitude for the cross-party support in promoting inclusivity in East Cambridgeshire's playgrounds.

Cllr Pettitt thanked Cllr Akinwale for the Motion and mentioned that she and Cllr Huffer had collaborated with the landowners and developers of Kennett Garden Village to ensure that the playgrounds were designed with innovation in mind. The playgrounds featured sand pits containing buried fossils, sound pipes, forts, tractors, lavender, trees, flowers and bulbs in vibrant colours and various textures, all tailored for individuals with sensory needs. Additionally, there was an open space with accessible play equipment and a pond. The landowners are acknowledged for their crucial role in the development of the playgrounds. The Motion would enable the Council to offer high-quality and inclusive play opportunities for all children.

Cllr Vellacott concurred with Cllr Pettitt's view that play areas should be open to all children, and this Motion was designed to enhance inclusivity. It was crucial to work with Parish Councils, as they were responsible for the upkeep

of playgrounds, and Members should support and urge Parish Councils to provide the necessary information.

Cllr Cane expressed her endorsement of the Motion, emphasising the significance of inclusive play for all individuals. Parish Councils would welcome guidance and support from the Council to ensure the creation of inclusive play areas. Cllr Cane fully supported the cross-party Motion.

The Chair acknowledged the cross-party support for the Motion concurred with Members on the importance of accessibility in all areas and was happy to support the Motion.

As the seconder of the Motion, Cllr Sharp thanked Cllr Akinwale for proposing the Motion and hoped for unanimous support from Members

In conclusion, Cllr Akinwale, as the proposer of the Motion, thanked Members for their support and highlighted that the Motion would bring about positive change.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was declared to be unanimously carried.

11. NOTICE OF RECISSION MOTION UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 20

The Council formally rescinds paragraph (iii) of the motion in relation to the Constitutional Review Working Party (ref: 20 February 2024, Agenda Item 17 paragraph (iii)).

The Council notes the application of Council procedure rules to the Council's Committees as defined in the Constitution (ref: 4 (1a) paragraph 27.2).

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to produce a written guidance note to members, specifically to:

- recognise the importance of scrutiny in local authorities. In a committee system, committees are the place where this happens and where questioning and debate should happen
- reiterate the Council procedure rules as they apply to Council committees
- confirm the cessation of written questions from members to officers
- confirm that questions from members to officers without notice should be pertinent to the agenda item and at the discretion of the Chair
- recognise the necessary discretion to the Chairs of the Council's Regulatory committees
- confirm the requirement for regular briefings between opposition spoke persons and the relevant senior officers, in addition to the requirement for briefings with the Chair/Vice-Chair and relevant senior officers

Proposer: Councillor Anna Bailey

Secunder: Councillor Lorna Dupre

Councillor: Councillor Alan Sharp

Councillor: Councillor Kelli Pettitt

Councillor: Councillor Lucius Vellacott

Cllr Bailey, as the Leader, proposed the Motion which was seconded by Cllr Dupre. Cllr Bailey thanked the Chair, Deputy Leader and the Liberal Democrats for their positive contribution to the meeting that resulted in the agreed Motion. She emphasised the significance of adhering to the Council's procedural rules outlined in the Constitution, highlighting the importance of Committees operating in a manner consistent with Full Council meetings, including following established practices and guidelines. Cllr Bailey was proud of the Council's Committee System, highlighting its inclusive nature that enabled all Members to contribute to policy formulation and decision-making processes. Scrutiny was crucial and the Council will contact the Local Government Association to seek guidance on how to improve scrutiny within a committee system, as the existing committees were primarily self-scrutinising. She encouraged Members to utilise briefings with officers to address any queries, which would facilitate discussions during committee meetings. The aim was to minimise the need for questions during the meetings since Members would already be well informed. It was hoped this guidance would enhance debate and increase participation from all Members.

Cllr Vellacott clarified that questions would not be removed, but rather help make the process more efficient and ensure Members were prepared for debates. It was important to scrutinise each other instead of focusing on officers, as this would keep discussions on track and improve effectiveness in decision-making.

Cllr Dupre apologised for arriving late and thanked the Chair for enabling collaboration in achieving mutual agreement. Despite East Cambridgeshire functioning under a Committee System, oversight was deemed necessary and there was a lack of guidance on this matter. A joint letter should be drafted highlighting this. It was acknowledged that there should be an opportunity to question proposals, challenge them, and ensure accountability. It was pleasing to see the decision reversed and improvements made to Member briefings about upcoming issues and the evolution of proposals, which would enhance their understanding. Cllr Dupre welcomed these advancements as they would serve to enhance the knowledge of Members.

The Chair thanked the Leaders and Deputies of both parties and was pleased with the result. This demonstrated the potential for positive outcomes and was the appropriate action.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was declared to be unanimously carried.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Two questions were received, and responses given as follows:

1) Question from Councillor Lucius Vellacott to Councillor Alison Whelan:

“Cambridgeshire County Council currently decides on blanket 20mph zones in East Cambridgeshire in private delegated decision meetings, with very limited public consultation, rather than in a public meeting of the authority. Does Cllr Whelan believe Cambridgeshire County Council should continue with this approach?”

Response from the Cllr Alison Whelan

“Thank you, Cllr Vellacott, for your question which was wholly expected, and you will be pleased to know, that despite my illness and medication, I have taken the time to come here and answer this question. Cambridgeshire County Council follows required procedures for Highways decisions, and some of these are done through delegated powers by the officers, informed by public consultation, and that is what happened in Ely. The City of Ely Council brought forward this proposal and a brief review of their Council minutes sees this issue minuted eight times in 2021/22 as well as at other times in their committees and working groups. There was public consultation, which was in no way limited, and even Conservatives opposing the consultation were helping to publicise it. There were multiple social media sites that covered the story, multiple news websites, local radio, several front-page stories in the local press. We posted leaflets through the doors of a large number of homes and handed out leaflets in the Market Place, asking people to respond to the consultation, that was until East Cambs Market Staff incorrectly told us to stop doing so. It is interesting to see that of the few people contacting me to complain about the scheme, a frequent theme emerged, they do not use social media, they do not read local papers, listen to the radio, or read the news websites. When asked what else could be done, they suggested putting things through doors, something we had actually done to some of them and still they did not recall seeing it. Consultation processes clearly do not reach everyone, and I suggest they never can, there are always improvements that can be made, and we should be reviewing that, after every consultation and after every new policy. But a quick search of social media shows that there was significant imprints of the plans over the extended consultation period for the 20mph Scheme. People often do not take the time to respond to consultations and I would like to thank all of those who did, each of whom received a response from the officers concerned. But all consultations prove challenging. A consultation by this Council, covering the wider area of the whole of East Cambridgeshire, on an issue of great public importance, £9.6m of developer contributions being spent on a crematorium, received fewer responses despite being for a larger area, and 85% of those showing a view were opposed to the plans. Cllr Vellacott will be pleased to know that I have received more comments from residents thanking the Councils for implementing the scheme than opposing it, despite calls from his colleagues to write directly to me expressing their opposition. Of course, it is easy to see the purpose of this question, which is no more than electioneering, otherwise, there would be a paper to this meeting, seeking to improve the way consultations are carried out at this Council. We also should remember the half-century war against

non-motorised users, that has been waged by many governments and councils. Thank you.”

2) Question from Councillor Cllr Lorna Dupre to the Leader of the Council Cllr Anna Bailey:

“Residents in the area I represent have been delighted to hear of the new bus routes and enhanced bus services which will soon be forthcoming as a result of the increase in the Mayor’s Precept. Not least of these is the proposal for a bus from Ely through Sutton to the guided busway stop at Longstanton, opening up the prospect for my constituents of onward travel to Cambridge Regional College, the Science Park, Addenbrooke’s, St Ives, Huntingdon and Hinchingsbrooke—something I have been championing for a very long time.

This and other enhancements to public transport across East Cambridgeshire, including services from Soham via the Swaffhams to Cambridge and improvements on the B1102 corridor, will open up new opportunities for many residents with no access to a private car, and for those who cannot drive or who want or need to move away from private to public transport. What explanation will the Leader of the Council give for her vote against the funding which is making these improvements possible?”

Response from the Leader, Cllr Anna Bailey:

“Thank you to Councillor Dupré for the question because it does allow me to explain myself exactly and I very much appreciate Councillor Dupré having championed the idea that, in fact, Conservatives first put forward in 2019, when young Beth Skellen proposed the idea of a bus from Sutton to the guided busway at Longstanton, it first appeared in literature, in her election leaflet and I was delighted to see the Conservatives idea being adopted by Councillor Dupré in her literature after that. It will be interesting to see what sort of patronage it gets, and I hope Cllr Dupré, and I am sure she will, continues to champion its cause in her villages. Cllr Dupré is correct in that I did not support the mayor’s 200% increase to his Council Tax precept; Cllr Dupré will know well that this Council stands on a proud record of 11 years without the need to increase our share of Council Tax bills and she should therefore not be surprised that I did not support the Mayor’s precept in the first place of his 200% increase this year and that is mainly because his precept increase was not necessary.

- 1) The Mayor came into office having stated that he had no plans to introduce a mayoral precept, despite the fact that he wanted to improve buses, so he u turned.
- 2) There was £10 to £15 million of headroom in the CPCA revenue budget, the increase was unnecessary.
- 3) East Cambs residents that responded to the CPCA consultation on this matter were against the idea; 66% of them said they were not willing to pay the precept to fund buses, so the East Cambs residents did not support the idea and I support them.
- 4) The Mayor and his Liberal Democrat and Labour colleagues on the Board, are letting down the people of Littleport, Ely, Stretham

and Little Thetford who are now paying that 200% increase in the Mayoral precept, when their No. 9 bus service has been hollowed out to the point of being unusable; they don't feel that they are getting a great deal out of this, and I am working night and day to try and improve that situation.

