



East Cambridgeshire District Council

Meeting: Finance & Assets Committee

Time: 4:30pm

Date: Thursday 25 June 2026

Venue: Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE

Enquiries regarding this agenda: Jane Webb – Democratic Services & Elections Manager

Telephone: (01353) 665555 Email: Jane.webb@eastcamb.gov.uk

Committee membership

Quorum: 5 members

Conservative members

Cllr Anna Bailey
Cllr Lee Denney
Cllr Mark Goldsack (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Bill Hunt
Cllr David Miller
Cllr Alan Sharp (Chair)

Conservative substitutes

Cllr Ian Bovingdon
Cllr Martin Goodearl
Cllr Julia Huffer

Liberal Democrat & Independent members

Cllr Chika Akinwale
Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann
Cllr Mary Wade
Cllr Alison Whelan (Lead Member)
Cllr Christine Whelan

Liberal Democrat & Independent substitutes

Cllr Charlotte Cane
Cllr Christine Colbert
Cllr John Trapp

Lead Officer: Sally Bonnett, Director Community

Agenda

- 1. Public question time** [oral]
The meeting will commence with up to 15 minutes of public question time.
- 2. Apologies and substitutions** [oral]
- 3. Declarations of interests** [oral]
To receive declarations of interests from Members for any items on the agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

4. Minutes	To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee held on 26 March 2026	Page 5
5. Chair’s Announcements		[oral]
6. Climate & Nature Strategy		Page 17
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11. Bereavement Centre Fees and Charges		Page 49
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15. Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review		Page 79
16. Annual Reports of Representatives of Outside Bodies		Page 99
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Exclusion of the public, including representatives of the press

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items 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 items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1 and 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

18. EXEMPT – ECTC Management Accounts		Page 135
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20. EXEMPT – Write-off of Unrecoverable Debts		Page 151
21. EXEMPT - Minutes – 26 March 2026		Page 155

To confirm as a correct record the Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee held on 26 March 2026

Notes

1. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. If you are visiting The Grange during regular working hours, you should report to the main reception desk. If you attend an evening meeting, please enter through the glass atrium door at the back of the building.

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 livestream of this meeting will be available on [the committee meeting’s webpage \(Finance and Assets Committee\)](#). Please be aware that all attendees, including those in the public gallery, will be visible on the livestream.

2. Public Questions/Statements are welcomed on any topic related to the Committee’s functions as long as there is no suspicion that it is improper (for example, 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](#)
(www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-question-time-scheme).

3. 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 in our building or at our meetings and ask members of the public to bring their own drinks if required.

4. Fire instructions for meetings:

- If the fire alarm sounds, please make your way out of the building by the nearest available exit, which is usually the back staircase or the fire escape in the Chamber and do not attempt to use the lifts
- The fire assembly point is in the front staff car park by the exit barrier
- The building has an auto-call system to the fire services, so there is no need for anyone to call the fire services

The Committee Officer will sweep the area to ensure that everyone is out.

5. Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked “oral”.
6. If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (such as large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling the main reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: translate@eastcambs.gov.uk
7. 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).”

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee
Held at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE at 4:30pm on
Thursday 26 March 2026

Present:

Cllr Chika Akinwale
Cllr Anna Bailey
Cllr Ian Bovingdon (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Lee Denney
Cllr Julia Huffer (Sub)
Cllr Bill Hunt
Cllr David Miller
Cllr Alan Sharp (Chair)
Cllr John Trapp
Cllr Mary Wade
Cllr Alison Whelan
Cllr Christine Whelan

Officers:

Sally Bonnett – Director Community
Maggie Camp – Director Legal
Jude Antony – Director Finance
Isabel Edgar – Director Operations
Jane Webb – Democratic Services and Elections Manager
Spencer Clark – Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Emma Grima – Chief Executive and Managing Director ECTC
Isabel Edgar – Director, Operations
Nicola Pema – HR Manager
Marta Lotysz-Veiga – Reprographics Manager
Marisa Rogers-Jones – Crematorium and Bereavement Centre Manager
Nigel Ankers – Senior Finance Manager, ECTC
Paul Remington – Chair, ECTC
Lucy Flintham – Community Infrastructure Manager
Kieran Carr – Economic Development Manager

58. Public Questions

No Public Questions had been received.

59. Apologies and substitutions

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Goldsack, who was substituted by Cllr Julia Huffer.

60. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

61. Minutes

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2026.

Members unanimously resolved:

That the Minutes of the Finance & Assets Committee meeting held on 20 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

62. Chair's Announcements

The Chair reminded Members to confirm their attendance at the new Bereavement Centre visit.

63. ECTC Annual Business Plan 2026/27 (EXEMPT Appendices)

The Committee received a report (AA167, previously circulated) containing the East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC) Business Plan 2026/27, as approved by the Company Board on 5 March 2026. The ECTC Managing Director presented the Business Plan as detailed therein.

Members made comments and received responses as follows.

- Concerns were raised about the risks associated with LGR and the contingency plans if a future unitary council decided to dissolve the company. The Managing Director noted that ECTC would be automatically transferred in accordance with regulations, but the new council will determine the company's role. An exit strategy is necessary in case the company is not continued. While specifics of potential changes were unclear, ECTC will support the transition, and no significant risks are expected in the upcoming year.
- A concern was raised about PGH's projected turnover of £4.7 million in 2025/26, £4.4 million in 2026/27, and £4.6 million in 2027/28, which remained stable despite a drop in housing construction costs. The Finance Manager noted some value in the remaining land at Kennett, which had no associated costs under a promotional agreement, and expected slightly higher profits from future developments. One Member stated that these inconsistencies, along with others in the exempt paper, prevented them from supporting the recommendations. The Chair offered to discuss the issue in an exempt session, but the Member declined.

The recommendation in the report was proposed by Cllr Bailey and seconded by Cllr Sharp.

Cllr Bailey, as the proposer of the recommendation, expressed regret that a Member opted out of an exempt session to receive an answer to their concerns. She highlighted ECTC's accomplishments:

- The markets have transformed into a thriving success.
- Grounds maintenance saved ECDC over £300,000 and has developed expertise in tree maintenance.
- PGH delivered 190 homes, including fifty-five affordable units, and forty-four in partnership with the CLT, which were reserved for local people.
- ECDC and taxpayers benefited by £6.2m, which contributed to ECDC freezing Council Tax.
- 100% affordable housing on the Phase 2 MOD site.

Cllr Bailey highlighted the importance of the new unitary authority understanding ECTC's purpose and successes. She noted that ECTC benefits both the Council and taxpayers, supporting the communities, and thanked those who contributed to its success.

