

East Cambridgeshire
District Council

Council meeting

Thursday
13 July 2023

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.

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

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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 13 JULY 2023** 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

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 – 25 MAY 2023**
To confirm as a correct record.
5. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS** **[oral]**
6. **TO RECEIVE PETITION(S)** **[oral]**
7. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10** **[oral]**
- (a) **Greater Cambridge Partnership: Making Connections Consultation**

That this Council notes the feedback from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) 2022 Making Connections consultation and the key findings that:

- Over 70% of respondents were in favour of the future transport network – with more buses to more locations, cheaper fares and longer operating times supported by better walking and cycling infrastructure to give people faster, cheaper and more reliable travel alternatives to the car.

- 58% of respondents overall, and 59% of respondents from East Cambridgeshire opposed the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) as the means of delivering the future transport network.

This Council also notes the negative impacts of the proposals detailed in the many individually written consultation responses from residents, businesses, public sector employees, charities and voluntary groups from across Cambridgeshire.

Further, this Council notes the discussion by the GCP Assembly at its meeting on 26th June 2023 and the recommendations before the GCP Board at its meeting on 29th June 2023 to:

- a) note the feedback from the 2022 Making Connections consultation, including the public survey, the accompanying opinion polling, organizational submissions, and stakeholder meetings;
- b) informed by the feedback from the consultation, and the comments of the GCP Joint Assembly, note and comment on the range of scenarios for modifying the proposed scheme, set out in this paper in section 9;
- c) request that GCP officers work with Cambridgeshire County Council officers to develop the technical assessment needed to present an Outline Business Case for further consideration by the GCP Executive Board, and by Cambridgeshire County Council, in Autumn 2023;
- d) agree to work with the CPCA, as the Transport Authority, including the provision of resource, to input findings from the Making Connections consultation and technical work into the CPCA's work on bus reform and review of the bus network; and
- e) request that GCP officers develop proposals for the early introduction of a bus and sustainable travel package (as set out in section 11) based on the £50m of city deal funding provisionally allocated for this purpose, for decision at the GCP Executive Board meeting in December 2023.

This Council believes that:

- a) the changes to the STZ under discussion represent a serious erosion of the business model as presented in the Making Connections consultation, leading to increased bureaucracy and cost of implementing and running the road charging elements of the scheme, as well as reducing the income generated, which will result in a reduction in funding for the future transport network and lead to a failure to deliver the promised bus services and sustainable travel improvements;
- b) the GCP has failed to consider or present alternatives to road charging.

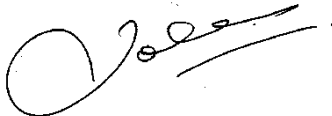
This Council therefore urges the GCP, CCC and the CPCA to cease work on the implementation of road charging and, with all partner organisations, MPs, businesses and organisations across Cambridgeshire, to develop alternative proposals that demonstrate public support, focussing on both early delivery of multiple small improvements as well as accelerating work on larger projects that can and will encourage people away from private vehicle use.

If the GCP and its partners refuse to cease work on the implementation of road charging, this Council urges it to present thorough and detailed cost and feasibility

studies for all permutations of the revised scheme under discussion, including necessary arising revisions to the future bus network and sustainable travel improvements.

Proposer: Councillor Anna Bailey
Seconder: Councillor Alan Sharp

8. **TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS** **[oral]**
9. **CORPORATE PLAN**
Due to being A3 colour documents, the Corporate Plan and Corporate Actions, Appendix 1 & 2 of the report, have been circulated separately to Councillors and Officers. Copies are available on the Council's website at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-130723 or from Democratic Services democratic.services@eastcambs.gov.uk
10. **SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES:**
Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review 2022/23
11. **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE STREET SCENE (ECSS) OBSERVER**
12. **CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING PARTY**
13. **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE REPORT**
May & June 2023



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 www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/council-130723. 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

Agenda item 4

Minutes of a Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council
held at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE
on Thursday 25th May 2023 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	Councillor Robert Pitt
Councillor Charlotte Cane	Councillor Alan Sharp
Councillor Christine Colbert	Councillor Caroline Shepherd
Councillor Lorna Dupré	Councillor John Trapp
Councillor Lavinia Edwards	Councillor Lucius Vellacott
Councillor Mark Goldsack	Councillor Mary Wade (<i>from</i>
Councillor Martin Goodearl	<i>6:13pm</i>)
Councillor Kathrin Holtzmann	Councillor Alison Whelan
Councillor Keith Horgan	Councillor Christine Whelan
Councillor Julia Huffer	Councillor Gareth Wilson
Councillor Bill Hunt	

6 members of the public were in attendance.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, prayers were led by Canon James Garrard of Ely Cathedral.

Cllr Charlotte Cane delivered a tribute, and a minute's silence was held, as a mark of respect following the death of former District Councillor Walter Bebbington (Ely North Ward 1991-1999).

"Walter Bebbington may have been born and bred in Blackburn, but he became a true Man of Ely. He moved here, with his family, in 1967 to become Headmaster at Ely St Marys Church of England Junior School. For over two decades he guided the youngsters of Ely through their early education, giving them firm foundations for their future lives. He was always fair and kind and earned the respect, and indeed the love, of both pupils and staff.

After retiring as Headmaster, he was elected to Ely City Council and to East Cambs District Council, representing Ely North. And in 1993 became Mayor of Ely. Cllr Bebbington stood and served as an Independent Councillor because he felt this

allowed him to work closely with both sides for the benefit of Ely and East Cambridgeshire.

Walter was committed to working for the community and happily roped his family into the cause. His son Peter remembers the very sore feet from the campaign trail and remains Treasurer of the Paradise Sports Centre, having been persuaded to take on the role by Walter 25 years ago when he was the Council's representative to the Sports Centre.

Walter also enjoyed the planning committee and was keen that the spirit of Ely and East Cambs was preserved whilst recognising the need for progress.

Walter Bebbington will be much missed by many in Ely, not least his wife Barbara his three sons and wider family. I will end by summing him up in the words a resident said to me – 'Walter Bebbington was a thoroughly good chap'."

1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6:11pm Cllr Pitt briefly left the meeting.

A question from Peter Bates was read aloud by the Chairman:

"East Cambs Climate Action Network is pleased to see that finally two of the planned 24 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging points in Ely and Soham are now working, but is concerned that East Cambridgeshire District Council is not installing them fast enough!!

1. What is now the revised deadline for all 24 EV Charging Points to be fully operational and all appropriate signage fully installed? (According to an ECDC Press Release they were going to be installed by last March)

2. Is the Council going to work with the supplier to ensure that local residents and visitors will be able to reserve a charging slot to ensure that the limited number of EV charging points that are available will be used efficiently? (The labelling on the EV charging points seems to suggest that this is possible)

3. As there is now a 40% increase in EV registered vehicles in 2022 compared to 2021 across the UK, what plans does the Council have to increase the number EV Charging points across the District and will its plans include rapid EV Charging points (25-99kWh) and ultra-rapid EV charging points (100kWh+) that would encourage tourists and business people to stop-off in the district and spend money with local businesses? (It is noted that West Suffolk has plans for 100 EV Charging points and Cambridge City with plans for about 360 on top of their existing EV Charging points)

4. East Cambs Climate Action Network is concerned that there appears to be significant delays in getting the Commercial EV Points becoming operational at the Service Station north of Soham (CB7 5ED). They have been installed for

more than two years but are still not working. Local EV car owners are being told that the Service Station owners are still waiting for ECDC to give them permission. Can the Council investigate this to find out whether this is the case or not and why this commercial company is failing to deliver its EV charging service which would be useful for local residents and visitors to the area.?

5. Can the Council provide full details of how it is taking advantage of all the UK Government and Combined Authority funds that are currently available so as to help develop the EV infrastructure across the district?"

6:13pm Cllr Pitt returned and Cllr Wade joined the meeting.

The Leader of Council, Cllr Anna Bailey, responded as follows:

"1. The Barton Road and Newnham Street charging points are due to be fully operational by the end of June. In the Clay Street charging points in Soham we're unfortunately still waiting for UK Power Networks to re-connect the points due to the incorrect single phase supply having been installed, we do not yet have a date for this, we're at the mercy of UKPN, but once this has been done the remaining works can then be completed.