- 5) The Mayor failed to win bus improvement money from the Government, every single combined authority with a directly elected Mayor got tens of millions of pounds for bus improvements, except ours. Some got hundreds of millions and I think in two cases it was over a billion pounds.
- 6) Our Mayor, unfortunately, is running a dysfunctional authority - things are improving, but in the first three years he has been spending taxpayers money on large exit payments to staff. The CPCA is still under 'a best value notice,' which means they are not spending taxpayers money properly and funding is still being withheld. So, I do not support taxpayers having to foot the bill for the personal failings of the Mayor.
- 7) The Mayor has failed to carry out timely bus reforms. I will not sanction charging Council Taxpayers to continue subsidising unsustainable bus routes, like the 7A, which continues to cost taxpayers £250 per passenger return journey.
- 8) The answer to Cambridgeshire's transport problems is ultimately not just buses, a well-functioning transport system is one that people want to use because it is so good, so quick, so efficient, accessible, and cheap, that it is better than the car and what we need is a 21st century, turn-up and go public transport system for our county."

13. LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, GROUP LEADERS AND DEPUTY GROUP LEADERS

Council considered a report (Z1, previously circulated) containing details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming year.

The recommendation in the report was proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Vice-Chair.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the details of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; Political Groups; and Group Leaders and Deputies for the forthcoming municipal year, as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the Officer's report, be noted.

14. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Council considered a report (Z2, previously circulated) detailing the political balance of the Council, and the implications for the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies.

The recommendation in the report was proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Vice-Chair.

It was unanimously resolved:

That the political balance, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, be noted, and the allocation of seats on Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

15. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (INCLUDING SUBSTITUTES) AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES 2023/24

Council considered a report (Z3, previously circulated) detailing the proposed memberships of the Council's Committees, Sub-Committees, and other Member Bodies, as provided by the Group Leaders. The Democratic Services Manager reminded Members that a revised recommendation at 2.2 of the report had been circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed the deletion of Cllr Inskip and Cllr Christine Whelan as Substitutes on the Finance & Assets Committee and Cllr Cane as a substitute on the Operational Services Committee.

Approval of the memberships detailed in the revised recommendations was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was unanimously resolved that:

- i. The membership of Committees, Sub-Committees, and other Member Bodies for 2024/25, as detailed in revised Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, with the deletion of Cllr Inskip and Cllr Christine Whelan as Substitutes on the Finance & Assets Committee and Cllr Cane being removed as a substitute on the Operational Services Committee, be approved.
- ii. The appointment of Stephen Joyce as Lay Member of the Audit Committee, be approved.

A short break was taken from 7:50pm to 8:00pm

16. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

Council considered report Z4, previously circulated, detailing recommendations from Committees as follows:

1. Audit Committee – 19 March 2024

- a) Audit Committee Annual Report 2023/24

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Cllr Brown, proposed that the Annual Report 2023/24, as attached at Appendix A, be approved.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Petitt.

Councillor Cane expressed satisfaction with the Audit Committee reporting to Full Council but voiced disappointment with the lack of detail in the report, leading to her inability to endorse its approval. She believed that the report should be presented by the Committee Chair rather than by officers. Additionally, she noted that the report failed to mention the resignation of all Liberal Democrat councillors from the committee. The report contained an assessment of risks provided by ECSS, however, it failed to highlight that this review was a significant accomplishment. Additionally, the report did not acknowledge that Internal Audit had evaluated its governance practices, rated the controls as moderate, and suggested further improvements. There was no reference to the revenue from the Community Infrastructure Levy, which revealed weaknesses in the enforcement of controls. This was evident in the delayed issuance of demand notices, imposition of late payment penalties and interest, and swift and consistent recovery efforts. These controls need to be formalised and overseen more effectively to guarantee the full collection of funds. The Council must recognise when control standards were lacking, as this could result in financial losses and potential deprivation of funds for parish councils. Cllr Cane mentioned that she had been part of the Committee since 2021 but resigned due to the lack of adherence to CIPFA guidance. Despite some progress, the Committee did not fully support the Council in enhancing governance, risk management, and internal control procedures which led to the Liberal Democrats withdrawing from the Committee. The Committee made a regressive decision by appointing the former Finance and Assets Chair as the Audit chair, despite CIPFA guidelines recommending that past Finance and Assets Chairs should not serve on the Audit Committee for two years. Councillor Cane expressed satisfaction at the appointment of a lay member to the Committee and expressed optimism that this new addition would have a positive impact. She also hoped that the Lay Member would be elected as Chair to ensure that the Audit Committee had a truly independent lead. Councillor Cane expressed satisfaction with the decision to present an Annual Report to the Council and looked forward to seeing improvements in next year's report. However, due to the concerns she previously mentioned, she was unable to endorse the current report.

Councillor Vellacott clarified that Internal Audit had confirmed to the Audit Committee that the Council's control environment was secure. Financial control and risk management had shown improvement and was satisfactory during 2022/23 and 2023/24. Each identified risk was accompanied by a specific action plan to address it, and there were no instances where risks were accepted without mitigation measures in place. Additionally, there was also no opposition on the Committee to suggest new actions as they had not appointed anyone to the Committee. The next steps included moving forward with the cyber security audit and determining risk priorities at the upcoming meeting. However, it was important to note that the Council currently had a good handle

on its risks, therefore Cllr Vellacott was in favour of the proposed recommendations.

Summing up as Proposer, Cllr Brown explained that he had helped create the report alongside officers, following the same process used by the Combined Authority. He expressed his approval of a lay member being added to the committee. He also mentioned that guidance had been sought from external auditors before his appointment, and they were fully confident in his suitability for the role on the committee.

It was resolved:

That the Audit Committee Annual Report be approved.

17. EAST CAMBS TRADING COMPANY (ECTC) AND EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE (ECSS) MATTERS

Council considered (Z5, previously circulated) to consider changes to the East Cambs Trading Company Ltd (ECTC) Shareholder Agreement, East Cambs Street Scene Ltd (ECSS) Shareholder Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Council and ECSS.

The Director Legal highlighted that since publication, a typographical error had been noticed in paragraph 7.5 of both shareholder agreements, as they referred to 7.3 whereas it should read 7.2; this would be amended. There had also been an amendment circulated before the meeting.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Vellacott.

Cllr Bailey emphasised that the Internal Audit findings for ECSS and ECTC indicated a good level of compliance. She endorsed the initiative to grant East Cambs Trading Company the autonomy to establish resident management companies without needing Council approval each time. These management companies empowered homeowners by giving them control over assets related to their properties, and ECTC would ensure that all Resident Management Companies were well-established and supported. Cllr Bailey fully backed the proposed amendment to section 5.9, which outlined the protocol for a Director to attend a Shareholder Committee meeting for decision-making purposes, with the Board having the authority to select the most appropriate individual to attend for items requiring acknowledgment.

Cllr Cane proposed the following amendment which was supported by Cllr Inskip:

Amendment to recommendation 2.1 i) and ii), delete and replace with:

- 2.1 Council is requested to:
- i. Approve the changes of the ECTC Shareholder Agreement as set out in Appendix 1 (Amended),

- ii. Approve the changes to the ECSS Shareholder Agreement as set out in Appendix 2 (Amended),

iii) and iv) as per the recommendation.

Speaking as proposer of the Amendment, Cllr Cane expressed satisfaction with the Council's prompt response to the Internal Audit report and generally supported the proposed changes. However, she identified two areas that she believed should remain unchanged. Currently, both companies were obligated to present reports to the Shareholder Committee biannually. It was suggested that this requirement be eliminated since all Members already had access to the Board papers. Cllr Cane argued that this was not redundant as the board papers were tailored for the board by company officers, while the bi-annual report was intended for the shareholders and should encompass all information deemed necessary by the Board for the Shareholders. The list of items to be reported was not exhaustive. By retaining the bi-annual reports, the responsibility was placed on the Directors to ensure all relevant information was provided, enabling the committee to pose questions to Directors and senior staff and develop collective perspectives on risks and rewards. The other change related to ECTC and its right to set up Resident Management Companies without prior approval from Council, because this would be expedient. Cllr Cane expressed her approval of the concept of Resident Management Companies if they were established correctly, and therefore suggested that the Council should evaluate the proposals before granting approval. She raised two key concerns regarding the governance of these companies and the funding of planning commitments. According to Paragraph 3.8, all buyers would need to become Directors of the Residents Management Company, with the usual process being that they automatically became shareholders and then elected Directors. Additionally, Cllr Cane expressed the opinion that all unresolved matters must be thoroughly resolved to safeguard residents from bearing the financial burden of any planning obligations that may be transferred along with the land from the Council, potentially in the form of a monetary sum. The Council might contemplate granting blanket consent once multiple companies were operating successfully, but for now, the Council needed to maintain the authority to assess the proposals. Cllr Cane urged all Members to endorse the modifications.

In his role as the seconder of the amendment, Cllr Inskip reiterated the points made by Cllr Cane and highlighted past confusion regarding the oversight of the trading companies. He found it peculiar that the lines between reporting to the Board and shareholders had become unclear. He also emphasised the importance of the Council being able to assess the structure of any potential Resident Management Companies and thus backed the proposed amendment.

Summing up as proposer of the original recommendations, Cllr Bailey expressed her belief that the Council maintained a high level of transparency with the trading companies and trusted them to establish ethical and sustainable Resident Management Companies. While she could not endorse the amendment, she appreciated Cllr Cane's comments.

Following a vote, the amendment was lost (11 in favour, 15 against and 0 abstentions) .

Returning to the substantive motion, Cllr Cane expressed her opposition to the initial recommendations, citing concerns about the Council's duty to oversee the trading companies being undermined. She also raised issues about the Resident Management Companies being established improperly, with all residents becoming Directors, and costs being transferred to the companies through land transfers. As a result, Cllr Cane confirmed her decision to vote against the recommendations.

Speaking as seconder of the Motion, Cllr Vellacott emphasised that the establishment of Residents Management Companies would empower leaseholders to have a greater role and accountability over the freehold land instead of being overseen by ECTC. This shift would effectively return the responsibility to the community. Including residents as Directors on gov.uk was deemed a suitable approach for the operation of Resident Management Companies. Cllr Vellacott also expressed approval for the requirement of each Trading Company to furnish the Council with Annual Governance Statements, with management accounts to be reviewed at the relevant Shareholder Committees, along with the inclusion of Risk Registers in the Board papers. It was evident that ECSS adhered to best practices by incorporating a Conflict-of-Interest Clause in the Shareholder Agreement and making governance enhancements in the Memorandum of Association. Therefore, Cllr Vellacott endorsed the Motion.