Cllr Sharp, as seconder of the recommendation, stated that he was pleased with the amount of work done and ECTC's record. He thanked all involved.

A vote was taken on the recommendation as follows:

FOR: (6),
AGAINST (6),
ABSTENTIONS (0)

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

Members resolved to **APPROVE** the ECTC Business Plan 2026/27, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.

64. End of Year Reports 2025/26 and Service Delivery Plans 2026/27

The Committee received a report (AA168, previously circulated) containing the End-of-Year Reports 2025/26 and the Service Delivery Plans 2026/27, which cover services within the Committee's responsibility. The Director Community presented the report.

Members made comments and asked questions as follows:

Infrastructure & Strategic Housing

Q - What was the recovery process for the four older overdue CIL payments?

A - There is a three-stage recovery process, and if not received, the debt is passed to the legal team to recover the debt via the courts.

Climate Change & Natural Environment

Q – Who absorbs the cost of the biodiversity net gains requirements?

A – These costs of delivering the biodiversity net gains are the responsibility of the developer.

Finance Services

Q – In view of the Auditor’s comments, the Statement of accounts published on time should read “in a state whereby there is still improvement needed.”

A – Accounts were published on time, as per the statutory requirement; improvement is ongoing based on the recommendations provided by the Auditors

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

The Leader, Cllr Bailey, added that these were an excellent and successful set of reports and thanked all staff involved for their hard work.

Cllr Sharp, as proposer of the recommendations, thanked officers for their hard work on a successful set of reports.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as follows:

FOR: (6),

AGAINST (0),

ABSTENTIONS (6)

Members resolved to **NOTE** the outcomes in the End of Year Reports 2024/25 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer’s report), and **APPROVE** the Service Delivery Plans 2025/26 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer’s report) for each of the following services:

- (i) Climate Change and Natural Environment Services
- (ii) Democratic Services
- (iii) Economic Development
- (iv) Finance
- (v) Human Resources
- (vi) Infrastructure & Strategic Housing
- (vii) Information & Communication Technology
- (viii) Legal Services
- (ix) Open Spaces & Facilities
- (x) Reprographics

65. Asset Update and Asset Management Plan 2026/27

The Committee considered a report (AA169, previously circulated) that provided Members with an updated asset spend tracker for 2025/26 and approved the planned asset spend for 2026/27. The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager presented the report, and Members provided feedback and asked questions as follows.

- Most parts for the broken lift have been received, and repairs will begin once the Council has all components.

- Future Asset Management Spend charts will provide clearer explanations for any projects that exceed their budget.
- The Cloisters toilets will be managed carefully during peak times by using the family room and possibly the disabled toilet. If closures are necessary, the ladies' and gents' facilities will be shut at different times. The hand dryers have been replaced, but the Open Spaces and Facilities Manager is willing to review their decibel levels.
- The Play Audit reviews focus on play equipment as well as parking, access, toilets, and sensory areas. The Draft Play Strategy will be presented at the September meeting.

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

Cllr Hunt, as the proposer of the recommendations, praised the report's professionalism and was surprised by the nine-page list of assets managed by the Open Spaces and Facilities Manager. He remarked that the assets were well organised and in excellent condition for the new unitary council.

Members resolved unanimously to:

- **NOTE** the Corporate Asset Management Plan provided in Appendix 1,
- **APPROVE** the Asset Management spend for 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 2
- **NOTE** the Asset Management 2025/26 spend to date as detailed in Appendix 3

66. Local Infrastructure Fund and Inclusive Play and Open Spaces Grant Fund Criteria

The Committee considered a report (AA170, as previously circulated) that informed Members of the eligibility and scoring criteria for two new CIL grant funding schemes. The Community Infrastructure Manager presented the report, and Members provided feedback and asked questions as follows:

- If the fund is oversubscribed, an additional funding source could be used.
- Parishes that are unable to provide the 10% match funding can enhance their scores in other areas.
- This was a special opportunity and such a benefit to many of the communities; it was hoped that all Members would support it.
- The equality impact assessment for inclusive play and the scoring matrix were currently being finalised.
- Each parish that has completed the audit will receive a copy of their audit report and support from a play company. Parishes that have not undergone an audit have the option to either complete an audit or seek advice from play companies. The Council will provide support to the parishes throughout the process.
- CIL regulations mandate that CIL funds must be used to support growth.

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

Cllr Hunt, as the proposer of the recommendations, stated that this initiative exemplifies a District Council's role in promoting community engagement. He noted it was remarkable that the Council could contribute to these efforts to ensure the district remained a pleasant place to live and work. Cllr Hunt encouraged all Members to vote in favour of the recommendations.

Members agreed and welcomed this initiative, noting the need to support other areas that would not benefit from it.

The Leader stated that, unlike other Councils criticised for failing to use Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, East Cambridgeshire has effectively supported the use of such funds. She thanked Cllr Akinwale for introducing the Play Audit motion and noted that the upcoming Play Strategy item, which will be presented in September, would benefit the community. With more CIL funds expected, there was no application deadline. She assured that Parishes unable to access CIL funds would receive assistance in finding alternatives, and that payments would be made only upon receipt of invoices.

Cllr Miller, as the seconder of the recommendations, emphasised that the two funding streams aimed to simplify the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding process and avoid complexity. He expressed hope for unanimous support from all Members.

Members resolved unanimously to:

- **APPROVE** the scheme eligibility criteria for the Local Infrastructure Fund in Appendix 1,
- **APPROVE** the scheme eligibility criteria for the Inclusive Plan and Open Spaces Fund in Appendix 2,
- **AGREE** that the funding schemes will open on 13 April 2026, with no close date set at this time; projects will need to be completed by March 2028.

67. Bereavement Centre Project Progress Update

The Committee considered a report (AA171, as previously circulated) providing Members with a Progress Update on the Bereavement Centre Project. The Director Operations presented the report and highlighted further updates since the report was published, as follows:

- The proposed risk contingency costs for underground structures have been reduced from £250,000 to £150,000, significantly lowering the associated risk.
- The costs for the power connection have been negotiated down from £32,000 to approximately half that amount.
- All the savings will be achieved from the topsoil that has been imported into the site.

- In the upcoming update report, Members will be informed about the current budget status, as it was anticipated that the new cost plan would be in place by that time.

Members resolved to **NOTE** the progress towards completion of the Bereavement Centre.

68. Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Burial Fees and Charges 2026

The Committee considered a report (AA172, as previously circulated) on the Lake View Bereavement Centre, Crematorium and Natural Burial Fees and Charges Schedule, which will establish the pricing structure for cremation services, burials, memorialisation, and associated services delivered at the Centre. The Bereavement Centre Manager presented the report.