2. Residents and visitors will be able to see if the charging point is available by using the App.

3. One of the proposed actions that we have in the forthcoming Environment Plan which is coming to committee very soon on 19th June is that the Council will undertake a programme of Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) initiatives. That will include improving information on our website about EVC in the District; assisting parish councils and residents to find grants to help install EVC points themselves; and obviously bidding for grants to install more EVCs in our own public car parks.

4. Planning permission for the installation of EV charging bays and associated power connections at Soham BP at The Shade was granted on 2 October 2020.

5. The Council has been working regularly with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to produce an Alternative Fuels Strategy to speed up the switch to electric, hydrogen and other renewable fuelled vehicles. The AFS is planned to be formally adopted as part of the Combined Authority's overall strategy at the Board meeting coming up on 31st May. As mentioned above, Officers will continue to work with and start working with parish councils and residents to find grants and to help install charging points and bid for grants to install more charging points in our own public car parks."

Stephen Thompson, Chair of Haddenham Parish Council, addressed the Council:

Parish Cllr Thompson informed the Council about various initiatives underway at Haddenham Parish Council, including addressing road safety and youth plans. He was preparing a paper about the Parish Council's recent success

regarding a 20mph speed limit and would be happy to share it with other Parish Councils. He explained that, together with the Clerk, he had attended meetings of the Full Council on several previous occasions and he provided feedback regarding how the meetings appeared to those in the public gallery.

Response from the Chairman of Council, Cllr Alan Sharp:

The Chairman commented that there was no question to be answered and thanked the contributor for their involvement.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2023/24

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

Cllr Gareth Wilson was nominated as Council Chairman by Cllr Lorna Dupré and seconded by Cllr Charlotte Cane.

A secret ballot was held in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.2.1. Cllr Goldsack received 15 votes and Cllr Wilson received 13 votes.

It was resolved:

That Cllr Mark Goldsack be elected as Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

Cllr Goldsack then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chairman of Council. The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Alan Sharp, passed the Chains of Office to Cllr Goldsack.

3. VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING CHAIRMAN AND PRESENTATION OF PAST CHAIRMAN'S MEDALLION AND SCROLL

Cllrs Bailey, Hunt and Goldsack thanked Cllr Sharp for his scrupulously fair chairmanship conducted with tolerance and humour. They also thanked him for representing the District so well at many civic occasions during his term of office, including events to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Proclamation of the King, and the recent coronation celebrations.

Cllr Sharp was presented with a past Chairman's scroll and medallion and a bouquet of flowers.

Cllr Sharp thanked Lynne Smart and Susan Lee for managing his diary of appointments throughout his term of office, the Chief Executive and wider team for their help and advice in conducting meetings, his predecessor former Cllr Lis Every who had been an exemplary Chairman during the Covid pandemic, and all Council Members for their support. He reflected on the transition from Zoom meetings to socially-distanced in-person meetings and finally returning to the Council Chamber during his two-year term as Chairman. Finally, he

spoke of his sense of honour at having been part of the public Proclamations of the King, and to have greeted the Princess Royal on her visit to the District.

Cllr Goldsack added a vote of thanks to all immediate past Members of the Council who had served the District well.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2023/24

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

Cllr Christine Whelan was nominated as Council Vice-Chairman by Cllr Lorna Dupré and seconded by Cllr Mark 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 13 votes.

It was resolved:

That Cllr David Brown be elected as Vice-Chairman of East Cambridgeshire District Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

Cllr Brown then read aloud, and signed, the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Vice-Chairman of Council and was presented with the Chains of Office.

Cllr Sharp thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairman, former Cllr Dan Schumann, who had not stood for re-election in May 2023. His valuable support throughout their two-year term as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council had been greatly appreciated.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

7. MINUTES – 21st FEBRUARY 2023

It was resolved unanimously:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21st February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS 2023

Council received a report (Y1, previously circulated) detailing the results of the recent District Council elections.

It was resolved unanimously:

That the election results be noted.

9. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded all Members to remain in the Chamber after the close of the Council meeting for the meetings to appoint Committee Chairs/Vice-Chairs.

10. PETITIONS

No petitions had been received.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10

There were no Motions under Procedure Rule 10.

12. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Five questions were received and responses given as follows:

j) Question to the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group from Cllr Vellacott:

"I can tell the Council with confidence that residents in Soham South voted rather overwhelmingly to oppose the Cambridge Congestion Charge, which the Liberal Democrat campaign refused to oppose outright, and for our other common-sense plans like keeping council tax low and car parking free. However, I note with concern that Cllr Dupré's Liberal Democrat group, to my knowledge and that of many residents, conducted no district council campaign activities in Soham South or Wicken, but did conduct a great deal in Soham North.

Can Cllr Dupré confirm to my residents why her group sought to listen to the views of one half of our town, but not the other?"

Response from the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr Dupré:

"I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Cllr Vellacott to the Council, and to thank him for his question.

I'm not certain that Members' Questions is the place to discuss how local parties conduct their election campaigns. And I need to remind Cllr Vellacott that in my ward his own party failed to muster a full complement of candidates for the local elections on 4 May, denying Conservative voters the chance to cast both their votes for their chosen party.

But I'm grateful for his encouragement for the Liberal Democrats to campaign even more energetically against the Conservatives in his ward, and glad that we have quickly found a proposal on which we can both agree.

Cllr Vellacott's party took 49.8 per cent of all votes cast in the district council elections in Soham South on 4 May—hardly overwhelming, and certainly less than half. In fact, across East Cambridgeshire:

- Fewer people voted Conservative in May 2023 than in May 2019;
- More people voted Liberal Democrat in May 2023 than in May 2019; and
- More people voted Liberal Democrat in May 2023 than voted Conservative.

Residents in East Cambridgeshire voted by a majority against the Conservative Government: the scandals, the infighting, the sewage in our rivers, the unaffordable increases in the cost of living, the collapse of our NHS. They also voted against the effects of Conservative policies locally in our district. The continued unlawful and dangerous parking. The unswept streets. The chaos with the bins. The low level of ambition for environmental action. The lack of independent advice services. The unwanted crematorium at Mepal. The failure to work collaboratively with neighbours and other tiers of local government in the best interests of East Cambridgeshire.

And despite the attempt by the Conservatives to confuse residents about their having a say through these elections on the congestion charge, most residents were not fooled. They understood full well that the councillors whom they were electing to East Cambridgeshire District Council on 4 May will have no say in any decisions about arrangements for sustainable travel in Cambridge.”

ii) Question to the Leader of the Council from Cllr Inskip:

“On 15 May former Leader of the House of Commons, Jacob Rees-Mogg said:

“Parties that try and gerrymander end up finding their clever scheme comes back to bite them, as dare I say we found by insisting on voter ID for elections. We found the people who didn't have ID were elderly and they by and large voted Conservative, so we made it hard for our own voters and we upset a system that worked perfectly well.”

What data does the council hold on the impact of Voter ID in East Cambridgeshire?

In particular how many individuals were turned away because they didn't have a valid ID?

How many others does the council estimate were deterred from turning out to vote on 4 May by the voter ID requirement?

And did Voter ID contribute to fewer people voting Conservative in May 2023 than in May 2019?"

Response from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

"14 people across the district were unable to vote at the polling station because they did not have ID - that's 0.03% of the votes that were cast in the District Council election. I honestly feel it would be absolute folly to try to estimate the numbers that might have been deterred from voting because of it, no one can possibly know the answer to that question. Certainly my own experience on the doorstep was that Voter ID was not the issue that was exercising people in these elections.

In East Cambs the data suggest that actually Voter ID wasn't a material factor in turnout because, in fact:

- Turnout was up in 2023 compared with 2019, not by much but it was increased
- Turnout was up in 79% of Wards (11 out of 14)

And actually:

- The average number of Conservative votes per Candidate increased by 3% in 2023 over 2019 so we actually increased our average number of votes compared with last time round so I don't think it is right that the Voter ID issue affected Conservative voters as his question suggests.