Following a vote, the Motion was carried (15 in favour, 11 against and 0 abstentions) .

It was resolved that:

- i. The changes of the ECTC Shareholder Agreement, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.
- ii. The changes to the ECSS Shareholder Agreement, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
- iii. The replacement of Schedule 5 of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Council and ECSS with Schedule 5 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.
- iv. The Director Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to complete the legal documentation to bring in the effect of the decision of i) to iii) above, be approved.

18. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY
a) Appointments to the Combined Authority

Council considered a previously circulated report requesting that appointments be made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the

municipal year 2024/25. The Democratic Services Manager explained there had been minor amendments made to the recommendations in Sections B & C of the report:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Vellacott with Cllr Horgan as substitute and
Cllr Cane with Cllr Shepherd as substitute

Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Brown with Cllr Pettitt as Substitute

The recommendations were proposed by the Leader, Cllr Bailey, and seconded by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Huffer.

It was resolved unanimously:

1. That the following appointments and nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023/24 be approved:
 - a. That Cllr Anna Bailey be appointed as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority with Cllr Julia Huffer appointed as the substitute member;
 - b. That Cllrs David Brown and Lorna Dupré be nominated as Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Cllrs Keith Horgan and Charlotte Cane nominated as their respective substitutes;
 - c. That Cllr Mark Inskip be nominated as a Member of the Audit & Governance Committee, with Cllr Caroline Shepherd nominated as the substitute member.

2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

b) Update reports

Council received the reports (previously circulated) from the Combined Authority's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (18/3/24), Business Board (04/03/24) and Skills and Employment Committee (04/03/24), Transport & Infrastructure Committee (13/03/24), Audit & Governance Committee (08/03/24), Human Resources Committee (08/03/24)(13/03/24)(14/03/24), Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee (11/03/24) and Combined Authority Board (20/3/24)

a) It was resolved unanimously:

1. That the following appointments/nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2024/25 be approved:
 - i) That Cllr Anna Bailey be appointed as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority with Cllr Julia Huffer appointed as the substitute member.

ii) That Cllrs Lucius Vellacott and Charlotte Cane be nominated as Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Cllrs Keith Horgan and Caroline Shepherd nominated as their respective substitutes.

iii) That Cllr David Brown be nominated as Member of the Audit & Governance Committee, with Cllr Kelli Pettitt nominated as the substitute member.

2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee, in consultation with the Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

b) It was resolved:

That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's representatives be noted.

19. ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

Council considered a report (Z6 previously circulated) to note the action taken on the grounds of urgency in relation to the Inter Authority Agreement – Materials Recycling & Waste Transfer.

It was resolved:

That the action taken on the grounds of urgency be noted.

The meeting concluded at 20:30pm

Chair.....

Date.....

TITLE: Corporate Plan

Committee: Council

Date: 25 July 2024

Author: Chief Executive

Report number: Z40

Contact officer: John Hill

Name and job title: Chief Executive

john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616271, Room 103, The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

- 1.1. The updated Action Plan for 2024-25 to support the implementation of the 2023-27 Corporate Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are requested to :
- (i) Approve the updated Action Plan for 2024-25 at Appendix 1.
 - (ii) Note the completed actions and progress made during the past 12 months.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1. The Corporate Plan 2023-27 was agreed by Council on 13 July 2023 (ref. Agenda Item 9) together with an Action Plan for 2023-24. The Action Plan to support the implementation of the Corporate Plan is updated annually.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. The proposed Action Plan for 2024-25 is attached as Appendix 1. Paragraph 4.2 outlines the achievements of the Council in meeting its 2023-24 commitments agreed by Council in July 2023.
- 4.2. Significant progress has been made in 2023-24, specifically,
- Council Tax freeze in 2023-24 for the eleventh consecutive year.
 - Eden Square – application process launched for 4 £100k houses in July 2024.
 - Planning Review – New service structure consulted upon through JCC and training programme introduced. Secured £100k DLUHC funding to improve digital offer. Reduction of use of ‘Extension of Time’ and introduction of the major project group that has reduced caseload backlog by 42%. Introduction

of negotiation protocol and pre-application offer, redesign of process to introduce more automation and reduce inefficient processes

- 'Love Your Street' launched with funding secured for chewing campaign, name the vehicle competition, increase social media awareness. Project 'Street Smart' has introduced a new waste digital service, new working practices, and staffing structure recruited too. All RCVs moved over to HVO and new street cleansing vehicles on order.
- Long-term Waste and Street Cleansing proposals – Secured c£830k new burdens capital funding for introduction of weekly food waste recycling, Member Working party established to define requirements for new Waste Collection and Street Cleansing service (due to report to September Operational Services Committee).
- Environmental Crime Action Plan adopted in November 2023, proactive approach to fly-tipping enforcement has achieved 8 FPNs and 1 prosecution. Allocated £750k of up to £2m CERP funding with a new direct marketing campaign launched by the contractor to further promote the offer.
- The Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 was approved in March 2024 and work is underway to deliver the actions contained in the plan.
- The Council launched its Councils proposed UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Business Grant Scheme in April 2024 and to date over 100 expressions of interest have been received, with 44 Full Applications now being processed. The interest in the scheme has meant funding is already fully subscribed. The Local Enterprise Support Scheme 'Get Set and Grow' programme delivered through BIPC, is aimed at startup businesses and commenced in October 2023.
- Sustrans produced a further 5 route feasibility studies and completed development work on the initial studies. The Council is engaging with the CPCA's ongoing Bus Reform work, has 2 representatives on the A10 Ely to A14 Improvement Scheme Member Working Party, and continues to work with partners to progress other transport-related projects.
- Opposing Congestion Charges - In July 2023 the Council passed a motion urging the GCP, CCC, and the CPCA to cease work on the implementation of road charging and, with all partner organisations, MPs, businesses, and organisations across Cambridgeshire, to develop alternative proposals that demonstrate public support, focussing on both early delivery of multiple small improvements as well as accelerating work on larger projects that can and will encourage people away from private vehicle use.
- Bereavement Centre – Full Business case approved by Council in February 2024. Project Team established, first major milestone will be the full procurement for design and build to start late 2025.

4.3 A number of actions will need to be carried over, specifically, city/town centre improvements, a new Local Plan, strategic transport priorities, Road Safety Volunteer Scheme.

- CERP funding – a further 8 months to invest £1.25m in energy efficiency measures for non-gas homes
- Road Safety Volunteer Scheme – In November 2023 Cambridgeshire Constabulary agreed to pilot the Road Safety Police Support Volunteer (RSPSV) role, using Special Constables but that initially their remit (and delegated powers) be limited to road-safety issues, i.e. speeding and dangerous parking. The aim is to launch the pilot in 2024.
- Preliminary work commenced on a new ‘climate’ chapter for the new Local Plan. However, following new guidance issued by the Government it was agreed in March 2024 to delay this work until greater clarity emerges on Government expectations for Local Plan climate-related policies.

4.4 The key issue affecting the delivery of the Action Plan and wider Corporate Plan will be the new government’s legislative programme, particularly in the area of housing and planning policy reform. The Council will continue to face considerable challenges, most notably: the cost of living, recruitment and retention of staff in key sectors, and priorities and capacity concerns at the Combined Authority.

4.5 The corporate actions for 2024 to 2025 are detailed in Appendix 1.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put YES or NO in each box.

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Updated Action Plan 2024-25.

Background documents

[Council 13 July 2023 – Agenda Item 9.](#)



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

Corporate actions

July 2024 to July 2025

Sound financial management

Priorities

Ensure the Council is financially sustainable.
Minimise the financial (cost) impact of the Council on its residents.
Be more commercial, but within reason - 'commercial for community'.

Actions

Council to approve the 2025/26 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan in February 2025 only increasing Council Tax as a last resort.
Implement the outcomes of the planning review and commence Phase 2 of the review.

Cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire

Priorities

Improve the public realm.
Reduce environmental crime across the district.
Enhance the natural environment and build on our sustainability goals.
Design a resilient waste and street cleansing service fit for the future.

Actions

Improve the look and feel of the city and town centres, including replacement street furniture.
Deliver the Climate and Nature Top 20 actions for 2024 including a focus on water resilience, further nature improvements in our parks and open spaces, and hedgehog recovery projects.
Implementation of the new waste and street cleansing strategy.
Strategic review of long-term waste infrastructure needs.

Sustainable communities

Priorities

Support our residents to live happy and healthy lives.
Support our businesses to thrive in East Cambridgeshire.
Improve our roads and local transport.
Deliver genuinely affordable housing that enables people to live and work locally.
Invest in community infrastructure.

Actions

Launch Digital Inclusion project to provide people facing digital exclusion with training and support, which will enable them to get online with confidence and in safety.
Develop a new council website with improved functionality
Work with partners to deliver the actions in the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
Develop and approve a Housing and Homelessness Strategy - a new overarching strategy with an action plan to deliver safe, affordable and high-quality housing for residents.
Delivery of the Bereavement Centre at Mepal for 2026.
Carry out an independent inclusivity audit of council owned play spaces and invite parish councils to submit their play areas for inclusion in the audit.
Develop an Inclusive Play Strategy.
Continue to engage with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Bus Reform and Bus Network Review.
Work with CPCA and partners to deliver improvements to active travel, road and rail infrastructure, including the BP Witchford Road Non-Motorised User (NMU) Access Study, A10 Ely to A14 improvements scheme, support local rail improvements including Soham Railway Station phase 2 and champion improvements and repairs to East Cambridgeshire roads.
Continue to support Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Road Safety Police Volunteer scheme.
Continue to support existing Community Land Trusts (CLTs) across the district and work with communities to establish and develop new CLTs.

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

Committee: Council

Date: 25 July 2024

Author: Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Report No: Z41

Contact Officer: Jane Webb - Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

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1.0 FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE – 27 JUNE 2024

a) Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review

The Committee received a report (**Z20, attached in Appendix A/B**) containing the annual performance review of the Council's Treasury operations during the 2023/24 financial year.