The Bereavement Centre Manager addressed the following questions from Members:

- The report was based on a thoroughly debated business case previously presented at Full Council, and soft market testing had been conducted. Benchmarking was conducted to ensure that the pricing balanced affordability, sustainability, and market position.
- The details regarding the costs of pet cremations will be included in the report scheduled for the June meeting, alongside considerations for residents facing financial hardship.
- Catering services will be outsourced to local providers, and families will coordinate with them directly, with assistance from the team. A list of recommended local suppliers will be made available.
- There is a national scheme to cover the cost for those under eighteen.
- Residents will benefit from a lower charge for natural burials.

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

Cllr Bailey, as proposer of the recommendations, praised the new logo, describing it as modern yet simple and sympathetic. She expressed her support for the Bereavement Centre Manager, noting that, after reviewing fees and charges at other facilities, Lake View would be very competitively priced. It would also offer a 60-minute service, compared with the usual 45 minutes, thereby avoiding the “sausage machine” approach typical of most crematoria. Cllr Bailey was pleased that this would provide excellent support to people during a difficult time.

Cllr Huffer, as seconder to the recommendations, expressed her delight that the crematorium would have only one morning and one afternoon service, allowing for a more relaxed experience. She urged all Members to support this recommendation for the benefit of East Cambridgeshire residents.

A vote was taken on the recommendations as follows:

FOR: (6),
AGAINST (0),
ABSTENTIONS (6)

Members resolved to:

- **APPROVE** the Lake View Bereavement Centre Fees and Charges Schedule (Appendix 1) for the period up to March 2027.
- **Delegate** authority to the Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager, in consultation with the Director Operations, to make minor operational adjustments to the pricing schedule where required, including adjustments arising from supplier pricing changes relating to memorial products, provided these remain consistent with the Council's approved fees and charges framework.

69. ANNUAL REVIEW OF REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 ("RIPA") POLICIES

The Committee considered a report (AA173, as previously circulated) that provided an update on the annual review of the RIPA Policies and on the Council's use of RIPA powers. The Director Legal (Senior Responsible Officer) presented the report.

Members resolved to:

- **NOTE** the information provided in the Annual Review of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ("RIPA") Policies Report.

70. The Hive Leisure Centre Contract (Exempt Appendix)

The Committee considered a report (AA174 as previously circulated) to exercise the contract extension clause in the Leisure Management Agreement for The Hive Leisure Centre. The Director Community presented the report, and it was confirmed that officers had taken into consideration that a Local Government Review (LGR) was imminent.

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

Members resolved unanimously to:

- **APPROVE** the extension of the Leisure Management Agreement for The Hive Leisure Centre
- **Instruct** the Director Community and Director Legal to amend the contract end date to 1 May 2035.

71. Land at River Close, Mepal

The Committee received a report (AA175, previously circulated) to consider the licence for the allotment land adjacent to 10 River Close, Mepal, Cambridgeshire, granted to Mepal Pantry. The Director Legal presented the report.

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

Cllr Hunt, as proposer of the recommendations, stated that this was good news and would benefit the Mepal community and save the Council £150 on lawn-mowing services.

Cllr Bailey, as seconder of the recommendations, thanked the Director Legal and the local resident concerned. She wished both him and Mepal Pantry the best of luck in the future.

Members resolved unanimously to:

- **AGREE** the licence to Mepal Pantry of the allotment land adjacent to 10 River Close, Mepal, on the terms set out in paragraph 4.2 of the report, and
- **Authorise** the Director Legal to proceed accordingly.

72. Forward Plan

The Committee considered its Forward Plan. The Director Community stated that two extra items would be added to the Forward Plan: Draft Inclusive Play Strategy and the Rural Prosperity Fund Business Grant Scheme

It was unanimously resolved to **NOTE** the Forward Plan and add two extra items:

- Draft Inclusive Play Strategy
- Rural Prosperity Fund Business Grant Scheme

73. Appointment to Outside Bodies: Local Government Association

The Democratic Services and Elections Manager informed the Committee that the Leader had requested a change to the LGA representative, and for this reason, as well as to follow procedural rules, it needed to be submitted to the Finance and Assets Committee for nominations and a vote by Members.

Cllr Bailey proposed, and Cllr Huffer seconded the nomination of Cllr Vellacott as the LGA representative.

Cllr C Whelan proposed, and Cllr Akinwale seconded the nomination of Cllr Trapp as the LGA representative.

A vote was taken as follows:
Cllr Vellacott (6) Cllr Trapp (6)

With the vote tied. In accordance with Council Procedure 9.1.4, the Chair had the casting vote, which he used to vote in favour of Cllr Vellacott.

Members resolved to:

- **Appoint** Cllr Lucius Vellacott as the Council's representative on the Local Government Association for the remainder of the municipal year.

74. Exclusion of Press and Public

It was resolved unanimously:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the following item because it was likely, in the 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 items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

58. EXEMPT Minutes – 29 January 2026

The Committee received the Exempt Minutes of the Finance & Assets Committee meeting held on 29 January 2026.

It was resolved unanimously:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

59. EXEMPT – ECTC Management Accounts

The ECTC Finance Manager presented the ECTC Management Accounts.

Members resolved that the contents of the report be **NOTED**.

60. EXEMPT – Write Off of Unrecoverable Debts

The Committee considered a report regarding the write-off of irrecoverable debts. The Director Finance presented the report.

The Chair proposed an amendment to the recommendation, to state that 2.1 should read that the business rate debt should be discussed with CMT and ARP, and that a report should be provided to the next Finance and Assets Committee; this was seconded by Cllr Miller and agreed by all Members.

The recommendations in the report were proposed by Cllr Sharp and seconded by Cllr Miller. It was unanimously resolved:

Members resolved to:

- **Allow** the Chair, in conjunction with Officers, to discuss the Business Rate debt of £28,055.85 with both CMT and ARP, and a further report be brought back to the next Finance and Asset Committee meeting.
- **NOTE:** three Council Tax debts have been written off using delegated powers, to the total value of £27,776.13.

The meeting concluded at 6:32 pm

Chair.....

Date.....