It is clear to me from the data, if you look at it really carefully, that the most important factor in voter turnout is the level of activity and engagement by Candidates, as well as something about the local issues that people care passionately about, and that was clear to see.

I particularly want to thank the Comms team for their successful awareness raising campaign which in my view resulted in very high levels of awareness of the need for Voter ID, and did result in that very low number of people who weren't able to vote in the end – 14 across the district. And it is a matter of indisputable fact that voter turnout increased so I thank them for the job that they did and we certainly took part in trying to make sure that people were aware of the need for Voter ID.

Grateful though I am for their concern, I think the Lib Dems would do well to analyse their own election performance rather than worrying about the Conservatives.

- Looking at the seats where votes were lost and comparing 2019 with 2023, the Liberal Democrats lost a total of 1139 votes in seats they stood Candidates whereas the Conservatives lost 770.
- The Lib Dem vote share decreased in 2023 compared with 2019.”

iii) Question to the Chair of the Operational Services Committee from Cllr Shepherd:

“In the Environment Plan adopted nearly two years ago by the council's Operational Services Committee on 14th June 2021, the action plan states: The Council has engaged with two national electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure companies, looking to determine potential for additional EV charge points on our own land (e.g. car parks). Barton Road and Newnham Street car parks appear the most viable, and investigations continue.

On Saturday 20th May all parking spaces for EV charging in Barton Road car park were occupied by petrol or diesel fuelled machines, meanwhile the chargers in Newnham Street car park have still not been commissioned. This left no council car parks where EV drivers visiting Ely could charge their vehicles.

It is three and half years since the council declared a Climate Emergency, why therefore is Ely still so unwelcoming to EV drivers because they are concerned about the climate, and I include myself amongst them.”

Response from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Anna Bailey, on behalf of the Chair of the Operational Service Committee, Cllr Julia Huffer:

“I think Ely is a very welcoming city. We offer free car parking. That welcomes people into our city from far and wide – from local villages and from further away. That is a very welcoming environment and I often get complimented for it and asked about it, people turn up looking for how to pay for car parking charges and they're very pleased to find that that doesn't have to happen. So we are an open, welcoming, engaging city that is for sure. And of course Soham and Littleport where we also offer the free car parking.

But as the questioner is aware, the Electric Vehicle Charging points are not yet fully operational and the marking of the bays and signage to indicate that the bays are EV charging points will be completed before the charge points are fully operational. And the completion for both Barton Road and Newnham Street is by the end of June and I mentioned the issues that we've got with Clay Street in Soham earlier.

The Council installed two dual 50kw fast chargers at the Council-owned car park at The Hive in Ely in 2018 and as I mentioned earlier we'll be looking to do more through the Environment Plan and the environment work. And I really just say again that Ely is an incredibly

welcoming city and a lovely place to be which is why so many people frequent it.”

iv) Question to the Leader of the Council from Cllr Holtzmann:

“This council has declared a climate emergency in 2019. The built environment is responsible for 25% of the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions. It is clear that decarbonising construction plays a crucial role in reaching net zero.

However, the council’s local plan, which has been created in 2015 and has had only a single-issue review in 2020, does still not address upfront emissions from new developments. It does not set appropriate standards for operational efficiency let alone biodiversity and conservation targets. When is the council going to start developing a new local plan that addresses these issues?”

Response from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Anna Bailey:

“This Council did declare a climate emergency back in 2019, I think we were one of the first in Cambridgeshire to do so. Tackling emissions from new development is clearly an important step towards net zero, which we’re going for by 2040 for direct emissions from this place. That’s why by February 2021, following public consultation over the previous year in 2020, the Council adopted a Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document which helps guide planning and planning decisions in this authority. We were even quicker to consult and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document on the Natural Environment, which we did so by September 2020. Both documents are available on our website, and we are advised prove very useful to persuade developers to make significant improvements to their development proposals for the benefit of both nature and our climate.

After declaring a climate emergency, we therefore reacted quickly to put climate and nature related planning policies in place. However, having policies in our Local Plan could provide even greater teeth to require the more reluctant developers to take action. I’m pleased to confirm, therefore, that our forthcoming Environment Plan to be considered by Operational Services Committee on 19 June will indeed include a commitment to commence preliminary consultation on what a climate related chapter for a new Local Plan should contain. This is going to put us in an excellent position to insert a climate change chapter in our Local Plan, as and when the Government finalises the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. It is that Bill that will enable Councils like East Cambridgeshire to start the new style Local Plan which I believe on current timing is some time late 2024. Commencing an old style Local Plan in advance of the new legislation coming would honestly be a waste of time and money, but work is progressing.”

v) Question to the Chair of the Operational Services Committee from Cllr

Wade:

“On 1 June last year, the council announced that it had opened the county’s largest-ever tree maze with the opening of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee maze in Ely Country Park. The council’s press release highlighted the intricate walkways planted up with more than 5000 native hornbeam saplings.

Today many of those saplings are dead and the maze is overgrown by metre high weeds including stinging nettles making it completely unusable for visitors.

How many of the 5000 saplings planted last year have died and how many have survived?

Why was an adequate maintenance plan not put in place when the maze was opened?

Have any lessons been learnt from this failure?”

Response from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Anna Bailey, on behalf of the Chair of the Operational Service Committee, Cllr Julia Huffer:

“It is estimated that sadly around half of the saplings, only, have survived.

In fact, adequate maintenance plans were in place at the time of planting, however I would remind everybody that we experienced an unprecedented hot summer and a colder than anticipated winter and spring which did mean that a different maintenance regime needs to be considered and this will need to be balanced with the biodiversity on the site.

The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager is currently assessing the options available to deal with the issue in the short and medium term that reflects the flowering season and the biodiversity that is on the site because one man’s weed is another man’s flower and there is a lot of flowering that is currently taking place on that site and you wouldn’t want to go immediately and chop it all down. Clearly we need a new management plan so any future scheme maintenance plans will incorporate the likelihood of changing seasons as it is evident that these changes have an impact on set management plans and that is getting more and more difficult.

And I would just add from myself that our Open Spaces & Facilities Manager moved heaven and earth to try and make sure that those saplings got through the very difficult summer. We were taking large quantities of water on a very regular basis but sadly, as you’ve seen, half of them didn’t make it through, but we will get it sorted out.”

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

Council considered a report (Y2, previously circulated) detailing the Council's Political Groups, the Group Leaders and Deputies, and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. The Democratic Services Manager stated that, since the publication of the report, Cllr Julia Huffer had been appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, and in accordance with Article 2.03(c) of the Council's Constitution was therefore also Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was resolved unanimously:

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 and 3.2 of the Officer's report, with the addition of Cllr Julia Huffer as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group and of the Council, be noted.

14. POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Council considered a report (Y3, 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 Chairman and seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

It was resolved unanimously:

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 (Y4, 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 Appendix 1 had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

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

It was resolved unanimously:

That the membership of Committees, Sub-Committees and other Member Bodies for 2023/24, as detailed in revised Appendix 1 of the Officer's report, be approved.

16. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

a) Membership and other appointments

Council considered a previously-circulated report requesting that appointments be made to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023/24. The Democratic Services Manager explained that changes in the make-up of some other Councils had resulted in a change to the previously-circulated political balance calculations. Consequently, a member of the Liberal Democrat party was required for the Audit and Governance Committee rather than a Conservative member as stated in the published report. Details had been provided to the Group Leaders in advance of the meeting and the Democratic Services Manager read aloud the resulting nominations.

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 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 (20/3/23), Board (22/3/23) and Audit & Governance Committee (24/3/23).

It was resolved unanimously:

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

17. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY

Council considered a report (Y5, previously circulated) concerning an action taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency in relation to the Council’s contribution to the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme.

It was resolved unanimously:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:10pm

Chairman.....

Date.....