The Director Finance explained that the Council had benefited from higher interest rates on its cash balances than had been provided for in the original budget which had a positive impact on the financial out-turn.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

That the contents of the annual review of the Council's Treasury operations during 2023/24, including the prudential and treasury indicators, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

TITLE: 2023/24 TREASURY OPERATIONS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 27th June 2024

Author: Director, Finance

Report No: Z20

Contact Officer:

Ian Smith, Director, Finance

ian.smith@eastcambs.gov.uk; 01353 616470; Room 104, The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

- 1.1 To report on the Council's treasury operations during the 2023/24 financial year.
- 1.2 This report reviews the Treasury Management activity during the financial year 2023/24 and reports on the prudential indicators as required by CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to recommend to Full Council that they approve this report detailing the Council's treasury operations during 2023/24, including the prudential and treasury indicators, as set out in the Annual Treasury Management Review (Appendix 1).

3.0 Background / Options

- 3.1 This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators each year, this is the report for 2023/24. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

- 3.2 During 2023/24 the minimum reporting requirements were that

(1) Full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved by Full Council on the 21st February 2023);
- a mid-year treasury update report, (this was reviewed by Finance and Assets Committee on 23rd November 2023 and approved by Full Council on the 20th February 2024);

- an annual review following the end of the year, describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

(2) A further Member Committee should receive

- reports at the end of the other quarters (these were incorporated into the Finance Reports presented to Finance and Assets Committee on the 23rd November 2023 and 25th January 2024).

4.0 Results

- 4.1 Cash investments totalled £31.579 million as at 31st March 2024, an increase of £1.638 million on the previous year. The Council's cash investments were all for periods of less than one year.
- 4.2 The increase in cash is mainly as a consequence of the Council's overall underspend in 2023/24 and increased levels in the Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Funds as these were not impacted by the cost of living crisis to the degree forecast when the original budget was set.
- 4.3 The Council's loan to ECTC decreased from £6.0 million at 31st March 2023 to £5.0 million at 31st March 2024.
- 4.4 Interest received during the financial year was £2,115,332, which was £1,313,742 above the budget of £801,590. This figure was made up of £1,859,879 from investment in money markets and other short, fixed term investments and £255,453 from the loan to ECTC.
- 4.5 The average rate of return on cash investments held during the year (this excludes the loan to ECTC) was 5.492%.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The size of the Council's investment portfolio has historically been relatively small, meaning that investment decisions have had to be made primarily to accommodate cashflow requirements as opposed to optimising investment returns. While the value of the portfolio is now higher than in previous years, these disciplines have been retained, although opportunities for some pro-active investment decisions were taken during the year, with funds being moved to longer-term investments (three and six month) and away from overnight accounts.
- 5.2 During the financial year the Council operated within its approved treasury limits and prudential indicators.

6.0 Additional Implications Assessment

- 6.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

**Human Resources (HR)
Implications**

Financial Implications Yes	Legal Implications No	No
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Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No
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6.2 Financial Implications

The additional income gained from interest receipts has contributed to the Council’s net underspend in 2023/24, as detailed in the Yearend Finance Report also on this meeting’s agenda.

7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24

8.0 Background Documents:

Treasury Management Strategy as approved by Full Council on the 21st February 2023.

Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24

East Cambridgeshire District Council
April 2024

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

CE: Capital Economics - is the economics consultancy that provides Link Group, Treasury solutions, with independent economic forecasts, briefings and research.

CFR: capital financing requirement - the Council's annual underlying borrowing need to finance capital expenditure and a measure of the Council's total outstanding indebtedness.

CIPFA: Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – the professional accounting body that oversees and sets standards in local authority finance and treasury management.

CPI: consumer price index – the official measure of inflation adopted as a common standard by the UK and countries in the EU. It is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

DLUHC: the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - the Government department that directs local authorities in England.

ECB: European Central Bank - the central bank for the Eurozone

EU: European Union

EZ: Eurozone -those countries in the EU which use the euro as their currency

Fed: the Federal Reserve System, often referred to simply as "the Fed," is the central bank of the United States. It was created by the Congress to provide the nation with a stable monetary and financial system.

FOMC: the Federal Open Market Committee – this is the branch of the Federal Reserve Board which determines monetary policy in the USA by setting interest rates and determining quantitative easing/tightening policy. It is composed of twelve members - the seven members of the Board of Governors and five of the 12 Reserve Bank presidents.

GDP: gross domestic product – a measure of the growth and total size of the economy.

G7: the group of seven countries that form an informal bloc of industrialised democracies - the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom - that meets annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.

Gilts: gilts are bonds issued by the UK Government to borrow money on the financial markets. Interest paid by the Government on gilts is called a coupon and is at a rate that is fixed for the duration until maturity of the gilt, (unless a gilt is index linked to inflation); while the coupon rate is fixed, the yields will change inversely to the price of gilts i.e., a rise in the price of a gilt will mean that its yield will fall.

IMF: International Monetary Fund - the lender of last resort for national governments which get into financial difficulties.

MPC: the Monetary Policy Committee is a committee of the Bank of England, which meets for one and a half days, eight times a year, to determine monetary policy by setting the official interest rate

in the United Kingdom, (the Bank of England Base Rate, commonly called Bank Rate), and by making decisions on quantitative easing/tightening.

MRP: minimum revenue provision - a statutory annual minimum revenue charge to reduce the total outstanding CFR, (the total indebtedness of a local authority).

PFI: Private Finance Initiative – capital expenditure financed by the private sector i.e., not by direct borrowing by a local authority.

PWLB: Public Works Loan Board – this is the part of H.M. Treasury which provides loans to local authorities to finance capital expenditure.

QE/QT: quantitative easing – is an unconventional form of monetary policy where a central bank creates new money electronically to buy financial assets, such as government bonds, (but may also include corporate bonds). This process aims to stimulate economic growth through increased private sector spending in the economy and also aims to return inflation to target. These purchases increase the supply of liquidity to the economy; this policy is employed when lowering interest rates has failed to stimulate economic growth to an acceptable level and to lift inflation to target. Once QE has achieved its objectives of stimulating growth and inflation, QE will be reversed by selling the bonds the central bank had previously purchased, or by not replacing debt that it held which matures. This is called quantitative tightening. The aim of this reversal is to ensure that inflation does not exceed its target once the economy recovers from a sustained period of depressed growth and inflation. Economic growth, and increases in inflation, may threaten to gather too much momentum if action is not taken to ‘cool’ the economy.

RPI: the Retail Price Index is a measure of inflation that measures the change in the cost of a representative sample of retail goods and services. It was the UK standard for measurement of inflation until the UK changed to using the EU standard measure of inflation – Consumer Price Index. The main differences between RPI and CPI is in the way that housing costs are treated and that the former is an arithmetical mean whereas the latter is a geometric mean. RPI is often higher than CPI for these reasons.

SONIA: the Sterling Overnight Index Average. Generally, a set of indices for those benchmarking their investments. The benchmarking options include using a forward-looking (term) set of reference rates and/or a backward-looking set of reference rates that reflect the investment yield curve at the time an investment decision was taken.

TMSS: the annual treasury management strategy statement reports that all local authorities are required to submit for approval by the Full Council before the start of each financial year.

VRP: a voluntary revenue provision to repay debt, in the annual budget, which is additional to the annual MRP charge, (see above definition).

Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24

Purpose

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2023/24. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

During 2023/24 the minimum reporting requirements were that the Full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 21st February 2023)
- a mid-year, treasury management update report (Council 20th February 2024)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)
- quarterly treasury management update reports on the following dates 23rd November 2023 and 25th January 2024, which were received by the Finance and Assets Committee

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Finance and Assets Committee before they were reported to the Full Council.

Member training on treasury management was undertaken on 7th September 2023 in order to support members' scrutiny role.

Executive Summary

During 2023/24, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Prudential and treasury indicators	31.3.23 Actual £000	2023/24 Original £000	31.3.24 Actual £000
Capital expenditure 2023/24	8,851	7,801	3,200
Capital Financing Requirement 2023/24	5,871	5,788	1,845
Gross CFR	10,127	15,587	10,652
External debt	0	0	0
Treasury Investments (all under 1 year)	29,941	-	31,579
Net borrowing	29,941	-	31,579

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report. The Director, Finance further confirms that no external borrowing was undertaken and the statutory borrowing limit, (the authorised limit), was therefore not breached.

Introduction and Background

This report summarises the following:-

- Capital activity during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness, (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- The actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Detailed debt activity; and
- Detailed investment activity.

1. The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing

The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

£000 General Fund	31.3.23 Actual	2023/24 Budget	31.3.24 Actual
Capital expenditure	8,851	7,801	3,200
Financed in year	2,980	2,013	1,355
Unfinanced capital expenditure	5,871	5,788	1,845

2. The Council’s Overall Borrowing Need

The Council’s underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council’s indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2023/24 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years’ net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

Part of the Council’s treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council’s cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies, (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB], or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

Reducing the CFR – the Council’s underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the borrowing need. This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital financing resources, (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

The Council’s 2023/24 MRP Policy, (as required by DLUHC Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2023/24 on 21st February 2023.

The Council’s CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator.

CFR (£000): General Fund	31.3.23 Actual	2023/24 Budget	31.3.24 Actual
Opening balance	9,489	10,127	10,127
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	5,871	5,788	1,845
Less MRP	(334)	(327)	(319)
Less ECTC Loan Repayment	(4,900)	0	(1,000)
Closing balance	10,127	15,587	10,652

Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for gross borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

Gross borrowing and the CFR - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council ensures that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2023/24) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2024/25) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

£000	31.3.23 Actual	2023/24 Budget	31.3.24 Actual
Gross external borrowing position	£0	£0	£0
CFR	£10,127	£15,587	£10,652
Under / over funding of CFR	£10,127	£15,587	£10,652

The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2023/24 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

The operational boundary – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

£000	2023/24
Authorised limit	£10,000
Maximum gross external borrowing position during the year	£0
Operational boundary	£0
Average gross borrowing position	£0
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	N/A

3. Treasury Position as of 31st March 2024

The Council's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

At the end of 2023/24 the Council's treasury position, was as follows:-

The Council had no external debt.

