

SCHEDULE OF ITEMS RECOMMENDED FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEMBER BODIES

Committee: Council

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Author: Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

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Contact Officer:

Jane Webb, Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer
jane.webb@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616278, Room 214B, The Grange, Ely

1.0 LICENSING COMMITTEE – 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

a) Licensing Act 2003 – Licensing Authority Statement of Licensing Policy – Five Year Revision

The Licensing Manager presented a report (AA42 attached at Appendix A) that invited the Committee to recommend to Council the revised version of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. It was noted that the new Licensing Policy would come into effect on 7th January 2026.

The Licensing Manager explained that the Council was waiting for the Government to clarify the implications for clubs and other organisations of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law. In reply to Cllr Gareth Wilson, the Licensing Manager confirmed that he had assured the Ely Sailing Club that complying with the Act would be less onerous for smaller clubs than for larger organisations.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that the population figures for the district would be updated in the Preface to the Policy and the capitalisation would be consistent regarding the words Council, district and Licensing Authority throughout the Policy. It was agreed that the reference to a "borough" in paragraph 1.87 should be corrected to "district" and the words "Licensing Authority's" should be corrected to "The Licensing Authority" at the start of paragraph 1.93. It was also agreed that in sub section h) in paragraph 1.106 a comma should be added after the word "of".

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that in the first sentence of paragraph 1.17A on the Promotion of Equality, the word "different" be removed and the word "all" be inserted before the word "individuals", as this was more inclusive.

Following another brief discussion, it was agreed that the words "and partners" should be added after the words "local strategies" in paragraph 1.15 of the Policy to ensure that the strategies of the Council's partners were taken into account.

The Licensing Manager explained that the district did not have any Late-Night Levies, which a local authority could use to raise a contribution towards the costs of policing the nighttime economy. It was noted that the Policy would have to be

reworded if the Mayor took over the responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Julia Huffer proposed, and Cllr Martin Goodearl seconded the recommendations in the report, with the minor amendments agreed above.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- A) Approve the draft version of the Statement of Licensing Policy with the agreed minor amendments.**
- B) Recommend the approved Statement of Licensing Policy to full Council for adoption to come into effect on 7 January 2026.**

2.0 Finance & Assets Committee – 27 November 2025

a) Treasury Operations Mid -Year Review 2025-26

The Committee received a report (AA107, attached at Appendix B) providing an update on the Council's 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy. The Director Finance presented the report and highlighted an error on page 158, where the figure should read £0.9298million and not £9.298million.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr Bovingdon.

It was unanimously resolved to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:**

1. That the mid-year review of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix 1, be **NOTED**.

3.0 Finance & Assets Committee – 29 January 2026

a) 2026/27 Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

The Committee considered a report (AA133 attached at Appendix C) to consider the 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy, the Annual Investment Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement. In the absence of the Director Finance, the Chief Executive presented the report.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr Bovingdon.

Cllr Alison Whelan requested that Members' best wishes be sent to the Director Finance and hoped that he would recover quickly.

Members resolved unanimously **TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL TO APPROVE:**

- The 2026/27 Treasury Management Strategy
- The Annual Investment Strategy
- The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement
- The Prudential and Treasury Indicators.

b) Bereavement Centre Project 6 Monthly Progress Update

The Committee considered a report (AA132, attached at Appendix D) providing Members with a 6 Monthly Progress Update on the Bereavement Centre Project. The Director Operations presented the report.