TITLE: CORPORATE PLAN

Committee: Council

Date: 13 July 2023

Author: Chief Executive

Report No: Y26

Contact Officer:

John Hill, Chief Executive

john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk (01353) 616271 Room No. 103, The Grange, Ely

1.0 ISSUE

1.1. The new Corporate Plan 2023-2027 and Corporate actions for 2023/2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Members are requested to:

- (i) approve the new Corporate Plan 2023-2027 set out in Appendix 1
- (ii) approve the Corporate actions for 2023/2024
- (iii) instruct the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution (ref Article 1 paragraph 1.05) to make necessary amendments to reflect the new Corporate Plan.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1. The new Corporate Plan 2023-27 sets out the Council's priorities and actions in Appendix 1 together with the 2023/24 actions in Appendix 2. The Corporate Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to July Council.

3.2. There will be a requirement to make consequential amendments to Article 1 of the Constitution to reflect the new Corporate Plan.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1. The proposed new Corporate Plan 2023-27 is attached as Appendix 1.

4.2. The new Corporate Plan 2023-27 sets out the priorities for the next four years and overall actions during that period covering 'Sound Financial Management', 'Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire' and 'Sustainable Communities'.

4.3. Appendix 2 details the Corporate actions for 2023/24.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Corporate Plan, not included in the Council's agreed budget, will be subject to the formal Member process.

5.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required at this stage.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Corporate Plan 2023-2027

Appendix 2 Corporate Actions July 2023 to July 2024

Background Documents:

None

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

Committee: Council

Date: 13 July 2023

Author: Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Report No: Y27

Contact Officer:

Tracy Couper, Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616278, Room 214B, The Grange, Ely

1.0 FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE – 3 JULY 2023

a) Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review

The Committee received a report (**Y16, attached at Appendix A**) containing the annual performance review of the Council's Treasury operations during the 2022/23 financial year.

As the meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee is taking place on the day of the Council Agenda despatch/publication, the full Minute from the Committee will be circulated subsequently to Members.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

That the contents of the annual review of the Council's Treasury operations during 2022/23, including the prudential and treasury indicators, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

TITLE: 2022/23 TREASURY OPERATIONS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 03 July 2023

Author: Director, Finance

Report No: Y16

Contact Officer:

Ian Smith, Director, Finance

ian.smith@eastcambes.gov.uk; 01353 616470;

Room 104, The Grange, Ely

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 To report on the Council's treasury operations during the 2022/23 financial year.
- 1.2 This report reviews the Treasury Management activity during the financial year 2022/23 and reports on the prudential indicators as required by CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1. Members are asked to recommend to Full Council that they approve this report detailing the Council's treasury operations during 2022/23, 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 2022/23. 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 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that Full Council should receive the following reports:
 - an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved by Full Council on the 22nd February 2022);
 - a mid-year treasury update report, (this was reviewed by Finance and Assets Committee on 24th November 2022 and approved by Full Council on the 21st February 2023);
 - an annual review following the end of the year, describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 Cash investments totalled £29.941 million as at 31st March 2023, a decrease of £3.589 million on the previous year. The Council's cash investments were all for periods of less than one year.
- 4.2 The reduction in cash is mainly down to the unwinding of Government funding in relation to Business Rate support to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Council Tax rebates that were given to most households early in the 2022/23 financial year.
- 4.3 The Council's loan to ECTC increased to £6.0 million in March 2023, having been £4.9 million throughout the year until that point.
- 4.4 Interest received during the financial year was £809,247, which was £616,253 above the budget of £192,994. This figure was made up of £605,794 from investment in money markets and other short, fixed term investments and £203,453 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 1.729%.

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 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no additional financial implications, other than those detailed in the report.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required.
- 6.3 A Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) is not required.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Annual Treasury Management Review 2022/23

Background Documents:

Treasury Management Strategy as approved by Full Council on the 22nd February 2022.

Annual Treasury Management Review 2022/23

East Cambridgeshire

April 2023

Contents

Purpose.....	5
Executive Summary.....	6
Introduction and Background	7
1. The Council’s Capital Expenditure and Financing.....	7
2. The Council’s Overall Borrowing Need	8
3. Treasury Position as at 31st March 2023.....	10
4. The Strategy for 2022/23	12
5. Investment Outturn.....	16
6. The Economy and Interest Rates	16
7. Other Issues.....	18

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 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 policy. It is composed of 12 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.

MRP: minimum revenue provision - a statutory annual minimum revenue charge to reduce the total outstanding CFR, (the total indebtedness of 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 replacement set of indices (for LIBID) 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 2022/23

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 2022/23. 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 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that the Full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 22nd February 2022)
- a mid-year, (minimum), treasury update report (Council 21st February 2023)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)

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.

No Member training on treasury management was undertaken during the 2022/23, but a training course has been arranged for 5th October 2023 as part of the member training programme following the election in May.

Executive Summary

During 2022/23, 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	31.3.22 Actual £000	2022/23 Revised Budget £000	31.3.23 Actual £000
Capital expenditure	481	10,835	8,851
Capital Financing Requirement:	9,490	13,088	10,127
External debt	0	0	0
Investments	38,430		36,176
Net borrowing	38,430		36,176

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report. The Director, Finance also confirms that borrowing was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the statutory borrowing limit, (the authorised limit), was 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	31.3.22 Actual	2022/23 Revised Budget	31.3.23 Actual
Capital expenditure	481	10,835	8,851
Financed in year	1,661	1,999	2,980
Unfinanced capital expenditure	(1,180)	8,836	5,871

The negative unfinanced capital expenditure in 2021/22 represents CIL funding used to repay debt incurred in previous years on the Leisure Centre.

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 2022/23 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 cashflow 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 2022/23 MRP Policy, (as required by DLUHC Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2022/23 on 22nd February 2022.

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

CFR (£000): General Fund	31.3.22 Actual	2022/23 Budget	31.3.23 Actual
Opening balance	11,051	9,490	9,489
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	(1,180)	8,836	5,871
Less MRP	(381)	(338)	(334)
Less ECTC Loan Repayment	0	(4,900)	(4,900)
Closing balance	9,490	13,088	10,127

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 should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2022/23) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2023/24) 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	31.3.22 Actual	2022/23 Budget	31.3.23 Actual
Gross external borrowing position	£0	£0	£0
CFR	£9,490	£13,088	£10,127
Under funding of CFR	£9,490	£13,088	£10,127

The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the "affordable borrowing limit" required by s3 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 2022/23 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	2022/23
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	The Council had no financing costs in 2022/23

3. Treasury Position as at 31st March 2023

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 2022/23 the Council's treasury, position was as follows:

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	31.3.22 Actual £000	31.3.22 Actual %	31.3.23 Actual £000	31.3.23 Actual %
Treasury investments				
Banks – main bank account	2,530	7.5%	441	1.5%
Banks – call accounts	11,000	32.8%	22,000	73.5%
Money Market Funds	20,000	59.7%	7,500	25.0%
TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS	33,530	100%	29,941	100%

Non-Treasury investments				
Third party loans - ECTC	4,900	100%	6,000	96.2%
Third party Loans – EC CLT	0	0%	235	3.8%
TOTAL NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS	4,900	100%	6,235	100%

Treasury investments	33,530	87.2%	29,941	82.8%
Non-Treasury investments	4,900	12.8%	6,235	17.2%
TOTAL OF ALL INVESTMENTS	38,430	100%	36,176	100%

The maturity structure of the investment portfolio was as follows:

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.