The Council's Investment portfolio was as per the table below

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	31.3.23 Actual £000	31.3.23 Actual %	31.3.24 Actual £000	31.3.24 Actual %
Treasury investments				
Banks – main bank account	441	1.5%	579	1.8%
Banks – call accounts	22,000	73.5%	22,000	69.7%
Money Market Funds	7,500	25.0%	9,000	28.5%
TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS	29,941	100.0%	31,579	100.0%

Non-Treasury investments				
Third party loans - ECTC	6,000	96.2%	5,000	95.5%
Third party loans – EC CLT	235	3.8%	235	4.5%
TOTAL NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS	6,235	100.0%	5,235	100.0%

Treasury investments	29,941	82.8%	31,579	85.8%
Non-Treasury investments	6,235	17.2%	5,235	14.2%
TOTAL OF ALL INVESTMENTS	36,176	100.0%	36,814	100.0%

All Money Market investments and the amount held in the Council's main bank account with the NatWest are in cash and as such, can be recalled immediately.

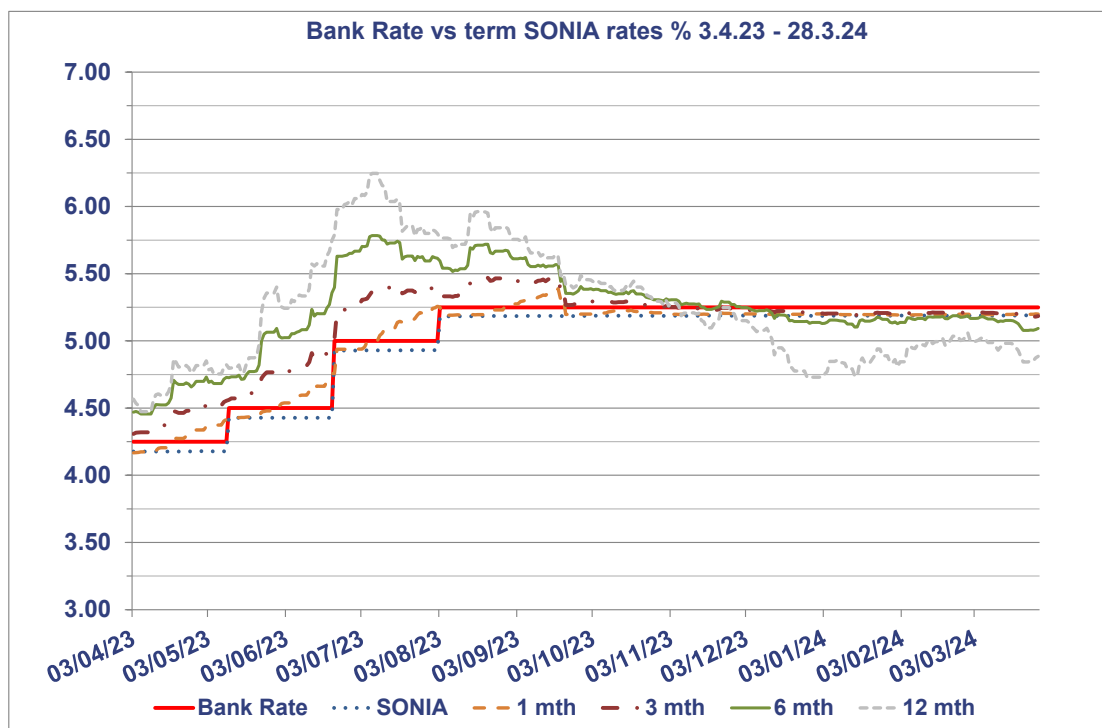
The amounts held in call accounts have different call back dates, with the last date being 16th August 2024.

The loan facility to East Cambridgeshire trading Company runs until March 2027. However, the nature of the loan facility allows the Company to borrow and repay funding as their cashflow allows within the maximum facility of £7,500,000.

4. The Strategy for 2023/24

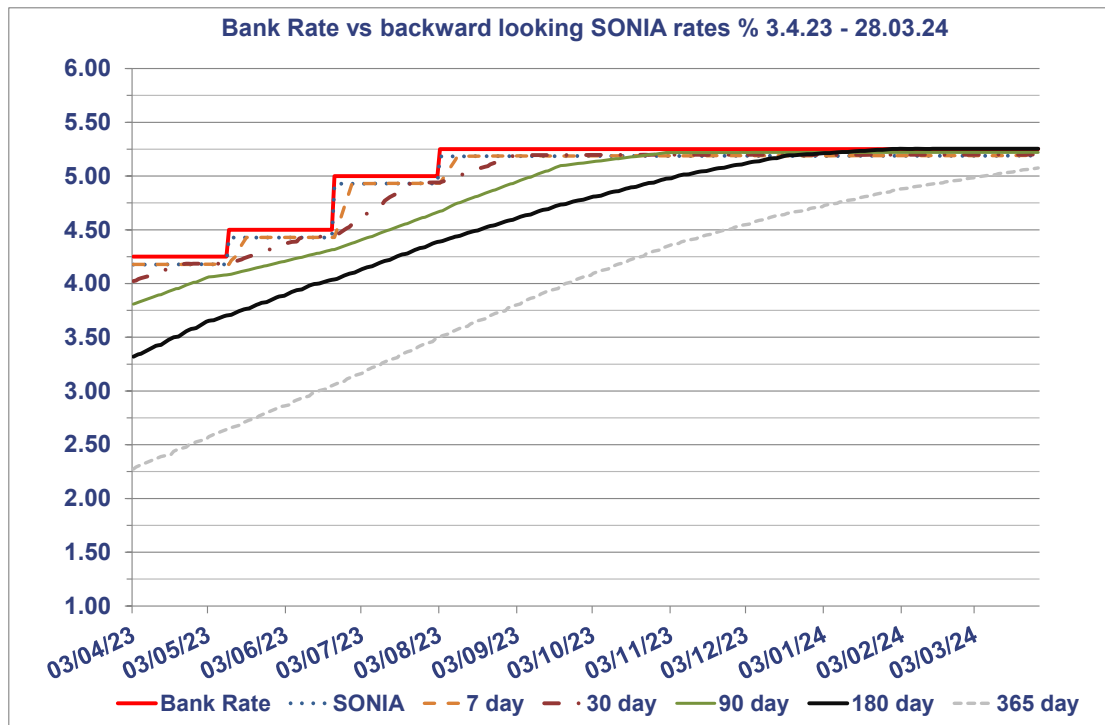
4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Term) 2023/24



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 28/03/2024						
	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	5.25	5.19	5.39	5.48	5.78	6.25
High Date	03/08/2023	28/03/2024	19/09/2023	30/08/2023	07/07/2023	07/07/2023
Low	4.25	4.18	4.17	4.31	4.46	4.47
Low Date	03/04/2023	04/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	06/04/2023	06/04/2023
Average	5.03	4.96	5.02	5.13	5.23	5.25
Spread	1.00	1.01	1.22	1.17	1.33	1.77

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Backward-looking) 2023/24



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 28/03/2024							
	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	5.25	5.19	5.19	5.20	5.22	5.25	5.08
High Date	03/08/2023	28/03/2024	28/03/2024	26/03/2024	25/03/2024	22/03/2024	28/03/2024
Low	4.25	4.18	4.18	4.02	3.81	3.32	2.27
Low Date	03/04/2023	04/04/2023	11/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023	03/04/2023
Average	5.03	4.96	4.96	4.93	4.84	4.64	3.93
Spread	1.00	1.01	1.01	1.18	1.41	1.94	2.80

Investment returns picked up throughout the course of 2023/24 as central banks, including the Bank of England, continued to respond to inflationary pressures that were not transitory, and realised that tighter monetary policy was called for.

Starting April at 4.25%, Bank Rate moved up in stepped increases of either 0.25% or 0.5%, reaching 5.25% by August. By the end of the financial year, no further increases were anticipated. Indeed, the market is pricing in a first cut in Bank Rate in either June or August 2024.

The upward sloping yield curve that prevailed throughout 2023/24 meant that local authorities continued to be faced with the challenge of proactive investment of surplus cash, and this emphasised the need for a detailed working knowledge of cashflow projections so that the appropriate balance between maintaining cash for liquidity purposes, and “laddering” deposits on a rolling basis to lock in the increase in investment rates as duration was extended, became an on-going feature of the investment landscape.

With bond markets selling off, UK equity market valuations struggled to make progress, as did property funds, although there have been some spirited, if temporary, market rallies from time to time – including in November and December 2023. However, the more traditional investment options, such as specified investments (simple to understand, and less than a year in duration), have continued to be at the forefront of most local authority investment strategies, particularly given Money Market Funds have also provided decent returns in close proximity to Bank Rate for liquidity purposes. In the latter part of 2023/24, the local authority to local authority market lacked any

meaningful measure of depth, forcing short-term investment rates above 7% in the last week of March.

While the Council has taken a prudent approach to investing surplus monies, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis of 2008/09. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

4.2 Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk

During 2023/24, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not funded by external loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as although near-term investment rates were equal to, and sometimes higher than, long-term borrowing costs, the latter are expected to fall back through 2024 and 2025 as inflation concerns are dampened.

The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances has served well over the past few years. However, this is kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Council may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure.

Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Director, Finance therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy.

Interest rate forecasts initially suggested further gradual rises in short, medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2023/24. Bank Rate had initially been forecast to peak at 4.5% but it is now expected to have peaked at 5.25%.

