EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES WITHIN THE REMIT OF THE FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE

2025-26

(Including reports from representatives for 2024-25)

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Organisations (including 2024-25 reports, if applicable)

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PRIORITY CATEGORY OF OFFICER SUPPORT

- 1. Nominated officers to provide Members with regular support on a proactive basis and attend meetings where appropriate (including those outside bodies where officers attend at present).
- 2. Nominated officers to provide ad hoc support on specific agenda issues and act as a contact for feedback and implementation of action points. The onus will be on the Member to contact the nominated officer to facilitate these arrangements.
- 3. Members should liaise directly with Democratic Services.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

East Cambs Community Land Trust is incorporated to enable affordable homes to be owned and managed by an independent locally-run body that enables people to live and work locally. It is an "umbrella" Community Land Trust (CLT) and therefore covers a wider area or region than a local CLT and takes a complementary, supportive, role to any local CLTs.

Its purpose is to carry on, for the benefit of people in need (whether by virtue of poverty, financial hardship, age, physical or mental disability or ill health), in East Cambridgeshire:

- The business of providing and managing housing (including social housing) and facilitating the provision and management of such housing;
- The provision of, and facilitating the provision of, information, advice, assistance, training, support, facilities, amenities and services incidental to the provision and promotion of housing;
- The promotion of regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in such ways as may be thought fit by the Trustees;
- Any other charitable object that can be carried out from time to time by a community land trust and which the Trustees consider would further the social, economic and environmental interest of the community in the area of benefit.

Representation: Up to three Members (total of one vote

irrespective of number of Members.)

Status of Member: Custodian Nominee Trustee

No. meetings per year: 3-4

Expenses paid by organisation: No

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 1): 3

Contact Officer: Director Community, Sally Bonnett

Representative for 2025/26: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 1 of 1 meeting)

ECCLT is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, run by volunteers. The Trust was established in November 2017 as an umbrella Community Land Trust (CLT) for the whole of East Cambridgeshire. ECCLT supports the work of the Council in promoting Community Land Trust development in the district and in securing affordable homes that help to enable people with ties to the area to live and work locally.

ECCLT owns and manages two affordable homes within Montgomery House that were part of the East Cambs Trading Company's Kings Row development in Barton Road, Ely which are occupied by local people. ECCLT also manages the Montgomery House building.

ECCLT has completed the arrangements with East Cambs Trading Company to take on the ownership and management of 15 shared ownership affordable homes on at Simeon Close in Ely; one property has since been purchased to 100%. Tenants living in the properties are selected using the Trust's local allocations policy, meaning those eligible people with the strongest ties to the community are benefiting.

The Trust held its AGM in September 2024.

Continued representation on this outside body is very important – the District Council has Custodian Member status and has responsibilities to the Trust in that regard. Membership also helps to pursue the stated Corporate Plan housing objectives of the Council.

This organisation facilitates the delivery of affordable homes and supports the outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

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EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- To represent the interests of local authorities in the region;
- To formulate sound policies for the development of local government in the region;
- To promote the policies of the East of England LGA and provide information/advice on local government issues to the public and partner organisations;
- To enable Councillors to exercise their democratic accountability and leadership effectively:
- To support innovation and excellence that enables local authorities and their partnerships to meet the needs of their communities and meet future challenges.

Representation: Leader of Council

Status of Member: Representative of ECDC

No. meetings per year:

Expenses paid by organisation: No

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 1): 1

Contact Officer: Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2025/26: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 3 of 3 meetings)

This is a member-led organisation whose core services are funded by member subscriptions from the East of England.

Core Services are a universal offer available to all subscribing members and provided free at the point of access. They include programmes of activity in priority areas, support for regional member and officer networks, a range of free events and briefings, specific helpdesk and advice services, as well as activity undertaken jointly with Trade Unions in its role as the Regional Employers Organisation.

The organisation provides support and advice to the Council, particularly adding value when in-house services are not available.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile; the organisation is useful to the Council in providing briefings, information, support and expertise and in representing local Government with central Government.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

To support, promote and improve local government in England and Wales.

To support Councillors in their role as democratically elected local representatives.