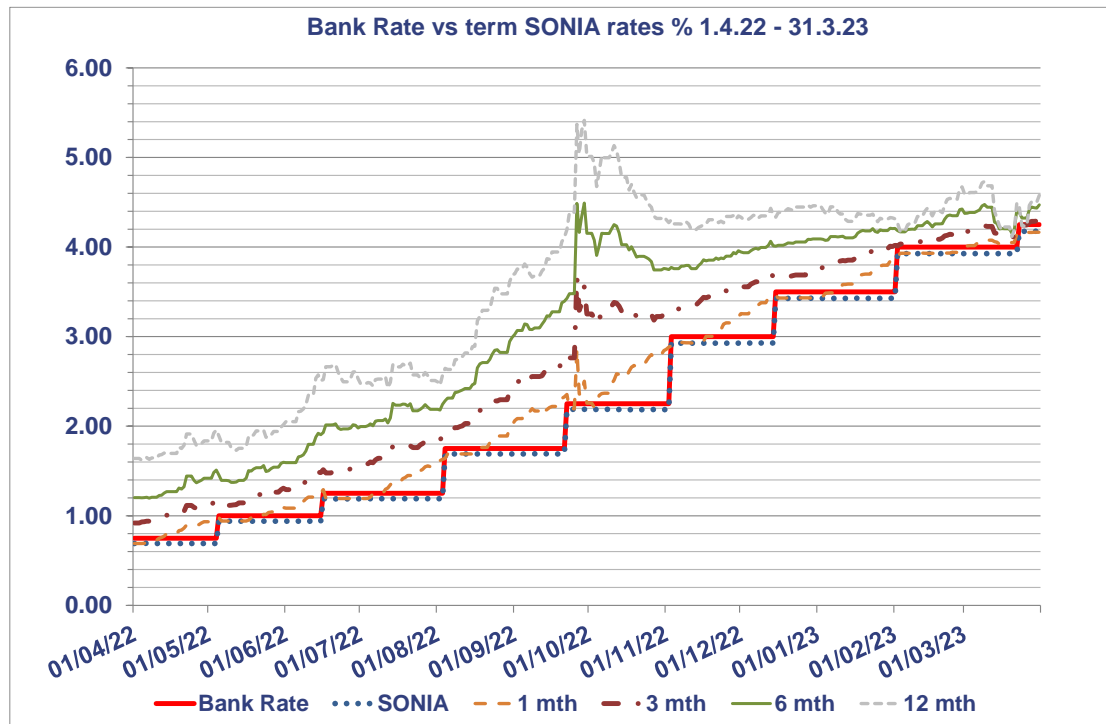
The amounts held in call accounts can be called back at various points, with the last date being 16th August 2023.

The loan facility to East Cambridgeshire Trading Company runs until March 2026. 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 2022/23

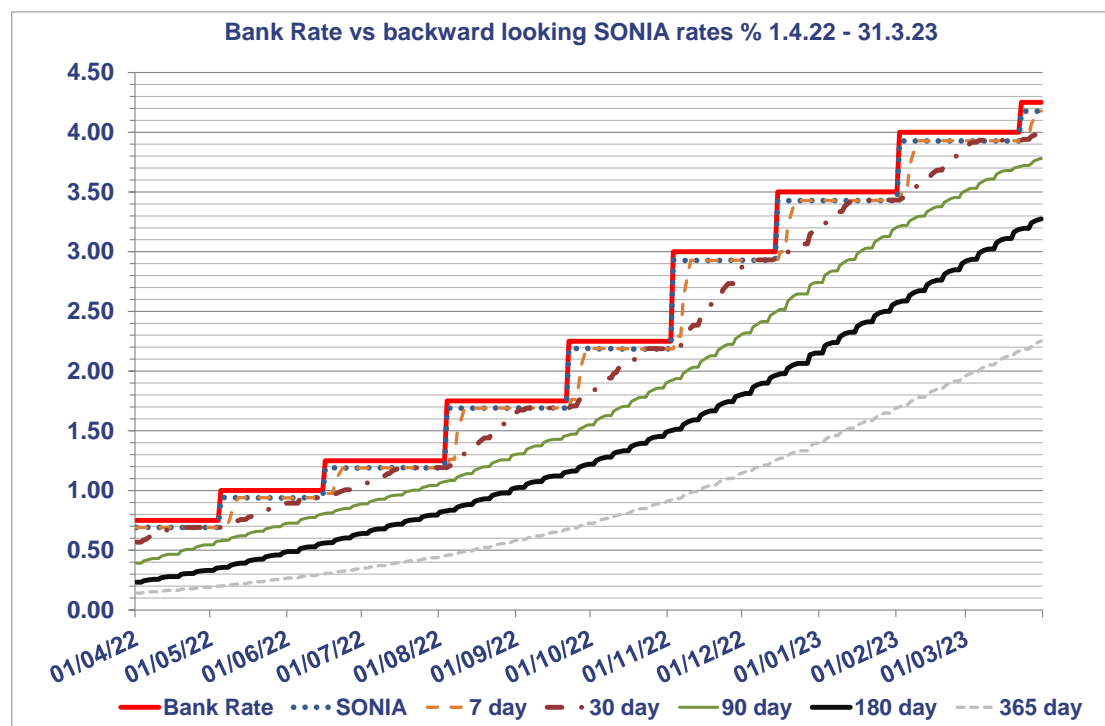
4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Term) 2022/23



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 31/3/2023						
	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	4.25	4.18	4.17	4.30	4.49	5.41
High Date	23/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	29/09/2022	29/09/2022
Low	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.92	1.20	1.62
Low Date	01/04/2022	28/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022	07/04/2022	04/04/2022
Average	2.30	2.24	2.41	2.72	3.11	3.53
Spread	3.50	3.49	3.48	3.38	3.29	3.79

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Backward-looking) 2022/23



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 31/03/2023							
	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	4.25	4.18	4.18	4.00	3.78	3.27	2.25
High Date	23/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023	31/03/2023
Low	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.57	0.39	0.23	0.14
Low Date	01/04/2022	28/04/2022	29/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022
Average	2.30	2.24	2.20	2.09	1.81	1.42	0.90
Spread	3.50	3.49	3.49	3.43	3.39	3.04	2.11

Investment returns picked up throughout the course of 2022/23 as central banks, including the Bank of England, realised that inflationary pressures were not transitory, and that tighter monetary policy was called for.

Starting in April at 0.75%, Bank Rate moved up in stepped increases of either 0.25% or 0.5%, reaching 4.25% by the end of the financial year, with the potential for a further one or two increases in 2023/24.

The sea-change in investment rates meant local authorities were faced with the challenge of proactive investment of surplus cash for the first time in over a decade, 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, equity valuations struggling to make progress and, latterly, property funds enduring a wretched Q4 2022, the more traditional investment options, such as specified investments (simple to understand, and less than a year in duration) became more actively used.

Meantime, through the autumn, and then in March 2023, the Bank of England maintained various monetary policy easing measures as required to ensure specific markets, the banking system and the economy had appropriate levels of liquidity at times of stress.

Nonetheless, while the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, 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 Great 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 2022/23, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not funded with 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 investment returns were initially low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

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 were initially suggesting only gradual rises in short, medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2022/23 but by August it had become clear that inflation was moving up towards 40-year highs, and the Bank of England engaged in monetary policy tightening at every Monetary Policy Committee meeting during 2022, and into 2023, either by increasing Bank Rate by 0.25% or 0.5% each time. The CPI measure of inflation was still above 10% in the UK at the end of March 2023, but is expected to fall back towards 4% by the end of the calendar year. Nonetheless, there remain significant risks to that central forecast.

Forecasts at the time of approval of the treasury management strategy report for 2022/23 were as follows: -

Link Group Interest Rate View		20.12.21													
	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	
BANK RATE	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	
3 month ave earnings	0.20	0.30	0.50	0.50	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
6 month ave earnings	0.40	0.50	0.60	0.60	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	
12 month ave earnings	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	
5 yr PWLB	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	
10 yr PWLB	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.30	
25 yr PWLB	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	
50 yr PWLB	1.50	1.70	1.80	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30	

The current forecast is:

Link Group Interest Rate View		27.03.23												
	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26		
BANK RATE	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50	2.50	2.50		
3 month ave earnings	4.50	4.50	4.30	4.00	3.50	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50	2.50	2.50		
6 month ave earnings	4.50	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.40	3.20	2.90	2.80	2.80	2.60	2.60	2.60		
12 month ave earnings	4.50	4.40	4.20	3.80	3.30	3.10	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70		
5 yr PWLB	4.10	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.10		
10 yr PWLB	4.20	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20		
25 yr PWLB	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40		
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.20	3.20	3.10		

PWLB RATES 2022/23

PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through HM Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc. This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. Indeed, in recent years many bond yields up to 10 years in the Eurozone turned negative on expectations that the EU would struggle to get growth rates and inflation up from low levels. In addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10-year yields have fallen below shorter-term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession.