DRAFT

TITLE: Climate and Nature Monitoring Report and Action Plan 2026

Committee: Finance and Assets

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Climate Change and Natural Environment Manager

Report number: AB24

Contact officer:

Richard Kay, Climate Change and Natural Environment Manager

richard.kay@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 665555, Room 12, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To provide an update on our climate and nature activities over the past 12 months and to agree a set of activities for the coming year.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to
 - (i) Approve the Climate and Nature Action Plan and Monitoring Report 2026, which incorporates the Climate and Nature Top 20 Actions for 2026/27 (Appendix A)

Background/Options

3. On 27 June 2024 this Committee approved a *Climate and Nature Strategy 2024-28*. The Strategy focuses on three themes:
 - Bring Back Nature
 - Reducing our Carbon Emissions
 - Adapting to a Changing Climate
4. Each theme has a set of Priorities and Goals By 2028, with the entire strategy set out on a single 'A3 poster' rather than a lengthy document. The poster is available here:
<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/Climate%20and%20Nature%20Strategy%202024-2028%20-%20adopted%20June%202024.pdf>
5. This agenda item provides a review of performance towards the targets in the Strategy, with a particular focus on the past 12 months. The agenda item also considers our performance against the 'Top 20 Actions' we set in June 2025, as well as proposals for a new set of Top 20 Actions for the coming 12 months.

Performance Review for June 2025-June 2026

6. In summary, it has largely been a mixed/positive year in progressing the strategy and the planned actions.

7. Whilst undoubtedly positive in terms of on-the-ground impact, it is fair to say that implementing our statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) duties through the planning system continues to be a considerable resource effort for the team, to the degree that it dominates the work of the 2FTE ecologists. This past year, BNG has also drawn in a considerable proportion of the 0.6FTE manager role due to such senior assistance needed to deal with complex and contentious BNG applications; appeals relating to BNG; numerous s106 agreements requiring BNG clauses; and major development proposals (such as Kingsway solar farm) and their approach to BNG. All of this effort drives considerable gains for nature recovery via new development, because BNG is a very powerful tool to ensure all developers deliver meaningful gains for nature. That said, we have to be mindful that it limits the capacity of the service area to undertake non-statutory duties, which primarily are what the Top 20 actions are.
8. Nevertheless, and away from BNG, a summary of the highlights of the past year are as follows.
9. Many of our top 20 actions for the year were either completed or predominantly completed. This included:
 - Completed preparation of twenty habitat management plans for twenty public open spaces the council manages, thereby establishing a clear medium-term plan for how such spaces will remain high-quality public spaces for people, but also strengthen their biodiversity richness.
 - Successfully award 100 more orchard trees to local communities, further strengthening existing community orchards across the district. For details of this scheme, and previous orchard tree awards, see <https://eastcambs.gov.uk/services/climate-change-and-nature/bring-back-nature/community-orchards-and-coronation-oaks>
 - Making progress on delivering biodiversity enhancements as part of the Lake View Bereavement Centre (the site is a designated county wildlife site).
 - Successfully established a new staff volunteering programme, including litter picking at Lake View and bulb planting in Ely. Now established, we are hoping to build up the programme to provide more opportunities for nature-related staff volunteering.
 - Almost completed the Arbour Square development, incorporating solar panels, insulation measures, air source heat pumps and electric car charging points, with the properties completed so far achieving EPC A rating.
 - A further 10% reduction in water consumption at The Grange.
 - Prepared a medium-term strategy entitled 'Pathway to Net Zero' setting out in more detail how we will achieve net zero as a council.
10. In addition to the Top 20 Actions of the past 12 months, year one of the Warm Homes programme, done collaboratively across Cambridgeshire under the Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP), has been successfully commenced, delivering major energy retrofit measures to private residential properties where residents meet eligibility requirements. In East Cambridgeshire, 14 homes received works over 2025/26, with a typical cost of £15,000 - 20,000. Works

usually involve solar panels, battery, air source heat pumps and insulation (or a combination of some of those). Further homes received similar grant support under the Eco4 arrangements, albeit that scheme closed nationally from April 2026.

11. Anecdotally, we've also started to see excellent results from the 'Net Zero Villages' programme. Whilst much of the effort on this programme took place in 2024/25 (the bidding, awarding and contracting process), the actual installation and preliminary review of results have taken place in 2025/26. As a reminder, the Net Zero Villages programme culminated in ten village halls (or similar) across the district being awarded a collective £150,000 for solar panels, batteries and insulation, helping our vital community facilities reduce their running costs and their carbon emissions. Initial results are showing fantastic savings, some with payback for the investment in as little as five years or so. We think there is an opportunity to review this information more thoroughly, establish case studies and use the information to demonstrate to others what can be done. This forms a proposed action for 2026/27 and potentially might result in some form of grant scheme being set up (subject to the findings of the investigation and committee consideration of any such grant scheme terms, with funding coming from savings and income made by the service area, rather than any new budget).
12. However, it is disappointing to report that over the past year, several of our Top 20 actions for the year were not as successful as hoped (full details of these projects are in the attached Monitoring Report at appendix A). Whilst some of these were for reasons beyond our control (such as upcoming Government legislative changes meaning the production of developer guides would sensibly await such changes before publication), other factors included:
 - Unexpected delays on land transfers (preventing Bottisham Woods progressing).
 - Unable to implement measures in our public toilets to reduce water consumption.
 - Delays to implement measures to reduce water consumption of the Jubilee Fountain.
 - Challenges getting data or other promotional activity from Anglian Water to assist any public water reduction campaigns.

Progress towards our 'Goals by 2028'

13. Of the three themes in our 2024-28 strategy (see earlier link for details), we have made the greatest progress towards the 'Bring Back Nature' theme, with all four goals on track. For example, our Pride of Place grant programme (2023-25) has delivered significant gains across our district; and we have finalised preparation of new wildlife-friendly management plans for twenty of our own parks and open spaces.
14. The second theme of 'Reducing our Carbon emissions' is partially on track, with the elements relating to our own emissions on track to meet targets, but elements relating to reducing emissions across East Cambridgeshire as a whole are not on track. This latter element is, of course, extremely challenging for a council to influence, not helped by the steady decline in public opinion towards tackling climate

change. Nationally, since 2021, less people are concerned and more people are not concerned about climate change, and the perception that a transition to net zero will be negative (rather than positive) is an increasing majority public opinion.

15. Turning to our third theme of ‘adapting to climate change’, we have made some progress towards our Goals by 2028, but there is significant work to do to keep our targets on track. One of the four goals we set in 2024 for this theme is no longer achievable because we are not presently proposing to update our Local Plan (for reasons as agreed at Full Council meeting of 25 February 2025).

Top 20 Actions for June 2026-June 2027

16. Presented at section 5 of Appendix A is a new set of Top 20 Actions proposed for the coming year. Such actions have been established based on aiming to meet the Goals by 2028 in our main Strategy, as well as taking account of the latest opportunities and resources available.