By January it had become clear that inflation was moving down significantly from its 40-year double-digit highs, and the Bank of England signalled in March 2024 that the next move in Bank Rate would be down, so long as upcoming inflation and employment data underpinned that view. Currently the CPI measure of inflation stands at 3.4% but is expected to fall materially below 2% over the summer months and to stay there in 2025 and 2026. Nonetheless, there remains significant risks to that central forecast, mainly in the form of a very tight labour market putting upward pressure on wages and continuing geo-political inflationary risks emanating from the prevailing Middle East crisis and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The forecast at the time of approval of the treasury management strategy report for 2023/24 was:

Link Group Interest Rate View		19.12.22											
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30
25 yr PWLB	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.30	3.20	3.20

The current forecast is:

Link Group Interest Rate View		08.01.24											
	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
BANK RATE	5.25	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	4.80	4.30	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
6 month ave earnings	5.20	5.10	4.60	4.10	3.70	3.30	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
12 month ave earnings	5.00	4.90	4.40	3.90	3.60	3.20	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.20	3.20
5 yr PWLB	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.50
10 yr PWLB	4.70	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
25 yr PWLB	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.60	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.20	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
50 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	4.00	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90

5. Investment Outturn

Investment Policy – the Council’s investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 21st February 2023. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Resources – the Council’s cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council’s core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources (£000)	31.3.23	31.3.24
Earmarked reserves	14,964	14,972
Provisions	1,050	1,066
Usable capital receipts	1,481	1,786
CIL / Section 106	13,903	16,169
Collection Fund (Council Tax / NNDR)	2,025	4,689
Cash / Debtors	6,645	3,549
Internal Borrowing	(10,127)	(10,652)
Total	29,941	31,579

Investments held by the Council

- The Council maintained an average balance of £33.9 million of internally managed funds.
- The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 5.49%.
- The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day backward SONIA compound rate, which was 5.01%.
- Total investment income was £2,115,332 compared to a budget of £801,590.

6. The Economy and Interest Rates

UK Economy

Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and war in the Middle East, UK interest rates have continued to be volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2023/24.

Markets have sought an end to central banks' on-going phase of keeping restrictive monetary policy in place on at least one occasion during 2023/24 but to date only the Swiss National Bank has cut rates and that was at the end of March 2024.

UK, EZ and US 10-year yields have all stayed stubbornly high throughout 2023/24. The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation is easing, albeit gradually, but labour markets remain very tight by historical comparisons, making it an issue of fine judgment as to when rates can be cut.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	5.25%	4%	5.25%-5.5%
GDP	-0.3%q/q Q4 (-0.2%/y/y)	+0.0%q/q Q4 (0.1%/y/y)	2.0% Q1 Annualised
Inflation	3.4%/y/y (Feb)	2.4%/y/y (Mar)	3.2%/y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	3.9% (Jan)	6.4% (Feb)	3.9% (Feb)

The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving interest rates at 5.25% for the fifth time in a row and, despite no MPC members no longer voting to raise interest rates, it retained its relatively hawkish guidance. The Bank's communications suggest the MPC is gaining confidence that inflation will fall sustainably back to the 2.0% target. However, although the MPC noted that "the restrictive stance of monetary policy is weighing on activity in the real economy, is leading to a looser labour market and is bearing down on inflationary pressures", conversely it noted that key indicators of inflation persistence remain elevated and policy will be "restrictive for sufficiently long" and "restrictive for an extended period".

Of course, the UK economy has started to perform a little better in Q1 2024 but is still recovering from a shallow recession through the second half of 2023. Indeed, Q4 2023 saw negative GDP growth of -0.3% while y/y growth was also negative at -0.2%.

But it was a strange recession. Unemployment is currently sub 4%, against a backdrop of still over 900k of job vacancies, and annual wage inflation is running at above 5%. With gas and electricity price caps falling in April 2024, the CPI measure of inflation - which peaked at 11.1% in October 2022 – is now due to slide below the 2% target rate in April and to remain below that Bank of England benchmark for the next couple of years, according to Capital Economics. The Bank of England still needs some convincing on that score, but upcoming inflation and employment releases will settle that argument shortly. It is noted that core CPI was still a heady 4.5% in February and, ideally, needs to fall further.

Shoppers largely shrugged off the unusually wet weather in February, whilst rising real household incomes should support retail activity throughout 2024. Furthermore, the impact of higher interest rates on household interest payments is getting close to its peak, even

though fixed rate mortgage rates on new loans have shifted up a little since falling close to 4.5% in early 2024.

From a fiscal perspective, the further cuts to national insurance tax (from April) announced in the March Budget will boost real household disposable income by 0.5 - 1.0%. After real household disposable income rose by 1.9% in 2023, Capital Economics forecast it will rise by 1.7% in 2024 and by 2.4% in 2025. These rises in real household disposable income, combined with the earlier fading of the drag from previous rises in interest rates, means GDP growth of 0.5% is envisaged in 2024 and 1.5% in 2025. The Bank of England is less optimistic than that, seeing growth struggling to get near 1% over the next two to three years.

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 has risen to nearly 8,000 and is now only 1% below the all-time high it reached in February 2023. The modest rise in UK equities in February was driven by strong performances in the cyclical industrials and consumer discretionary sectors, whilst communications and basic materials have fared poorly.

Despite its performance, the FTSE 100 is still lagging behind the S&P 500, which has been at an all-time high for several weeks.

USA Economy

Despite the markets willing the FOMC to cut rates as soon as June 2024, the continued resilience of the economy, married to sticky inflation, is providing a significant headwind to a change in monetary policy. Markets currently anticipate three rate cuts this calendar year, but two or less would not be out of the question. Currently, policy remains flexible but primarily data driven.

In addition, the Fed will want to shrink its swollen \$16 trillion balance sheet at some point. Just because the \$ is the world's foremost reserve currency (China owns over \$1 trillion) does not mean the US can continually run a budget deficit. The mix of stubborn inflation and significant treasury issuance is keeping treasury yields high. The 10 year stands at 4.4%.

As for inflation, it is currently a little above 3%. The market is not expecting a recession, but whether rates staying high for longer is conducive to a soft landing for the economy is uncertain, hence why the consensus is for rate cuts this year and into 2025...but how many and when?

EZ Economy

Although the Euro-zone inflation rate has fallen to 2.4%, the ECB will still be mindful that it has further work to do to dampen inflation expectations. However, with growth steadfastly in the slow lane (GDP flatlined in 2023), a June rate cut from the current 4% looks probable.

TITLE: The making of both the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan and the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan

Committee: Full Council

Date: 25 July 2024

Author: Strategic Planning Manager

Report number: Z42

Contact officer:

Richard Kay, Strategic Planning Manager

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. To make both the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan and the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for East Cambridgeshire.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Council:
 - (A) congratulates Mepal Parish Council and Sutton Parish Council on their preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and Replacement Neighbourhood Plan respectively, and a successful referendum outcome in each case; and
 - (B) formally makes the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan (as attached in Appendix 1) and the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan (as attached in Appendix 2) part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire with immediate effect.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1. This agenda item relates to two separate Neighbourhood Plans. First, some brief background is set out on the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan, followed by background information on the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan. Second, this report reminds Members of the options available, and the implications of agreeing with the recommendations.

Background to the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.2. At the Parish Council's request, the Mepal Neighbourhood Area was designated by East Cambridgeshire District Council in February 2022. Having a designated Neighbourhood Area enables a Neighbourhood Plan to be prepared.
- 3.3. Following preliminary consultation and evidence gathering, the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council by Mepal Parish Council on 13 October 2023. As required by legislation, the District Council then published the Plan, for the purpose of final consultation, from 2 November to 15 December 2023. Following the publication period, the District Council submitted the Plan for independent examination. The examination primarily took place through January and February 2024, with the Examiner being Andrew Ashcroft MRTPI. The examination was carried out through written representations. No public hearing session was required.

- 3.4. The Examiner's report was received on 5 March 2024 and concluded that, subject to recommended modifications being followed, the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan makes appropriate provisions for sustainable development; has appropriate regard to national policy; is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and is compatible with EU obligations (as transposed into UK law), including human rights requirements.
- 3.5. With the agreement of Mepal Parish Council, the Strategic Planning Team modified the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan as per the Examiner's recommendations.
- 3.6. The Decision Statement, published 22 March 2024, confirms that the District Council is satisfied the modified Mepal Neighbourhood Plan meets the 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements. Following publication of the Decision Statement, the Council proceeded to arrange a referendum.
- 3.7. The Council proceeded to hold the referendum on Thursday 13 June 2024. Voters in Mepal parish were asked the following question (the question wording being set by legislation):
'Do you want East Cambridgeshire District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Mepal to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'
- 3.8. Of the votes cast, 151 were in favour and 17 were against. No ballot papers were rejected. The turnout was approximately 20%. With approximately 90% of votes in favour, the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan received the majority support it needed.

Background to the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.9. Sutton already benefits from having a Neighbourhood Plan (2019). However, the Parish Council decided the plan could benefit from an update. Legally, two options were available to the Parish Council, namely: prepare a full replacement plan; or prepare a 'modified plan' which involves keeping most of the existing plan unaltered, and just amending and/or adding a small element to it. Depending on the choice made, alternative procedural arrangements need to take place.
- 3.10. Sutton Parish Council opted for the full replacement option, which procedurally is the simpler one to explain. In effect, the replacement plan must go through all the procedural steps as if it were the first plan for the area. This has duly taken place, as explained below.
- 3.11. Following preliminary consultation and evidence gathering, the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to the Council by Sutton Parish Council on 10 December 2023. Final consultation took place from 2 January to 14 February 2024, followed by an independent examination in March and April 2024, with the Examiner again being Andrew Ashcroft MRTPI. The examination was carried out through written representations only.
- 3.12. The Examiner's report was received on 2 May 2024 and concluded that, subject to recommended modifications being followed, the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan makes appropriate provisions for sustainable development; has appropriate regard to national policy; is in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area; and is compatible with EU obligations (as transposed into UK law), including human rights requirements.

- 3.13. With the agreement of Sutton Parish Council, the Strategic Planning Team modified the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan as per the Examiner's recommendations.
- 3.14. The Decision Statement, published on 23 May 2024, confirms that the District Council is satisfied the modified Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan meets the 'basic conditions' and other legal requirements. Following publication of the Decision Statement, the Council proceeded to arrange a referendum on 4 July 2024 (which subsequently also became general election day).
- 3.15. Of the votes cast, 1,520 were in favour and 242 were against. 77 ballot papers were rejected. The turnout was 58.5%. With approximately 86% of votes in favour, the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan received the majority support it needed.