Representation: One Member

Status of Member: Representative of ECDC (voting Member)

No. meetings per year:

Expenses paid by organisation: Yes (attendance only, not travel)

Insurance provision: No

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 1

Contact Officer: Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2025/26: Cllr Julia Huffer

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer not received

LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS NETWORK

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- To lobby and negotiate directly with senior members of national political parties on district-specific needs and issues – the "localism" agenda;
- To inform and influence national agencies, government departments and other local authority agencies on things that matter, such as resources and allocation;
- To get the Network's unique message across to the audiences that matter people, Government, partners, regulators;
- Help each other to remain effective and share learning/good practice.

Representation: Leader of Council

Status of Member: ECDC representative

No. meetings per year: 4

Expenses paid by organisation: No

Insurance provision: No

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 1

Contact Officer: Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2025/26: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 4 of 4 meetings).

The District Councils' Network (DCN) is a cross-party member led network of district councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), and provides a single voice for all district councils within the Local Government Association.

Being a member of the network supports the work of the organisation, provides valuable information and data to the Council and facilitates networking, helping the Council to lobby Government and fulfil its statutory and non-statutory activities.

Topics vary and cover most aspects of the functions of District Councils.

This organisation has been an incredibly effective conduit for District Councils and central Government, particularly in relation to dealings with the MHCLG; it has meant that District Councils have had a strong and united voice and this is proving to be particularly important in relation to Local Government Reorganisation and devolution.

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK.

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

 A membership organisation championing rural services. It campaigns for fair funding for rural areas and aims to share best practice across the membership.

Representation: Two Members

Status of Member:

No. meetings per year: 12

Expenses paid by organisation: No

Insurance provision: No

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Director Community, Sally Bonnett

Representatives for 2025/26: Keith Horgan

Julia Huffer

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 10 of 11 meetings)

The Rural Services Network encompasses a wide range of local authorities, partners and organisations who all work together to help provide a voice for rural communities. Over 20,000 members belong to the network.

Topics covered this year include rural transport, planning, affordable housing, connectivity, health& Care, Net Zero and the impending Digital telephone line switchover by BT and other phone providers. Discussions on these subjects helps to inform me of matters that can and will impact local residents of East Cambs. Fair funding for rural communities remains a mainstream topic of conversation and debate by the RSN as it is continuing its efforts to close the gap in the funding rural communities receive when compared to urban communities.

Cllr Julia Huffer

(Not Received.)

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

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Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are public bodies that manage water levels in areas where there is a special need for drainage. They reduce flood risk to people and property and they manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs. IDBs are funded by a combination of drainage rates levied on the owners of farmland, and special levies on District and Unitary Councils. District Councils appoint representatives to IDBs, the number of representatives being determined by the IDBs by consideration of the percentage of the Board's income being paid by each Council.

Haddenham Level IDB is part of the Middle Level Commissioners, all other IDBs on which ECDC is represented are part of the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards.

Appointment of ECDC representatives to Internal Drainage Boards has been discussed at various Council and Committee meetings¹ and the following process has been agreed:

- 1. Nominations should be invited from the Members of Council.
- 2. If vacancies cannot all be filled from within the District Council then:
 - a. former District Councillors who are willing to continue in their IDB role could be nominated as a layperson, and;
 - b. the relevant Parish Council(s) should be invited to submit nominations.

If there are more nominations than vacancies then consideration should be given to the candidates' prior knowledge and experience of both the geographical area and the issues relevant to IDBs. In all cases, the final decision on each appointment rests with the Finance & Assets Committee.

BURNT FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Ely North

Littleport

Parish Councils covered: City of Ely Council

Littleport Parish Council

Representation: Two Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by the Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr Martin Goodearl

Derrick Beckett

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Martin Goodearl

(Not received.)

Derrick Beckett (lay member)

(Not received.)

CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Ely West

Parish Councils covered: City of Ely Council

Representation: Seven Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr Christine Colbert

Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann

Cllr Christine Whelan

Rupert Moss-Eccardt

Rebecca Denness

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Colbert (Attended 2 of 3 meetings)

As Ely is only about 80 feet above sea level and the highest point, I believe, in East Cambs District Council area, close working relations with any organisation involved in the provision/control of drainage systems is vital.

Cllr Christine Whelan (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

It is an important as it keeps areas of development from flooding. Especially when considering plans for new developments in the flood zones.