17. Once again, the actions are a mix of nature, climate change and water-related.

Net Zero Audit

18. The council's Audit Committee agreed it would be beneficial that, as part of its work programme for the year, an audit be undertaken seeking assurance over the plans for reaching the council's net zero targets and the outcomes delivered from climate change-related expenditure. Whilst the outcome of that audit has not yet been reported to the Audit Committee, the audit work has been completed, and it is pleasing to note that, by way of headline, no significant issues in need of attention have been raised.

Arguments/Conclusions

19. The proposals are considered ambitious, achievable and affordable. They engage across all communities and all age groups. Collectively, they should help achieve the Council's priority of a *Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire*.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Legal implications

21. The Council has no direct statutory responsibility to mitigate climate change. However, it does have a statutory responsibility via the Natural Environment and

Rural Communities Act 2006 to “[further] the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of [its] functions” (s40(A1)) and “determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action” (s40(1A)(a)) to meet that duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

22. The Act (s40/s40A) also requires a number of reports to be published setting out how it will achieve the above duty.

23. The projects as reported in this agenda item will assist in meeting the above requirements and are considered entirely compatible with what the statutory duty seeks.

Carbon Impact Assessment

24. The assessment of the impact of the recommendations from a carbon impact perspective has been limited to those actions within the recommendations which are not agreed through a separate Council consideration.

25. Further, any proposals in the recommendations which are ‘target setting’ or encouraging others to take action to reduce carbon emissions do not score positively or negatively in the CIA for this agenda item because, directly, they will not reduce or increase carbon emissions.

26. The scope of the CIA for this agenda item is therefore limited to those actions to be taken directly by the Council, and which are not to be subject to a separate Council decision-making process.

27. Consequently, the positive or negative implications are, directly, somewhat negligible.

28. However, indirectly, it is anticipated that approving the actions for the coming year will consequently lead to (or help lead to) such actions being implemented, which in turn should lead to considerable net positive carbon emission savings, either directly for this council or directly for residents or organisations

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Climate and Nature Action Plan and Monitoring Report, June 2026

Background documents

Climate and Nature Strategy 2024 to 2028, East Cambridgeshire District Council, June 2024

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Climate and Nature Action Plan and Monitoring
Report

June 2026

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1. Highlights Report (June 2026)

Achievements

- 1.1. East Cambridgeshire District Council remains committed to tackling climate change and bringing back nature to East Cambridgeshire. It is pleased to publish this annual report of our activities in the past year. In summary, the highlights from 2025-26 for this 2026 annual report are as follows.
- 1.2. Helping to **Bring Back Nature** to East Cambridgeshire, the Council has:
 - Prepared habitat management plans for 20 public open spaces that it looks after, helping to make such areas not only great for people but also for wildlife.
 - Given away another 100 orchard trees to communities across the district. That means since winter 21/22, we have given away 400 orchard trees and helped create 30 new community orchards.
 - Implemented wildlife improvements as part of the new Lake View Bereavement Centre, including native tree planting (some of which are orchard trees), wildflower-rich meadow seeding and creation of log piles for insects. Further improvements underway this summer.
- 1.3. Helping to **tackle climate change**, this year the Council has:
 - Installed solar panels on the new development built by Palace Green Homes at Arbour Square, Ely.
 - Published a detailed plan of action for how the council will reduce its own emissions ('Pathway to Net Zero').
- 1.4. Helping the Council, our local residents and our communities **adapt to a changing climate**, the Council has:
 - Reduced its own water consumption by a further 10% in its main office The Grange (following a 10% reduction the previous year).
 - Helped progress the concept of a network of agricultural reservoirs across the district.
- 1.5. Our latest 'carbon footprint' (carbon emissions) data for the Council, as an organisation, is 3,182 tonnes CO₂e (period 2024-25). Full details on our emissions were reported in November 2025, and are available below:
<https://eastcambbs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Carbon%20Audit%20Digital%20Report%20%28published%29.pdf>
- 1.6. The main challenge we faced in 2025/26 was resourcing all of the actions we wanted to achieve, especially with the high resources needed to implement statutory Biodiversity Net Gain in the planning system.
- 1.7. This Monitoring Report provides further details on the matters summarised above.

Top 20 Actions for 2026-27

- 1.8. For the coming 12 months (June 2026-May 2027), we have set ourselves a **new set of 'Top 20' actions**, the seventh year in a row to do so.
- 1.9. Further details are set out in section 5 of this Monitoring Report.

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- 2.11. **Over winter 2025/26** we had another successful round of the giveaways with a further 100 orchard trees given out to parish councils and community groups within the district, mainly to increase the size of the successful orchards created in 2021 or 2022 (the majority of which have flourished in the three or four years since planting), but also created three new orchards.
- 2.12. The free orchard trees we give away are sourced from the [East of England Apples and Orchard Project](#) [external link], a local charity that promotes the planting of local orchard fruit varieties and the preservation of orchards in the East of England.
- 2.13. Helping create and expand local orchards has been a great success. Orchards are classed as 'priority habitats' due to their high importance for biodiversity and their cultural value. The trees, as well as the grass that surround them, also help lock away carbon dioxide.



Figure 1: St Andrew's Churchyard, Witchford, received 6 fruit trees in winter 2021/22. Those trees produced edible fruit in summer 2025. In January 2026, the Church received a further four trees (three plum and one apple) as part of our winter 2025/26 campaign.



Figure 2: A newly planted (Jan 2026) orchard tree, forming part of a new orchard in Brinkley. Photo taken April 2026 with tree in blossom.

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Nature related self-help guides for developers

Action 5 (25/26): deliver high quality nature friendly development by helping planners and developers cut through the complicated nature legislation with a series of self-help guides

- 2.14. This action was put on hold because government announced several significant changes to the planning and natural environment system mid-year, including wide ranging technical changes to Biodiversity Net Gain. Government is yet to fully publish and implement these changes but is expected to do so by 31 July 2026. Once these changes are published, we will proceed with this action.

Staff Volunteering

Action 6 (25/26): establish a portfolio of environment staff volunteering day options (1 day per year per staff member):

- 2.15. The council launched its new volunteering policy in May 2025. Since then, many staff have taken the opportunity to take up to 1 day a year to undertake a wide variety of local volunteering opportunities.
- 2.16. To assist staff to find an opportunity and at the same time help Bring Back Nature to East Cambridgeshire, three volunteering opportunities have taken place over the past year. Two litter picking events took place at the emerging Lake View Bereavement Centre. The site is a county wildlife site, and litter can cause considerable harm to wildlife. A further volunteering opportunity took place on Nutholt Lane, adjacent to the Atrium Gym, where litter picking, bulb planting and bird boxes were erected. A beautiful daffodil display took place as a result this spring.
- 2.17. We are hoping to build on these successes by identifying further opportunities for nature-related volunteering, including via the management plans published under Action 1 (above).