However, since early 2022, yields have risen dramatically in all the major developed economies, first as economies opened post-Covid; then because of the inflationary impact of the war in Ukraine in respect of the supply side of many goods. In particular, rising cost pressures emanating from shortages of energy and some food categories have been central to inflation rising rapidly. Furthermore, at present the FOMC, ECB and Bank of England are all being challenged by persistent inflation that is exacerbated by very tight labour markets and high wage increases relative to what central banks believe to be sustainable.

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 22nd February 2022. 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 cashflow monies. The Council’s core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources (£000)	31.3.22	31.3.23
Earmarked reserves	16,908	14,964
Provisions	2,046	1,050
Usable capital receipts	1,434	1,481
CIL / Section 106	11,580	13,903
Council Tax Rebate Funding	4,616	0
Cash / Debtors	6,436	8,670
Internal Borrowing	(9,490)	(10,127)
Total	33,530	29,941

Investments held by the Council

- The Council maintained an average balance of £35,029 million of internally managed funds.
- The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 1.729%.
- The comparable performance indicator is the average 365-day backward looking un compounded SONIA rate, which was 0.9159%.
- Total investment income was £605,546 compared to a budget of £38,644.

6. The Economy and Interest Rates

UK. Economy.

Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the easing of Covid restrictions in most developed economies, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a range of different UK Government policies, it is no surprise that UK interest rates have been volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2022/23.

Market commentators’ misplaced optimism around inflation has been the root cause of the rout in the bond markets with, for example, UK, EZ and US 10-year yields all rising by over 200bps in 2022. The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation is elevated but labour markets are extra-ordinarily tight, making it an issue of fine judgment as to how far monetary policy needs to tighten.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	4.25%	3%	4.75%-5%
GDP	0.1%q/q Q4 (4.1%y/y)	+0.1%q/q Q4 (1.9%y/y)	2.6% Q4 Annualised
Inflation	10.4%y/y (Feb)	6.9%y/y (Mar)	6.0%y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	3.7% (Jan)	6.6% (Feb)	3.6% (Feb)

Q2 of 2022 saw UK GDP deliver growth of +0.1% q/q, but this was quickly reversed in the third quarter, albeit some of the fall in GDP can be placed at the foot of the extra Bank Holiday in the wake of the Queen's passing. Q4 GDP was positive at 0.1% q/q. Most recently, January saw a 0.3% m/m increase in GDP as the number of strikes reduced compared to December. In addition, the resilience in activity at the end of 2022 was, in part, due to a 1.3% q/q rise in real household disposable incomes. A big part of that reflected the £5.7bn payments received by households from the government under the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

Nevertheless, CPI inflation picked up to what should be a peak reading of 11.1% in October, although hopes for significant falls from this level will very much rest on the movements in the gas and electricity markets, as well as the supply-side factors impacting food prices. On balance, most commentators expect the CPI measure of inflation to drop back towards 4% by the end of 2023. As of February 2023, CPI was 10.4%.

The UK unemployment rate fell through 2022 to a 48-year low of 3.6%, and this despite a net migration increase of c500k. The fact remains, however, that with many economic participants registered as long-term sick, the UK labour force shrunk by c500k in the year to June. Without an increase in the labour force participation rate, it is hard to see how the UK economy will be able to grow its way to prosperity, and with average wage increases running at over 6% the MPC will be concerned that wage inflation will prove just as sticky as major supply-side shocks to food (up 18.3% y/y in February 2023) and energy that have endured since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 22 February 2022.

Bank Rate increased steadily throughout 2022/23, starting at 0.75% and finishing at 4.25%.

In the interim, following a Conservative Party leadership contest, Liz Truss became Prime Minister for a tumultuous seven weeks that ran through September and October. Put simply, the markets did not like the unfunded tax-cutting and heavy spending policies put forward by her Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and their reign lasted barely seven weeks before being replaced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. Their Autumn Statement of the 17th of November gave rise to a net £55bn fiscal tightening, although much of the "heavy lifting" has been left for the next Parliament to deliver. However, the markets liked what they heard, and UK gilt yields have reversed the increases seen under the previous tenants of No10/11 Downing Street, although they remain elevated in line with developed economies generally.

As noted above, GDP has been tepid throughout 2022/23, although the most recent composite Purchasing Manager Indices for the UK, US, EZ and China have all surprised to the upside, registering survey scores just above 50 (below suggests economies are contracting, and above suggests expansion). Whether that means a shallow recession, or worse, will be avoided is still unclear. Ultimately, the MPC will want to see material evidence of a reduction

in inflationary pressures and a loosening in labour markets. Realistically, that is an unlikely outcome without unemployment rising and wage settlements falling from their current levels. At present, the bigger rise in employment kept the ILO unemployment rate unchanged at 3.7% in January. Also, while the number of job vacancies fell for the ninth consecutive month in February, they remained around 40% above pre-pandemic levels.

Our economic analysts, Capital Economics, expect real GDP to contract by around 0.2% q/q in Q1 and forecast a recession this year involving a 1.0% peak-to-trough fall in real GDP.

The £ has remained resilient of late, recovering from a record low of \$1.035, on the Monday following the Truss government's "fiscal event", to \$1.23. Notwithstanding the £'s better run of late, 2023 is likely to see a housing correction of some magnitude as fixed-rate mortgages have moved above 4.5% and affordability has been squeezed despite proposed Stamp Duty cuts remaining in place.

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 started 2023 strongly, rising to a record high of 8,014 on 20th February, as resilient data and falling inflation boosted earnings. But global equities fell sharply after concerns over the health of the global banking system emerged early in March. The fall in the FTSE 100 was bigger than the drop in the US S&P 500. Indeed, at around 7,600 now, the FTSE is 5.2% below its record high on 20th February, while the S&P 500 is only 1.9% lower over the same period. That's despite UK banks having been less exposed and equity prices in the UK's financial sector not falling as far. It may be due to the smaller decline in UK interest rate expectations and bond yields, which raise the discounted value of future earnings, compared to the US.

USA. The flurry of comments from Fed officials over recent months suggest there is still an underlying hawkish theme to their outlook for interest rates. Markets are pricing in a further interest rate increases of 25-50bps, on top of the current interest rate range of 4.75% - 5%.

In addition, the Fed is expected to continue to run down its balance sheet once the on-going concerns about some elements of niche banking provision are in the rear-view mirror.

As for inflation, it is currently at c6% but with the economy expected to weaken during 2023, and wage data already falling back, there is the prospect that should the economy slide into a recession of any kind there will be scope for rates to be cut at the backend of 2023 or shortly after.

EU. Although the Euro-zone inflation rate has fallen below 7%, the ECB will still be mindful that it has further work to do to dampen inflation expectations and it seems destined to raise rates to 4% in order to do so. Like the UK, growth has remained more robust than anticipated but a recession in 2023 is still seen as likely by most commentators.

7. Other Issues

IFRS 16

The implementation of IFRS16, bringing currently off-balance sheet leased assets onto the balance sheet, has been delayed until 2024/25.

TITLE: EAST CAMBS STREET SCENE OBSERVER

Committee: Council

Date: 13 July 2023

Author: Director Commercial

Report No: Y28

Contact Officer:

Emma Grima, Director Commercial

Emma.grima@eastcambs.gov.uk (01353) 616960 Room No. 127, The Grange, Ely

1.0 ISSUE

1.1. To consider changes to the Observers on the East Cambs Street Scene (ECSS) Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Members are requested to:

- (i) amend the Shareholder Agreement (ref P5 para 4.4) to read “**The Deputy Leader of Council and the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of Operational Services are appointed as Observers to the Board**”;
- (ii) appoint the Vice Chairman of the Operational Services Committee as an Observer to the ECSS Board.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1. On 17 October 2019 (Agenda Item 15) the Council approved changes to the Board of Directors, including appointing Observers to the Board of ECSS. The Deputy Leader of Council and Chairman of Operational Services Committee were appointed as Observers to the Board.

3.2. Councillor Julia Huffer is now the Deputy Leader of Council and Chairman of Operational Services Committee. This would effectively mean that only one Member is serving as an Observer on the ECSS Board.

3.3. Members are reminded that an Observer has no voting rights. The role and rights of the Observers were provided to Council as an Appendix on 17 October 2019.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1. The intention of Council was to have two Members serving on the Board as Observers and as such it is recommended that Council consider an alternative appointment of an Observer to the Board.