I think representation is important as budgeting for the drainage relies on special allowances and this could be costly to the area, however there is little opportunity to report back at the relevant committee meetings. This should be addressed.

The main pipe and culvert is in need of repair and this will cause considerable damage to land leased by the Council which is at present being used as the Dock Car Park. If this area is not maintained, then there will be serious problems for this piece of land.

There have been discussions recently on merging some of the IDB into bigger boards and cover bigger areas. There have been no definite decisions on this yet.

Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann

(Not received.)

Rupert Moss-Eccardt

(Not received.)

Cllr Caroline Shepard

(Not received.)

Rebecca Denness (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

The ILDs, including Cawdle Fen ILDB, are critical to the management of water and helping to prevent flooding locally. They are vital for local farmers and other residents.

Representation on the Board is important to ensure good communication between representatives of authorities. It is particularly important in terms of preparing for exceptional weather events, including torrential rain in which low lying areas are particularly vulnerable.

The business of the committee feeds directly into the Climate and Sustainability work of Councils at all levels in Cambridgeshire.

HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Haddenham

Stretham Sutton

Parish Councils covered: Haddenham Parish Council

Stretham Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council

Representation: Two Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr Gareth Wilson

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Gareth Wilson

(Not received.)

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham (attended 3 of 3 meetings)

ECDC are committed to ensuring that East Cambridgeshire continues to be a district where people want to live, work and visit and ensuring flood defences are maintained is a critical element of this commitment

Continued work on the monitoring of the construction of irrigation reservation reservoirs at Willow Hall Farm following the approval by the County Council. The HIDB has now reached an agreement with Mick George Ltd around the how the HIDB will manage, monitor and control the de-watering activities year-round and monitoring continues

HIDB are also extremely concerned about the proliferation of 'SUDS' on new housing developments which is not a sustainable drainage solution and is increasing run off into HIDB drainage area.

This is a precepting body with the duty of protecting the Haddenham & Aldreth area from flooding and providing irrigation for agriculture and the meetings give a real insight into issues affecting farming and agriculture. The 2024/2025 winter has seen low levels of rainfall and it continues to be critical that the knowledge of the issues and detail from the HIDB are understood by ECDC.

LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Downham Villages
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Ely North Littleport Stretham Sutton

Parish Councils covered: Coveney Parish Council

Little Downham Parish Council Little Thetford Parish Council Littleport Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council Witchford Parish Council

Representation: Six Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith

Cllr Lorna Dupré

Cllr Martin Goodearl

Cllr David Miller

Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith

(Not received.)

Cllr Lorna Dupré

(Not received.)

Cllr Martin Goodearl

(Not received.)

Cllr David Miller

(Not received.)

Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher

(Not received.)

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

(Not received.)

MIDDLE FEN & MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Ely East

Ely North

Fordham & Isleham

Soham North Soham South

Parish Councils covered: City of Ely Council

Fordham Parish Council Isleham Parish Council Soham Town Council Wicken Parish Council

Representation: Five Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr lan Bovingdon

Cllr Mark Goldsack

Cllr Keith Horgan

Cllr Lucius Vellacott

Alec Jones

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ian Bovingdon

(Not received.)

Cllr Mark Goldsack

(Not received.)

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 1 of 3 meetings- due to holiday clashes)

Effective management of the water levels, pumping assets and drainage of East Cambridgeshire remains essential to the sustainability of our local community. Without the tireless work of our drainage boards we would quickly be under water.

More than worthwhile, it is essential to our residents and, in particular, our farming community. Staying informed on the challenges faced by the IDBs and how they are coping with increased rainfall in winter, droughts in summer and maintaining the pumping infrastructure is a key responsibility for ECDC.

Unsurprisingly the greatest issues faced by this and all IDBs remains as climate change. Challenges to the effective response to this continue to be limited funding, rising energy costs and the need for asset replacement. In an attempt to mitigate this situation the IDBs have started to explore amalgamation to streamline operations and reduce overheads.

Cllr Lucius N Vellacott (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The IDBs do essential work across East Cambridgeshire. They support the council's corporate objectives of supporting businesses to thrive and improving local infrastructure. Their work is often overlooked, but agriculture and development depend on it. They also remain a key consultee on planning applications, which is especially relevant to ECDC.