Implications of the Referendum Outcomes

- 3.16. Following the referendum results, the Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017) automatically gave the Mepal Neighbourhood Plan and the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan the same legal status as a plan which has been made (or 'adopted') by the applicable District Council. Accordingly, since the referendum result, the Council has treated the two plans as part of the Development Plan for the purposes of decision-making. However, despite this automatic post-referendum legal position, East Cambridgeshire District Council is required (by virtue of 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004) to formally 'make' the two plans part of the Development Plan for the district.
- 3.17. The only exception to 38A(4) is if the Council considers "*that the making of the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with, any retained EU obligation or any of the Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998)*" (see s38A(6) of the Act). Officers have given careful consideration to these matters during the process of preparing the two plans and their evidence base, including representations received on the two plans and the two separate examiner's reports, and do not consider there to be any such breach, and hence recommend to Full Council that the two plans be made.

Wider neighbourhood plan update

- 3.18. Once made, the two plans will become the eighth and ninth plans to do so in East Cambridgeshire, covering eight separate parishes, the full list being: Fordham (2018); Sutton (2019 and 2024); Witchford (2020); Isleham (2022), Haddenham and Aldreth (2022), Swaffham Bulbeck (2023), Reach (2024) and Mepal (2024).
- 3.19. Cheveley Neighbourhood Plan and Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plans are both at an advanced stage of preparation and are presently on track to have a referendum in autumn 2024. Several other parishes are also known to be actively working on a plan, but these are not likely to be finalised (i.e. reach referendum stage) until 2025 or beyond.
- 3.20. By way of comparison, the total number of made Neighbourhood Plans in East Cambridgeshire is similar to our near neighbours: Huntingdonshire has ten; South Cambridgeshire has eight; whilst Fenland has three. More urban districts typically have fewer plans, due to a lack of parish councils taking the lead role.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. The Mepal Neighbourhood Plan and the Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan received majority support at duly held referendums on 13 June and 4 July respectively. The District Council is therefore required to 'make' the plans part of the Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire, as per the will of the majority of voters in those two parishes. In doing so, legally the plans have, in simple terms, the same status as the 2015 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (as amended 2023).

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

- 5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications Yes	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

Legal implications

- 5.2. ECDC is duty bound (s18A of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) to determine whether to make a Neighbourhood Plan part of the development plan for its area within 8 weeks of a referendum taking place. This means the Council must make a decision no later than 8 August 2024 for Mepal, and 29 August 2024 for Sutton.
- 5.3. If the recommendations are agreed, then the two plans achieve the statutory status of forming part of the development plan for the area. The Council, in its capacity as local planning authority, will be duty-bound to use the two plans to help it determine planning applications and do so in accordance with various town and country planning acts.

Equality Impact Assessments and Carbon Impact Assessments

- 5.4. Whilst EIA and CIA assessments are listed as 'no' in the above table for the purpose of this report, Members should note that a wide range of equality and sustainability implications are required by legislation to be considered by the parish council, the district council and the examiner throughout the preparation of the plan and must pass the various statutory tests accordingly. As such, these two elements have been thoroughly tested and independently examined throughout the process. Consequently, separate EIA and CIA are not required at this committee stage of the process.

6.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1: Mepal Neighbourhood Plan
Appendix 2: Sutton Replacement Neighbourhood Plan.

7.0 Background documents

None

TITLE: ECSS Memorandum of Agreement Extension

Committee: Council

Date: 25 July 2024

Author: Director, Operations

Report number: Z43

Contact officer: Isabel Edgar, Director Operations

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Room 101B, The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

- 1.1 To consider an extension to the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Council and East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS).

2.0 Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- i. Approve an extension period as set out in section 4.3 and 4.4 to the existing Memorandum of Agreement with ECSS.
- ii. Authorise the Director Legal to complete the necessary documentation to bring this decision into effect.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1 The Council entered into an MOA with its wholly owned company ECSS on 1 April 2018 date for a period of 7 years. The MOA is due to expire on 31 March 2025.
- 3.2 The Council has been working with DEFRA since early 2023 to secure net burden funding for both capital and revenue support, to implement the requirements of the new “Simpler Recycling” consultation as part of the implementation of the Environment Act 2021.
- 3.3 The “Simpler Recycling” strategy sets out the types of material and frequency of collection a Waste Collection Authority is required to provide to households.
- 3.4 In March 2024 DEFRA confirmed that the Council would be able to access funding and is required to implement a separate weekly food waste collection by April 2026.
- 3.5 A Member Working Party was set up in November 2023 to shape the requirements for a new waste and recycling collection service and a street cleansing service, proposals for the new service are due to be presented to Council in October 2024. As part of these proposals, the Council will also be required to agree to the delivery model for the service from April 2026 (e.g Inhouse/contracted out/ via ECSS)

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. The Council is now required to implement a separate weekly food waste collection by April 2026 and will be able to access revenue funding from that point.

- 4.2. The Member Working Party acknowledged that to achieve this date it would be necessary to extend the existing MOA with ECSS, to ensure there was no break in service between now and the implementation of the new waste collection services in April 2026.
- 4.3. To allow for a managed transition to the new services, that would be due to go live in circa April 2026, an extension to the MOA from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 is required.
- 4.4. It is proposed that the extension to the MOA is undertaken on the existing terms and service specifications.
- 4.5. To allow for a timely audit of the ECDC accounts, the external auditors have indicated that ECSS would be required to close their accounts in July 2024. For ECSS to close their accounts by this date they require confirmation from the Council that they intend to continue to provide waste and street cleansing services through ECSS beyond the expiry date of the existing MOA (31 March 2025).

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications YES	Legal Implications NO	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

5.2 **Financial Implications** – The extension to the contract will be on the existing terms and the Annual Management Fee setting will continue as is for the duration of the extended contract.

6.0 Appendices

None

7.0 Background documents

Memorandum of Agreement between the Council and ECSS



Reports from Constituent Council Representatives on the Combined Authority

The following meetings have taken place in May and June 2024

Business Board AGM, 13 May 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Business Board AGM \(May\)](#)

Combined Authority Board AGM, 5 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Combined Authority Board AGM \(June\)](#)

Combined Authority Board, 5 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Combined Authority Board \(June\)](#)

Skills and Employment Committee, 17 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Skills and Employment Committee \(June\)](#)

Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee, 19 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee \(June\)](#)

Audit and Governance Committee, 20 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Audit and Governance Committee \(June\)](#)

Transport and Infrastructure Committee, 26 June 2024

Councillor:

Decision Summary Link: [Transport and Infrastructure Committee \(June\)](#)



1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor Dr. Nik Johnson.

2. Declarations of Interest

Araminta Ledger declared a potential non-pecuniary interest due to involvement in the implementation of a life sciences strategy (relating to items 9 and 10 on the agenda).

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Business Board noted the Minutes Action Log.

4. Business Board – CPCA Thematic Committee Representations & Lead Member Roles

It was resolved to:

- a) Approve the Business Board member representations and lead roles for 2024/25

5. Combined Authority Forward Planning

The Chair asked members of the Business Board to flag any topics with officers that they feel it would be beneficial for the board to discuss or hold a specialised session around.

6. Business Board Chair's Update

The Chair updated the Board on meetings and discussions held since the last Board meeting and upcoming opportunities.

7. Business Board Feedback from the Thematic Committees

Verbal updates were received from the Business Board representatives on the Combined Authority's Thematic Committees, looking at items covered at the previous meetings as well as discussing upcoming topics.

8. CPCA Director's Update

The Executive Director for Economy and Growth updated the Board on progress ahead of UKREiiF, commented on the recent Business Board workshop and introduced the new Assistant Director for Business Trade and Investment to members.

9. Economic Growth Strategy Implementation Plan Update

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the progress contained of the Economic Growth Strategy Implementation Plan.

10. Plan for new Business Support Delivery Arrangements

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Endorse the plan for Growth Hub business support delivery during 2024/25

11. Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund Update (Gainshare)

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the updates on development of the Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund contained within this report.
- b) Recommend that the Combined Authority Board reallocates a maximum of £1.5 million unspent capital from the completed Growth Works programme to the Strategic Growth fund to increase the total budget available for this fund.

12. Business Board Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25

It was resolved unanimously (subject to amendments discussed at the meeting) to:

- a) Approve the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25
- b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board approves the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan (2024-25), and for this to be submitted to the Cities and Local Growth Unit



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Announcements, Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anna Bailey, Darryl Preston and Al Kingsley (Nitin Patel substituting).

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 20 March 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

The minutes action log was noted.

3 Membership of the Combined Authority

It was resolved to:

- A Note the Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2024-25 (Appendix A)
- B Confirm that the following bodies be given co-opted member status for the municipal year 2024/25:
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.
 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board.
- C Note the named representative and substitute representative for each organisation as set out in the report.
- D Agree that any late notifications of appointments to the Monitoring Officer shall take immediate effect.

4 Appointments to Thematic Committees, Committee Chairs and Lead Members

It was resolved to:

- A Note and agree the Mayor's nominations to Lead Member responsibilities and the membership of the committees including the Chairs of committees for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix A
- B Note the Committee Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2024/25 (Appendix B).
- C Note and agree the Membership for the HR Committee for 2024/25 (Appendix C)
- D Note and agree the Membership for the Investment Committee for 2024/25 (Appendix D)
- E Note that Audit and Governance members and Overview & Scrutiny members can attend Investment Committee as observers.

5 Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was resolved to:

- A Confirm that the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be 14 members; two members from each constituent council and two substitute members for the municipal year 2024/25.
- B Agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix A.
- C Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B.
- D Approve the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and delegations given to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to appoint the co-optee.

6 Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee

It was resolved to:

- A Confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each Constituent Council and one independent person.
- B Agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix A.
- C Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B.
- D Appoint the Independent Person, Mr John Pye as Chair for the municipal year 2024/25 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.
- E Raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person as the Chair of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £4289 per annum.
- F Approve the appointment of David Harwood as the second Independent Person for the Audit & Governance Committee for a term of four years ending May 2028.
- G Raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £3068 per annum.