Figure 3: Litter pick volunteers at Lake View, March 2026

Social Media Campaign

Action 7 (25/26): establish a Bring Back Nature social media campaign.

- 2.18. This action has been somewhat more limited in extent than hoped, with a few social media posts on issues such as looking after hedgehogs. Other issues have taken social media priority, such as Local Government reorganisation and the new recycling arrangements. We think there remains

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scope to increase social media messaging on nature related matters, subject to resources and competing corporate demands.

Bottisham Woods

Action 8 (25/26): deliver a publicly accessible new woodland in Bottisham.

- 2.19. Unfortunately, this project has been delayed because the transfer of the land to the Council is, at the time of writing, still not completed. The transfer is linked to the transfer of the wider open space land associated with the new housing development south of Bottisham. It is anticipated imminently, and we will then progress delivery of a management plan for the site. The site will include interactive natural play, whilst leaving areas for biodiversity enhancements.

Duck and Swan Poster

Action 9 (25/26): family friendly information at Riverside in Ely on what to feed local ducks and swans

- 2.20. In September 2025, we installed a new poster at the Riverside in Ely, helping visitors choose the right foods to feed ducks.
- 2.21. Separately, sadly Ely was hit by a bird flu outbreak in November 2025. Bird flu can have a devastating effect on local wild duck, geese and swan populations. To quickly raise awareness, we prepared and circulated a warning poster, including advising our own parks and open spaces team. The outbreak was successfully contained and measures lifted in February 2026.
- 2.22. Both posters are below, and the duck feeding poster is also available to download via <https://eastcamb.gov.uk/services/climate-change-and-nature/bring-back-nature/help-us-bring-back-nature>



Figure 4: various posters to support the health of ducks, swans and other birds

Lake View Bereavement Centre

Action 10 (25/26): commence biodiversity enhancements as part of the bereavement centre development, including the creation of a wildflower meadow.

- 2.23. The Lake View Bereavement Centre continues to progress through its construction programme, with opening anticipated in early Autumn.
- 2.24. As part of the approved development, a suite of biodiversity enhancements has been integrated into the landscape design to strengthen ecological value, support native species, and contribute to long-term habitat resilience.

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- 2.25. Over the past 12 months, the project team has worked closely with an appointed ecological consultancy to ensure that all planting, habitat creation and land management decisions align with best practice and local biodiversity priorities.
- 2.26. Completed Biodiversity Enhancements (2025/26) include:
- Collaboration with ecological specialists - Ongoing ecological oversight has ensured that all planting proposals are fully compliant with native-species requirements and reflect local habitat character
 - Commitment to native planting - All soft-landscaping elements delivered to date use exclusively native species, supporting pollinators, birds and invertebrates
 - Protection and reinstatement of native fruit trees - Particular attention has been given to reintroducing locally significant fruit tree varieties, including those at risk of being lost such as Morley's. These have been incorporated into the planting schedule to preserve local genetic heritage
 - Initial meadow establishment - Seeding has commenced across the designated meadow area to ensure early establishment of a wildflower-rich meadow, forming a key biodiversity asset within the site
 - Log piles and other micro-habitat structures are located around the site – habitat recreation in line with County Wildlife status priorities of sand dune including the seed bank recapping the newly positioned dune, tree stumps replanted – some even regrowing. All trees that have been felled remain on site.
- 2.27. Upcoming Biodiversity Enhancement Works (Pre-Opening) includes:
- Continuation of meadow development - Follow-up seeding, aftercare and seasonal management will continue to support successful germination and long-term meadow health
 - Installation of habitat features - Bird boxes, bat boxes, log piles and other micro-habitat structures will be installed to enhance nesting and foraging opportunities
 - Completion of native hedgerow and shrub planting - Additional hedgerow sections and understorey planting will be completed to strengthen ecological connectivity across the site
 - Swale planting – the plantation of rushes from the lake edge into the swale to self-populate
 - Continuation of log piles as micro-habitat structures

3. Reducing our Carbon Emissions

New waste and recycling service set up

Action 11 (25/26): implement new waste and recycling collection service for residents from June 2026, which will have a positive impact on our district's carbon emissions.

- 3.1. The council is on track to commence the new waste and recycling service from June 2026. Whilst it is too early at this stage, we will monitor closely the impact of the changes, including on the district council's carbon emissions.
- 3.2. For the latest information on the updated service from 1 June, please visit our webpages at <https://eastcamb.gov.uk/services/services/waste-and-recycling> .



Figure 5: Illustration of the new black bin and food waste bins that have been delivered to residents, ready for the 1 June 2026 new service

Reduce our energy bills in our public conveniences

Action 12 (25/26): seek to reduce our energy bills by a third for our public conveniences, targeting a saving of £5,000 per annum and at least 3 tonnes CO2e which is equivalent to about 10 return flights to Barcelona from London.

- 3.3. This action has proved challenging, albeit we almost met our targets.
- 3.4. The original expectation was that through a series of measures (adjusting heating controls, new efficient taps and/or installation of solar panels where possible) a reduction by a third was deliverable. However, we have made limited progress on implementing such measures, other than trialling of new hands-free taps with 'on demand' heating of hot water at the Palace Green public conveniences in winter 2025/26. We have commenced monitoring of that site to see if any reduction in electricity use arises.
- 3.5. The council has also agreed to dispose of the Littleport public conveniences, meaning no measures to reduce their efficiency have been taken forward prior to disposal.
- 3.6. However, due to the decarbonisation of the national grid and the benefit of a substantially reduced unit price electricity contract, we did make significant savings on our energy bills and emissions. Opportunities to reduce the running costs (and emissions arising) from our remaining public toilets clearly still exist. We will seek to explore such opportunities over 2026/27.
- 3.7. Overall, our electricity usage in our public toilets in 2025/26 (compared with 2024/25) reduced by 4.7%, our energy bills reduced by 42% or £8,166 and our carbon emissions reduced by 18.6% or 2.1 tonnes CO2e.



Figure 6: new hands-free taps, with on demand heating, installed at Palace Green toilets, Ely

Rooftop solar

Action 13 (25/26): actively promote the benefits of rooftop solar panels, costs and savings likely to be achieved, issues to look out for and to help residents with grants that may be available.