Middle Fen and Mere IDB raised their Special Levy on the District Council, due to constraints on their funding. A discussion emerged as to amalgamation of the Boards, should this be more financially viable. I believe that the Council should engage with the Boards to find alternatives alongside the new Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, such as via delivery of a network of reservoirs, and/or lobbying for government funding, as well as ensuring IDBs are equipped to raise income and cut appropriate costs themselves.

I regret that on two occasions I was not able to attend the Board due to personal time clashes. I would like to suggest that IDBs email out papers to councillors where possible, to save money on printing and postage costs. It would be good to have continued email engagement from them and vice versa.

It is therefore essential that the Council continue to appoint representatives to all IDBs.

Alec Jones

(Not received.)

PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Ely North Littleport

Parish Councils covered: City of Ely Council

Littleport Parish Council

Representation: Seven Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr Alison Whelan

Cllr Lis Every

Parish Cllr Clive Webber

tbc

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REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Alison Whelan

(Not received)

Cllr Lis Every

Replied – Unfortunately had been unable to attend.

Parish Cllr Clive Webber (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

(Not received)

SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:Bottisham

Burwell

Fordham & Isleham Soham South

Parish Councils covered: Bottisham Parish Council

Burwell Parish Council Fordham Parish Council Lode Parish Council Reach Parish Council

Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council Swaffham Prior Parish Council

Wicken Parish Council

Representation: Four² Members

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2025/26: Cllr David Brown

Cllr Lavinia Edwards

Cllr Alan Sharp

Cllr John Trapp

REPORTS FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Brown

(Not received)

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² Four Members plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). SCDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby ECDC makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.

Cllr Lavinia Edwards (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of Swaffham Internal Drainage Board fits in with the corporate objectives of the Council as the issues of flooding and water management are both important when dealing with the challenges of climate change.

Continued representation this outside body is worthwhile to the Council due to the Districts agricultural area and helping with planning.

Items of relevance to ECDC which have been considered or discussed by the outside body are flooding, planning applications and setting of the rates.

The work of the Swaffham Drainage Board fits in with ECDC's Corporate Objective because the drainage board maintains a large area of drainage networks in the District.

I think the continued representation of the Drainage Board is worthwhile because the District has a large agricultural element with much employment in this field. The Drainage Board is also a consultee for planning applications.

Items relevant to ECDC which have been discussed by the Outside Boday include setting the levy, climate change, drainage, wildlife, agricultural and flood issues.

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Drainage Board totally fits in with the corporate objectives of the Council, as the issue of flooding and water management is a crucial factor in resolving the challenges that Climate Change presents to us.

I have attended two meetings during the year out of the three arranged, the other meeting clashing with other commitments.

The Board meetings take place at the Drainage Board offices in Prickwillow.

Contributing to the management of The Fens is an important role of the Council and the involvement of Council representatives with this body is totally necessary.

I find the meeting of the Board very interesting and worthwhile, listening to the comments of farming colleagues.

With my role as representative on the Special Interest Group of Councils, who are lobbying Government for a better system of settlement and funding for Drainage Boards the work of the Drainage Boards is even more important, as the issue around proper funding to resolve and tackle the water issues.

Cllr John Trapp (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

- i) This body considers the drainage of the fens that is necessary for continued habitation and future construction of dwellings.
- ii) There is a need for representation on this body to ensure that they are addressing the problems in this area concerning drainage and avoidance of flooding.
- iii) Planning applications that may be affected by their policies, continued survival of existing dwellings.

I can vouch for the integrity and concern for all issues involving drainage within the catchment area of this IDB.

Recently we have been discussing whether IDBs should merge, and debate is continuing; it is isomorphic to the debate about Local Government Reorganization that is currently raging.

WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered: Stretham

Soham South

Parish Councils covered: Little Thetford Parish Council

Stretham Parish Council Wicken Parish Council

Representation: One³ Member

Status of Member: Board Member

No. meetings per year: 3

Expenses paid by organisation: No (paid by Council)

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 6): 3

Contact Officer: Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representative for 2025/26: David Chaplin

REPORT FROM 2024/25 REPRESENTATIVE

David Chaplin (lay member)

(Not received.)

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³ One Member jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). ECDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby SCDC makes the joint appointment to Swaffham IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.