4.2. It is proposed that the Vice Chairman of Operational Services as an alternative to the Chairman of the Committee, can be appointed as Observer to the ECSS Board.

- 4.3. If Members approve the recommendations, set out above, the Shareholder Agreement will need to be amended, specifically clause 4.4.
- 4.4. No changes to the Articles of Association are needed.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required.
- 5.3. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

None.

Background Documents:

Council – 17 October 2019 (Agenda Item 15)
Shareholder Agreement

TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Committee: Council

Date: 13 July 2023

Author: Chief Executive

Report No: Y29

Contact Officer: John Hill, Chief Executive

Email: john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk

Tel: 01353 616271

Room No: 103, The Grange, Ely

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1. Establishment of 'task and finish' Constitutional Review Working Party.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. Members are requested to approve the establishment of a Constitutional Review Working Party with the terms of reference set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Constitution has been subject to incremental change arising from specific Council decisions. There has not been an opportunity for a fundamental review of the Constitution. There is a requirement for further recommended amendments from officers and given we now have a new Council, it seems opportune to review the Constitution.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSION(S)

- 4.1. The proposed terms of reference are outlined in Appendix 1. It is recommended that the Chairman of Council should chair the Working Party. In addition, it should be a 'task and finish' member group to make its final recommendations to the February 2024 Council. There is an opportunity to align this work with a new IRP review of Members Allowances and review their recommendations prior to consideration by full Council.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT / CARBON IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. The financial implications of the establishment of the Working Party, specifically the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Chair and Vice Chair, will be met from existing resources.
- 5.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required at this stage.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed terms of reference

Background Documents:

None

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

1.0 CONSTITUTION

- 1.1 The Constitutional Review Working Party, appointed by Council, shall comprise 6 elected members. The Chairman of Council will chair the Working Party.
- 1.2 The Working Party will be a 'task and finish' member body and will report to the February 2024 Council.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To review the East Cambridgeshire District Council Constitution to ensure it meets the objectives of efficiency, transparency and accountability.

3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The Working Party's terms of reference shall be to:
- make recommendations to February 2024 Full Council to amend the existing Constitution to meet the objectives set out in paragraph 2.1;
 - review the existing Constitution to ensure it continues to be 'fit for purpose' as set out in the 'Purpose of the Constitution' – ref: Part 2 (page 2) para 1.03;
 - review the recommendations of any IRP convened for consideration by February 2024 Council.

4.0 OPERATION OF THE WORKING GROUP

- 4.1 The Working Party will agree a programme of work and a frequency of meetings that reflects the priorities it identifies.
- 4.2 The lead officers for the Working Party will be Director, Legal/Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer.
- 4.3 All will be clerked and minuted.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

Reports from Constituent Council Representatives on the Combined Authority

Audit and Governance Committee
Date 9 June 2023
Councillor Mark Inskip

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date 19 June 2023
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Charlotte Cane

Combined Authority Board
Date 31 May 2023
Councillor Anna Bailey

The following meetings have taken place in May and June 2023.

Audit and Governance Committee – 9 June 2023

The Audit and Governance Committee met on 9 June 2023. The decision summary is attached as Appendix 1.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 June 2023

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 19 June 2023. The decision summary is attached as Appendix 2.

Combined Authority Board – 31 May 2023 (AGM and Ordinary)

The Combined Authority Board met on 31 May 2023 for its Annual General Meeting and a subsequent Ordinary Meeting. The decision summaries are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.

Audit and Governance Committee Decision Statement

Meeting: 9 June 2023
 Agenda/Minutes: [Audit and Governance Committee 9 June 2023](#)
 Chair: John Pye (Chair and Independent Person)

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

Item	Topic	Decision [None of the decisions below are Key Decisions]
1.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest	Apologies were received from Cllr Smith and his substitute Cllr Pounds. Cambridge City appointed Cllr Tim Griffin as the temporary substitute and was in attendance. No disclosable interests were declared.
2.	Election of Vice Chair	Nominated by Cllr Harvey and seconded by Cllr Inskip - Cllr Graham Wilson was elected as Vice Chair for the ensuing year.
3.	Co-Option of Independent Member	RESOLVED The Committee advise the CA Board that the Committee has requested that officers look into creating a process for selecting a co-opted independent member from one of the constituent councils. An amendment to the Constitution be brought back to the Committee which would formally allow for co-opted members on the Audit and Governance Committee. The Committee requested that officers look into co-opting an Independent Member as a trial.
4.	Chair's Announcements	Draft Accounts – moved to July meeting: Due to a combination of delays in several key reports required for inclusion in the draft accounts, including the pension fund position and asset valuations, and the additional pressure of providing audit evidence for the 21-22 audit while also preparing the 22-23 accounts, the publication of the CPCA's draft accounts has been delayed. The pensions valuation, and the delay to audits are national issues, as can be seen by the majority of the other Mayoral Combined Authorities missing the deadline this year, and that the overall fraction of Local Authorities missing the deadline is widely expected to have increased this year from 23% of upper tier and 37% of lower tier authorities for 21-22 accounts. Subject to the relevant reports being completed the Combined Authority is aiming to deliver draft accounts in time for the Committee's July meeting. Member Induction Day – 22nd June 9am at Anglia Ruskin University - Peterborough, University House
5.	Minutes	RESOLVED The minutes of the meetings held on 24th March 2023 were approved as a correct record. Under consideration of the Action Log the Interim Monitoring Officer advised that all recommendations from the A&G Committee regarding the Constitution were accepted by the Board and all comments would be taken into the refreshed constitution.
6.	Single Assurance Framework	RESOLVED The Committee noted the report.

7.	Shareholder Board Update	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Noted the update and requested that an annual report which would outline the activities of the shareholder board including background information of each of the Combined Authority companies be added to the agenda for March. 2 Requested that the Company Secretary notify all members of A&G when the Shareholder Board meeting takes place. 3 Cllr Coles would attend the first meeting and report back to the Committee.
8.	Improvement Framework	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Considered progress against the stated areas of improvement identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and Best Value Notice received in January 2023. 2 to note the reframed improvement plan (to be) agreed by the CA Board at its meeting on 31 May 2023 3 to note the observations of the Independent Improvement Board held on 22 May 2023. 4 to note the observations from the recent meetings between the Combined Authority corporate management team and constituent councils management teams. 5 to note the proposed RAG rating methodology to measure progress of improvement activity against the agreed reframed Improvement Plan. 6 to note the progress made on the appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board.
9.	Corporate Performance Report	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 review and assess plans to develop and implement an interim performance management framework. 2 approve the plans as set out in this report.
10.	Corporate Risk Register	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To defer this item to the next meeting due to time constraints.
11.	Outcome and Recommendations from Procurement Review and High-Level Action Plan	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Recommend to the CA Board the Implementation of the high level action plan as set out in Appendix 2 - Action Plan 2 Recommend that the CA Board approve the recruitment of the additional posts noted in the high level action plan (2 procurement and contracts officers and 1 contract manager) and that the costs of these posts will need to be built into the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2024-25 onwards
12.	Establishment of a Sub-Committee	<p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 that an Audit & Governance Sub-committee be established to discharge any of the functions of the parent Audit & Governance committee including forming a hearings panel. 2 That an Audit & Governance Sub-committee hearing panel be established consisting of at least four members of the Audit and Governance committee to include an independent person who may be best suited to chair the meetings to ensure neutrality and remove any appearance of bias or predetermination.