- 3.8. We have continued to actively engage with residents, especially targeting those most in need and assisting them with access to available grants and support. Support has been given by our dedicated Retrofit Officer in the Climate and Nature service, as well as wider support from our housing service for those in particular need (such as debt). We have continued to work with our partners across Cambridgeshire to keep our Action on Energy Cambridgeshire website updated (see <https://www.actiononenergycambbs.org/>) as well as our own website.
- 3.9. We think we can do more to progress encouragement of solar panel deployment, especially for the 'able to pay' market, by giving confidence to residents that it is a worthwhile and cost-effective action to take for many, especially those with c£5-10,000 in available savings. We propose to take more action on this in the coming 12 months, as well as consider promotion of the new small-scale 'plug-in' solar panels due to hit the market in summer 2026 and which are intended to have a much lower price point (c£400-500).

Pathway to Net Zero

Action 14 (25/26): prepare, by November 2025, a detailed step by step plan of how we will become a net zero council.

- 3.10. A [Pathway to Net Zero report](#) was approved by the Council in November 2025, providing a detailed action plan of how we will aim to meet all our emission targets.

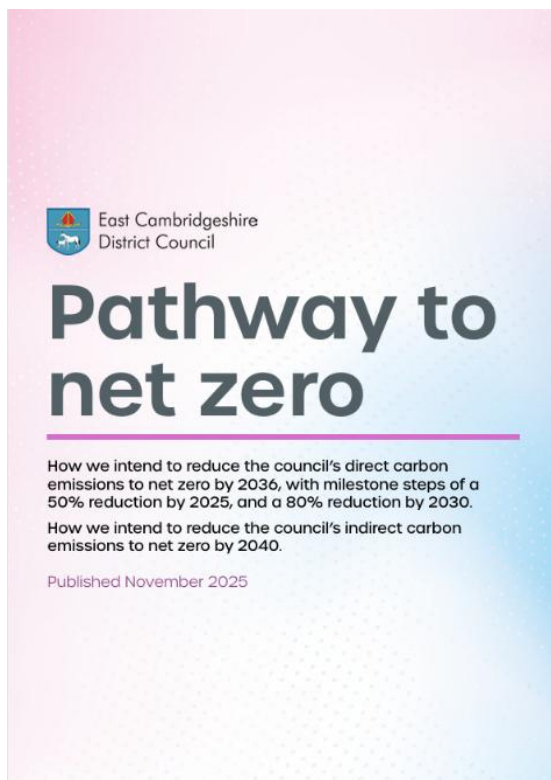


Figure 7 Approved Pathway to Net Zero Report, November 2025 available at [Pathway to Net Zero report](#)

Smart Meters

Action 15 (25/26): Let's get smart: promoting the benefits of smart meters, and how to get the most out of them.

- 3.11. This action was linked with Action 13, and again less progress than hoped has been achieved during the year. Nevertheless, we have updated our webpage to provide advice on the benefits of smart meters and intend to progress greater promotion during 2026/27.

Water reduction at The Grange

Action 16 (25/26): further reduce our water use in the council's main office (The Grange) by 10% this would save an estimated 100,000 litres or 500 large baths.

- 3.12. Across The Grange, we achieved a further reduction in water use by 10.3% compared with 2024/25, thus meeting our target.
- 3.13. We still believe there are opportunities for further reductions, because some parts of The Grange appear to have increased water use over 2025/26, whilst others reduced (with a net reduction overall). A further 10% reduction appears feasible, meaning a 30% reduction overall compared with 2023/24.

Solar Panels at Arbour Square Development

Action 17 (25/26): Palace Green Homes to install PV panels on all 27 new homes at Arbour Square, Ely development.

- 3.14. Arbour Square is due to complete all 27 new homes by the end of July 2026. At the time of writing, 23 of the 27 homes have their PV solar panels installed on the newly built property (remaining properties to follow shortly). The development also benefits from air source heat pumps (ASHP) and electric vehicle charging points. To date, all properties have achieved an EPC A rating.



Figure 8: new development at Arbour Square, with integrated solar panels



Figure 9: new development at Arbour Sq, with charge point, ASHP (middle of photograph) and solar panels

4. Adapting to a Changing Climate

Sustainable water management

Action 18 (25/26): promote sustainable water management, both small scale (for example water butts) and larger scale (for example farmer reservoirs).

- 4.1. For larger scale water management, the council has been a lead player promoting the concept of a set of farmer-led local reservoirs across East Cambridgeshire, which could feed into the local water network at times of need. This would provide much needed relief to the public water supplies and a diversification income to farm landowners. The concept continues to be investigated, with interest from a wide range of stakeholders. We'll progress the concept further over 2026/27.
- 4.2. For smaller scale domestic measures, we have updated our webpages to provide more information on ways to save water, as well being more transparent on how the council itself uses water (<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/services/climate-change-and-nature/adapting-changing-climate/water-and-flooding>).
- 4.3. We've engaged with Anglian Water on numerous occasions, particularly (the intention was) to take advantage of their data collected through the use of water meters. Via such data, we then intended to target meaningful actions and monitor progress. Unfortunately, Anglian Water were unable to provide any such data and concentrated their efforts on simply getting as many households on water meters as possible (much of East Cambridgeshire now is on a meter). Anglian Water were unable to support any direct campaigning, data analysis or additional water reduction measures bespoke to East Cambridgeshire. We have not, therefore, progressed this action as far as we would have liked.

Improve the water efficiency of the Jubilee Gardens Fountain

Action 19 (25/26): manage the water efficiency of the Jubilee Garden fountain, whilst retaining it as a water feature, and seeking to save up to £1,000 in water usage costs.

- 4.4. The Jubilee Gardens fountain is a surprisingly large consumer of water. Its consumption comes through water it loses, primarily we believe through spray loss via breeze/wind. As such, water is not being recycled through its underground tank and instead is blowing on to the nearby grass. As set out on the webpage below, the fountain is the fourth highest consumer of water across the Council's estate, similar to the amount of water used at The Grange, and consumes more than some of our public conveniences.
<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/services/climate-change-and-nature/adapting-changing-climate/water-and-flooding/reducing-our-own>
- 4.5. Turning the fountain off, or redesigning it to reduce spray loss, was deemed not appropriate for the time being, therefore a compromise solution of fitting a timer in March 2026 means the fountain should now be off overnight and operate only during the daytime. This measure means the fountain is still likely to remain a high consumer of water, but hopefully less than in recent years. We will continue to monitor.

Improve water efficiency in the public conveniences

Action 20 (25/26): commence a programme to reduce water use in our public conveniences, a 10% reduction would save over 400,000 litres which is the equivalent to 2,500 large baths, saving £2,000 annually.