7 Calendar of Meetings

It was resolved to:

- A Approve the amended calendar of meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix A.

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Petitions

No petitions were received.

2 Public Questions

One question was received in advance of the meeting in accordance with the procedure rules in the Constitution. A copy of the question and response will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.

3 Forward Plan

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Approve the Forward Plan for June 2024.

4 Budget Outturn Report 2023-24

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note the unaudited outturn position of the Combined Authority for the 2023/24 financial year
- B Approve the requested slippage of unspent project budgets on the approved capital programme of £59.3m, and on the revenue budget of £14.9m.

5 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023/24

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Defer this item to the next meeting of the Combined Authority Board (24 July 2024).

6 Member Development Annual Report

It was approved unanimously to:

- A Note the Member Development Annual Report.
- B Note the training sessions held and the planned prospectus for the new municipal year.
- C Note the objectives as being to assist Members in carrying out their roles efficiently, and to maintain the highest standard of elected Members in carrying out their responsibilities to the Combined Authority and the communities they serve.

7 Appointments to Outside Bodies

It was resolved to:

- A Defer this item to the next meeting of the Combined Authority Board (24 July 2024).

8 Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report

It was resolved to:

- A Note the contents of the report

9 Combined Authority Annual Report 2023-24

It was resolved to:

- A Note the content of the report.

10 Improvement Plan Update

It was resolved to:

- A Note the progress in March against the identified areas of ongoing concern set out in the Best Value Notice received in January 2024.
- B Note the update from the Chair, Independent Improvement Board following the meeting held on 7 May 2024

11 Updates to the Constitution

11 a LGA Model Code of Conduct

The recommendations were:

- A The CPCA Board is invited to consider the matters raised in this report and consider whether the Local Government Model Code of Conduct be adopted in full or part.
- B The CPCA Board is invited to consider whether the associated guidance on the Model Code of Conduct should be adopted in full or in part.
- C The CPCA Board is invited to consider whether the associated guidance on complaint handling should be adopted in full or in part
- D The CPCA Board is invited to consider the requests from the combined authority board member

Following the above considerations, it was resolved unanimously to:

- A Adopt the Local Government Model Code of Conduct in full.
- B Adopt the associated guidance on the Moden Code of Conduct in full
- C Adopt the associated guidance on complaint handling in full.

12 Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel

It was resolved to:

- A Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the Members' Allowance Scheme for the Combined Authority in relation to the Mayor's allowance.
- B Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the two Independent Persons for the Audit & Governance Committee.
- C Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the members for the Audit & Governance Committee.
- D Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the members for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- E Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for travel and subsistence of all Combined Authority members including co-opted members.

13 Adult Education Budget delegated authority (amendment)

It was resolved to:

- A To delegate authority to Assistant Director of Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:
 - enter into, sign and award grant agreements or awards to training providers to

deliver Adult Skills Funds to include but not limited to Adult Education Budget, Free Courses for Jobs and Innovation Fund with providers chosen via the relevant procurement exercise.

- And where appropriate, extend contracts with existing providers.

14 Recommendations from Business Board

It was resolved to approve all the recommendations as set out below:

Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund Update (Gainshare) [KD2024/024]

- A Note the updates on development of the Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund contained within this report.
- B Reallocates a maximum of £1.5 million unspent capital from the completed Growth Works programme to the Strategic Growth fund to increase the total budget available for this fund.

Business Board Members advised and requested that the transferred £1.5m capital funds are ring fenced notionally to be used for specifically for economic / growth projects and investments.

Business Board Annual Report and Delivery Plan 2024-25

- A Approve the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25
- B Recommend the Combined Authority Board approves the Business Board's Annual Report & Delivery Plan (2024-25), and for this to be submitted to the Cities and Local Growth Unit

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

Skills and Employment Committee: Decision Summary

Meeting: Monday, 17 June 2024

Published: Wednesday, 19 June 2024



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson and Cllr Ian Benney

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests made.

3 Election of Vice-Chair

On being proposed by Cllr Nethsingha and seconded by Cllr Wilson, Cllr Sam Wakeford was unanimously appointed as Vice-Chair for the Committee

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4 March 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

The Action Log was noted by the Committee.

5 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

6 Forward Plan

RESOLVED:

- A That the Combined Authority Forward Plan be noted.

7 Wider Outcomes Framework

RESOLVED

- A To note the CPCA's Wider Outcomes Framework (Phase One) which is designed to help more effectively evidence the impact of learning beyond training 'completions' and achieving qualifications

8 AEB and FCFJ Commissioning and Funding Flexibilities (Academic Year 2024-25)

RESOLVED

- A To note CPCA's approach to AEB & FCFJ Commissioning for 2024-2025
- B To recommend that the Combined Authority Board approves CPCA's funding flexibilities for 2024-2025 (permitted under the CPCA's devolved AEB powers)

9 Employment and Skills Board Update

The verbal update was noted by the Committee

10 Budget and Performance Report

RESOLVED

A To note the budget of the Skills Division for the financial year 24/25

11 Work Programme

It was resolved to:

A Note the Committee Agenda Plan.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 26 July at 10:00am. The meeting venue is CPCA Offices Pathfinder House

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Goodearl and Cllr Todd-Jones. Cllr Todd-Jones could not attend in person but joined the meeting remotely for the discussion. He was not able to vote and did not count towards quoracy.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests made.

3 Election of Vice-Chair

On being proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Dupre, Cllr Davenport-Ray was unanimously appointed as Vice-Chair for the Committee.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2024 were approved as an accurate record. The Action Log was noted by the Committee.

5 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

6 Forward Plan

It was resolved to:

- A Note the Combined Authority Forward Plan.

7 Director's Highlight Report

RESOLVED

- A To note the Director's Highlight Report

8 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

RESOLVED

- A To recommend** that the Combined Authority Board delegate authority to the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee to approve a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for public consultation

9 Budget and Performance Report

RESOLVED

- A To note the financial position of the Environment and Sustainable Communities division for the financial year 23/24 and Board approved carry-forwards.

10 Work Programme

It was resolved to:

- A Note the Committee Agenda Plan.

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 31 July 2024 at 10am. The meeting venue is CPCA Offices, Pathfinder House.

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Wilson, substituted by Cllr Whelan, Cllr Todd-Jones, substituted by temporary substitute Cllr Smart, Cllr Christian Hogg, no substitute.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests made.

3 Chair's Announcements

The Chair made the following announcements:

The Chair welcomed the new members of the Committee including the new Independent Person David Harwood.

The Chair advised that the Member Induction session had been held earlier that week with low numbers in attendance and advised members that it would be useful to attend all induction and development sessions in future if they were able to do so.

4 Election of Vice Chair

The Chair requested nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the municipal year 24/25.

Cllr Christy proposed Cllr Wilson seconded by Cllr Brown.

Cllr Wilson was unanimously elected Vice Chair for the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

5 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 8th March 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

The Assistant Director for Finance advised that a report would be circulated to members after the meeting to provide an update on the CPCA business continuity.

The Action Log was noted by the Committee.

6 Improvement Plan Highlight Report

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

- a) the progress in March against the identified areas of ongoing concern set out in the Best Value Notice received in January 2024.
- b) the update from the Chair, Independent Improvement Board following the meeting held on 7 May 2024

7 Corporate Risk Register

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

- a) the May 2024 Corporate Risk Report including the Register, Dashboard and Heat Map B
- b) the update on progress of the Risk Software implementation
- c) the proposed risk deep dives for upcoming meetings

8 External Audit - 22/23 Value for Money Opinion

The Committee RESOLVED to note:-

- a) The External Auditors Value for Money report for 22/23.

9a Internal Audit - Progress Report

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

- a) The Internal Auditors Progress report.

9b Internal Audit - Annual Report 23/24

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

- a) The Internal Auditors Annual Opinion

10a Officer Delegations

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board that delegations detailed within the report were approved for the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO")
- b) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board that delegations detailed within the report were approved for the Assistant Director Human Resources ("ADHR")

10b Appointment to Outside Bodies

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) recommend to the Combined Authority Board to agree the protocol which should be included in the constitution.

11 Audit Reporting

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) Receive updates on the implementation of recommendations contained in all audit reports on a quarterly basis starting in July.

12 Independent Person Allowance

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) recommend to the Combined Authority Board to agree that both Independent Persons should receive the same allowance.

13 Performance Management Framework

The Committee RESOLVED to note:

- a) The progress made in the implementation of the Performance Management Framework and next steps.

14 A&G Committee Annual Report

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) Approve the draft report subject to agreed changes and recommend it to the CA Board.

15 Work Programme

The Committee RESOLVED to:

- a) Note the work programme for 24/25.

16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 18th July at 10am. The meeting venue is CPCA Meeting Room, Huntingdonshire DC.

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.



Transport and Infrastructure Committee: Decision Summary

Meeting: Wednesday, 26 June 2024

Published: Thursday, 27 June 2024

Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Seaton, who was substituted by Cllr Dr Haq Nawaz, and also from Andy Williams, Business Board Representative.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declaration of interests made.

3 Election of Vice-Chair

RESOLVED:

On being proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Shailer, Cllr Sam Wakeford was unanimously elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Log

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
The Action Log was noted by the Committee.

5 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

6 Forward Plan

RESOLVED:

To note the Combined Authority's Forward Plan.

7 Director's Highlight Report

RESOLVED:

To note the Director's highlight report

9 Electric Vehicles Strategy and Funding

RESOLVED:

A To note of the progress on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure including the outcomes of the Electric Vehicles and Charging Point Survey.

B To note that an initial draft strategic Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) business case will be submitted to Energy Saving Trust on 19 July 2024.

9 March Area Transport Strategy

On being put to the vote, proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr MacDonald, the motion was not supported.

An update on the MATS proposal would therefore be re-presented at a future meeting.

10 Budget and Performance Report

RESOLVED:

- A To note the outturn financial position of the Transport and Infrastructure Division for the financial year 23/24 and Board approved carry forwards.
- B Note the Transport and Infrastructure Division budget for the next 4 years updated for approved carry forwards

11 Work Programme

RESOLVED:

To note the Committee's Agenda Plan.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 22 July 2024.

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.