The Director Operations addressed the following questions from Members:

- Unforeseen budgetary costs emerged because additional piling structures were discovered beneath the slabs, which were not identified during the geotechnical work. These differences have required additional work and, therefore, led to higher costs. A briefing note will be shared with members on the surveys completed and assumptions carried through to the contract
- Kier estimated the groundwork based on the information available at the time. Provisional sums were included to account for unknown or unforeseen factors, such as any additional structures that would be discovered. Provisional sums are included in the contract; any variance from these sums is a potential risk to both the contractor and/or the client.
- The risk had been significantly reduced. Even with the additional contingency request, the total contingency amount remained much lower than what was typically required for a project of this scale. The risks have been effectively managed and mitigated throughout the whole project.
- The budget included an estimate of inflationary costs for the project. Some areas, such as professional fees, experienced greater cost increases than others.
- This project was funded by CIL, which mitigated financial risks from the beginning regarding return on investment; there is no payback period, and it does not impact the bereavement centre's future revenue.
- Value engineering was integrated into the project throughout its entirety, from the design phase to the structural phase. It was also included in the original contract.
- There are no options not to complete the project; options that have been considered to reduce costs include landscaping requirements and the fisherfolk carpark. This additional funding is only for new, emerging risks.
- Social Value Returning to the Area – Still on target to achieve £2.5million of social value over the life of the project. A report is imminent and would be shared with Members when available.
- An average contingency fund for this type of project was typically set at 10%. However, even with the additional funds requested, this project would still maintain only a 4.7% contingency. As a result, the project team and Kier have had to be highly creative in managing costs. The cost consultants recommended £300,000, which is why this amount appears in the report rather than a higher figure.
- It was deemed wise to finalise the highway design for the fisherfolk car park to understand the potential costs involved. Additionally, there was a wide access road at the rear of the lake that the fisherfolk currently used for parking.
- The design work had been factored into the costs for highways, which encompassed the main entrance and the fisherfolk car park. However, the

construction of the fisherfolk car park fell outside the project's scope and would only be deliverable if no risks emerged.

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

Cllr Bailey, as the proposer of the recommendation, thanked the project team, highlighting that it was ahead of schedule and, more importantly, expected to generate revenue by early autumn. She urged Members to keep this request in perspective. A contingency was allocated due to unknowns, even after the surveys were conducted, which helped maintain strong project discipline. Cllr Bailey believed the Council was receiving good value for money. Since this was solely a request for an allocation, it would prevent further delays in the project, and she encouraged all Members to support it.

Cllr Cane expressed her concerns, stating that Members had been informed that this was a low-risk, fixed-price project. However, they were not privy to the conversations with Keir or provided with a detailed breakdown of costs. As a result, she remained unconvinced that the project was being responsibly managed to ensure it stayed within the fixed price. She believed it would be irresponsible to proceed based on the current information. Cllr Cane requested a recorded vote and stated that she could not support the recommendation.

Cllr Miller explained that low risk was different from no risk, and that this project was still low risk, with no significant risks. The contingency monies requested were for the uncertainties that were being discussed.

Cllr Hunt, as seconder to the recommendation, praised the Director Operations for the hard work put into the report and presentation, noting that the information provided had been substantial. This increase in contingency monies was only 2%, which kept it at 4.7%, well below the industry average. When finalised, this project would produce income for the authority.

Cllr Bailey summed up, stating that there were unknowns at the time the budget was set. She emphasised that proceeding with the function room was essential; it would be irresponsible to delay the project. Any holdup could lead to significant contractual issues, delay the facility's opening, and restrict public access, affecting the Council's revenue. Cllr Bailey urged Members to avoid introducing additional risks into the Council by not supporting this recommendation.

Cllr Cane requested a recorded vote, and these were made as follows:

FOR (6): Cllrs Bailey, Bovingdon, Goldsack, Hunt, Miller, and Sharp

AGAINST (6): Cllrs Cane, Denney, Trapp, Wade, Alison Whelan, and Christine Whelan

ABSTAIN (0)

With six votes in favour and six votes against, the vote was tied. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1.4, the Chair had a casting vote which he used to vote in favour of the recommendations.

Members resolved to **NOTE**:

1. The progress towards completion of the Bereavement Centre, and

TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:

2. The approval of up to £300,000 of CIL funding towards the project, for risk contingency.

Appendices

- A. Licensing Act 2003 – Licensing Authority Statement of Licensing Policy – Five-Year Revision
- B. Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review 2025/26
- C. 2026/27 Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
- D. Bereavement Centre Project 6 Monthly Progress Update