		<p>3 The Monitoring Officer be authorised as proper officer to accept changes to membership of the sub-committees, such change to be notified before the start of a meeting. Those Members will be appointed with effect from the date at which the Monitoring officer is advised of the names of such Members.</p> <p>4 the following members be appointed to the sub committee: Mr John Pye (Chair) Cllr Andy Coles Cllr Simon Smith Cllr Graham Wilson</p>
13.	Internal Audit – Draft Annual Report	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Note the draft annual report from the Internal Auditors.</p>
14.	Internal Audit – Progress Report	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Note the progress report from the Internal Auditors.</p>
15.	Internal Audit – Plan 23/24	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Note the Internal Audit Plan 23/24.</p>
16.	Revision to Scheme of Delegation	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Committee reviewed the suggested update to the Scheme of Delegation of the Combined Authority recommended to the CA Board to adopt changes as revisions to the Constitution.</p>
17.	Work Programme	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Note the work programme.</p>
18.	Date of next meeting	<p>7 July 2023</p> <p>Pathfinder House, Huntingdon DC</p>

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Decision Statement

Meeting: 19 June 2023
 Agenda/Minutes: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 June 2023](#)
 Chair: Councillor Charlotte Cane

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

Item	Topic	Decision [None of the decisions below are Key Decisions]
1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from Cllr Maureen Davis substituted by Cllr Elisabeth Sennitt Clough and Cllr Michael Atkins substituted by Cllr Anna Bradnam.
2.	Election of Chair	Cllr Charlotte Cane was appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.
3.	Election of Vice Chair	Cllr Andy Coles was appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.
4.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
5.	Public Questions	There were no public questions
6.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Log	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and the Action Log was noted.
7.	Co-Option of Independent Member	RESOLVED 1 Consider the co-option of an independent member (and substitute) from a Constituent Council. Following consideration Committee decided against co-option of an Independent Member at the current time, reserving the right to do so in the future.
8.	Delivering Scrutiny Function	RESOLVED 1 Option A be supported, noting the need to maximise the use of limited Member capacity and availability 2 Officers develop an implementation plan and work programme proposals for the delivery of Option A to be considered at the July OSC meeting, with the intention that they be implemented following that meeting 3 An Access to Information Protocol that reflects matters raised in the scrutiny workshop, as well as the review of governance, and best practice, be brought for consideration to the July OSC meeting and the Combined Authority Board meeting 4 An analysis of required officer support for the delivery of Option A be undertaken and reported to the Independent Improvement Board, along with a proposal to strengthen officer support to the scrutiny function, noting future English Devolution Accountability Framework requirements 5 OSC recommend to the Combined Authority Board that the Combined Authority commit to developing a 6–12 month Forward Plan 6 Ways of working between Board and Thematic Committees and the Scrutiny function be developed to drive

		<p>opportunities for early OSC involvement in key decision-making and strategy development</p> <p>7 The Improvement Plan Highlight Report be presented to each informal meeting scheduled for review to help direct focus and challenge at subsequent OSC meetings</p>
9.	Implementing the Combined Authority's Corporate Strategy and Business Plan	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 To note progress made in implementing the Combined Authority's (CA's) Corporate Strategy and Business Plan.</p>
10.	Interim Performance Management Framework	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 To note progress to develop and implement an interim performance management framework and a performance management framework.</p>
11.	Improvement Framework Report	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1 Note the progress against stated areas of improvement identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and Best Value Notice received in January 2023 as reported to the CA Board on 31 May 2023.</p> <p>2 Note the reframed improvement plan agreed by the CA Board at its meeting on 31 May 2023.</p> <p>3 Note the observations of the Independent Improvement Board held on 22 May 2023.</p> <p>4 Note the proposed RAG rating methodology to measure progress of improvement activity against the agreed reframed Improvement Plan.</p> <p>5 Note the progress to the appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board.</p>
12.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1. The Committee noted the Forward Plan</p>
13.	Draft Work Programme	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>1. The Committee noted the existing work programme and requested that officers develop the example work programme at appendix 2 to align with the agreed way forward discussed earlier in the meeting and bring this back to the July meeting for the Committee to review</p>
14.	Date of next meeting	24 July 2023, 11am

Combined Authority Board Decision Statement

Meeting: 31 May 2023 (AGM)
 Agenda/Minutes: [CA Board 31 May 2023 \(AGM\)](#)
 Chair: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah Conboy (Councillor Tom Sanderson substituting), Darryl Preston (John Peach substituting) and John O'Brien.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Appointment of Deputy Mayor(s)

The Mayor announced Councillor Anna Smith as Deputy Mayor.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 22 March 2023 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

The minutes action log was noted.

4 Petitions

No petitions were received.

5 Public Questions

Ten public questions were received in advance of the meeting in accordance with the procedure rules in the Constitution. A copy of the questions and responses can be viewed [here](#) when available.

6 Membership of the Combined Authority

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note the Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023-24 (Appendix 1)
- B Confirm that the following bodies be given co-opted member status for the municipal year 2023/24:
 - a) The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire
 - b) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority
 - c) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board
- C Note the named representative and substitute representative for each organisation as set out in the report. **(Noting an error in the papers: the substitute for Peterborough is Councillor Steve Allen not Councillor Oliver Sainsbury)**
- D Agree that any late notifications of appointments to the Monitoring Officer shall take immediate effect.

7 Appointments to Thematic Committees, Committee Chairs and Lead Members

It was resolved unanimously 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 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1
- B Note the Committee Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023/24 (Appendix 1).
- C Note and agree the Membership for the HR Committee for 2023/24 (Appendix 1)

The Mayor noted his intention to create a new Lead Member position for Devolution.

8 Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was resolved unanimously 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 2023/24.
- B To agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.
- C Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2. **(Noting a second nominee for Cambridge City Council is still awaited.)**
- 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

9 Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Confirm 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 To agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.
- C Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2.
- D Appoint the Independent Person as Chair for the municipal year 2022/23 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.
- E Approve the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council to the Audit and Governance Committee and delegations given to the Audit and Governance Committee to appoint the co-optee.

10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report

It was resolved unanimously to

- A Note the content of the report.

11 Audit and Governance Annual Report

It was resolved unanimously to

- A Note the content of the report.

12 Calendar of Meetings

It was resolved unanimously to

- A Approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 (Appendix 1).

Combined Authority Board Decision Statement

Meeting: 31 May 2023 (Ordinary)
Agenda/Minutes: CA Board 31 May 2023 (Ordinary)
Chair: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

13 Combined Authority Monthly Highlights Report

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note the content of the report.

14 Budget Outturn Report [KD2023/018]

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note the outturn position of the Combined Authority for the 2022-23 financial year
- B Approve the updated requested slippage of unspent project budgets on the approved capital programme of £56.8m and on the revenue budget of £13.7m
- C Approve the ringfencing of £2.4m on treasury management income into an inflationary reserve as set out in paragraph 4.8

15 Improvement Plan Update

It was resolved unanimously:

- A To note the progress on the key areas of concern identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and in the Best Value Notice received in January 2023
- B To agree a 5th strategic objective of “Achieving Best Value and High Performance” for the Combined Authority to support and reflect the work being undertaken within the Improvement Programme
- C To note the observations from the recent stocktake exercise with partners on positive changes and progress on improvement
- D To agree the outline reframed Improvement Plan to address the key areas of concern by the External Auditor and Best Value Notice
- E To note the proposed RAG rating methodology to measure progress of improvement activity against the agreed reframed Improvement Plan
- F To note the progress made on the appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board

16 Constitution Changes

It was resolved unanimously:

- A To approve and adopt the revisions to the Constitution as detailed in the report

17 Forward Plan

It was resolved unanimously:

- A To approve the Forward Plan for May 2023

18 Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

It was resolved unanimously to defer this item to a future meeting of the Combined Authority Board.

19 Variation to Loan to Support Residential Development at Histon Road, Cambridge

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note that the Final Repayment date of the loan has been extended from 7 May 2023 to 30 September 2023 or earlier
- B Note that a second loan and a second charge is to be registered against the property that serves as CPCA's security
- C Note that authority has been delegated to the Monitoring Officer or the Head of Legal Services to finalise terms in consultation with the Interim Executive Director for Place and Connectivity and complete the necessary documentation to implement the Deed of Priority with the second Lender.

20 Local Skills Improvement Plan Update [2023/024]

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Receive an update regarding the publication of the Local Skills Improvement Plan
- B Note the publication of the LSIP
- C Approve the statement of the Combined Authority
- D Note further devolved powers over LSIPs in the Trailblazer Devolution Deals secured by Greater Manchester and West Midlands Combined Authorities

21 Employment Matters

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note recommendation A.

22 Additional CPCA equity investment into Peterborough HE Property Company Ltd [KD2023/015]

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Approve recommendation A
- B Approve recommendation B.