- 4.6. Unfortunately, we have not been successful with this action. Our water consumption across our six public conveniences went up slightly (0.3% increase), thus not meeting our target of a 10% reduction.
- 4.7. The primary consumption of water at the public conveniences is through toilet flushing, and it is presently determined that measures are not to be taken forward to reduce the volume of water via flushing. There is a concern that if less water is used in a flush, that the drainage system may block more frequently.

5. New Top 20 Actions for 2026/27

Introduction

- 5.1. Each June, the Council publishes a new set of Top 20 Actions for the coming year in respect of climate change and the natural environment.
- 5.2. For 2026/27, we follow the same theme as previous years with actions across climate change, adaptation, the natural environment and water.

Natural Environment

Note: Actions 1 to 7 are taken from a selection of the new open space management plans prepared by the council and the Wildlife Trust over 2025/2026. Such management plans have lots of actions, albeit for implementation over several years. Below is a selection we intend to deliver in the next 12 months, though we will aim to complete several more actions from the management plans.

Action 1: Beechcroft Open Space, Brinkley - adjust where and when the grass is cut in order to increase the size of the meadow area and the richness and abundance of native wild species within it

Action 2: Carter's Pit, Burwell – commence removal of non-native Snowberry and Honesty to provide more space for native plants and to limit their future spread. Organise staff volunteer day to assist in this action.

Action 3: Celandine View Open Space, Soham – enhance the flower-rich meadow in the eastern half of the site through adjusting cutting timing and collecting of cuttings.

Action 4: Ely Milking Common – maintain, and enhance where possible, the bat hibernaculum and the bug hotels, and assist with monitoring of species recorded.

Action 5: Fisherman's Bank, Littleport - Plant a selection of small flowering and fruiting trees and shrubs to the north and south of the playground.

Action 6: Kings Avenue, Ely - implement specific conservation measures to benefit hedgehogs.

Action 7: Lime Kilns, Isleham – protect and preserve the integrity of the Lime Kilns by removing sycamore saplings and walnut seedlings, cut back the Ivy and clear the scrub on the kiln vent. Engage with the local community, and provide a new information board.

Action 8: Heaton Drive nature rich area - following a recent joint project by Palace Green Homes and the Council to create a new nature rich area off Heaton Drive (Ely), the two partners will work together to further enhance and expand the area by June 2027, for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

Climate Change and Adaptation

Action 9: Non-Domestic Energy Assessor - to train up a staff member to become a qualified Non-Domestic Energy Assessor (NDEA) and thereafter seek to establish a free or significantly discounted energy assessment service to small scale businesses and community groups.

Action 10: Energy price cap advice - Undertake energy efficiency campaigns around each quarterly energy price cap announcement, offering simple advice and tips to reduce energy bills or links to advice for those most vulnerable to energy price shocks. For the 'able to pay' market, our advice will include estimated cost benefits of installing more substantial measures, such as rooftop solar panels.

Action 11: Net Zero Villages appraisal and extension - we will publish a report on the successes of our 2024/25 Net Zero Villages project, highlighting case studies that other local community groups and businesses could learn from to help bring down their own energy bills.

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Subject to that investigation, we may commence a further round of Net Zero Villages grants, possibly offering around 50% of the cost of installing solar panels and batteries.

Action 12: Plug-in solar panels - once available on the market (due summer 2026), we will launch a promotional and advice campaign on the newly available 'plug-in' solar panels. Such panels may offer residents a low budget opportunity to take advantage of renewable energy technology and help them save money on the energy bills, even for those in the rented sector or with those not wanting or able to commit to a more substantial investment.

Action 13: Lake View Bereavement Centre - We will continue to support the environmentally responsible operation of the soon to be opened Lake View Bereavement Centre, an all-electric crematorium and natural burial ground designed to work in harmony with its surrounding landscape and wildlife setting. During 2026/27 the council will monitor operational energy demands and explore opportunities for future sustainability initiatives, including the potential installation of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, with the aim of supporting the council's wider commitment towards reducing carbon emissions, supporting biodiversity through sensitive landscape management and native planting, and promoting long-term environmental stewardship.

Action 14: Maximising recycling rate – to closely monitor the new waste collection service (operating from June 2026), seeking to maximise recycling rates as we attempt to achieve a 65% recycling target by 2030 (one of the highest rates in the country).

Action 15: Public convenience solar panels - install solar panels on at least one public convenience, including a battery if appropriate, to complement the on-going revamp of these important public conveniences.

Action 16: Residents energy retrofit engagement - engage with residents that we have previously supported with energy efficiency grant funding schemes to: a) help understand the impact of such measures on individual resident's energy costs and thermal comfort, and how easy residents find using the new technology (such as solar panels and air source heat pumps); and b) use learnings from that engagement to inform future grant funded home energy upgrades, thereby ensuring value for money and resident satisfaction.

Action 17: Risk and Adaptation Plan - commence preparation of Climate and Nature – Risk and Adaptation Plan (a commitment in our 2024-28 Nature and Climate Strategy).

Action 18: Supporting local community groups - work with local community group *SSECAM - Sustainable South East Cambs* to help it deliver its emerging work programme such as: the establishment of a network of volunteer 'nature detectorists' across the Isle of Ely villages; community based hands-on nature recovery work; exploration of community energy projects; and 'local loop' small business support (i.e. local businesses that make products from reclaimed, recycled or surplus materials, or who offer refill stations, rental schemes, and take back programmes).

Water

Action 19: Water quality - work with local volunteer groups and statutory bodies to investigate the water quality and flows in some of our rivers and streams (several of which are internationally important, such as our chalk streams), and specifically to: (a) establish a baseline of data on water quality and flow; and (b) provide recommendations on a how to maintain, and where possible, enhance the water quality and ecology of such streams or rivers. This will be a long term project going beyond 2026/27.

Action 20: Local network of reservoirs - further support the concept of a network of local agricultural reservoirs.

TITLE: Assets Update

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Open Spaces & Facilities Manager

Report number: AB25

Contact officer: Spencer Clerk, Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Spencer.clerk@eastcambbs.gov.uk 01353 665555 The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To receive an update on Council-owned assets.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to:
 - a. Note the update on Council-owned assets, and
 - b. Note the expenditure tracking sheet at Appendix 1.

Background/Options

3. On 26 March 2026 (Agenda Item 8), the Finance & Assets Committee received a report detailing Council-owned assets, which provided a summary of each asset. This report provides an update on assets contained within that report.

The Asset Management budget expenditure sheet at Appendix 1 identifies areas of planned expenditure and provides an update on actual spend to date. Members will continue to receive the expenditure tracking sheet as part of the Assets Update.

Council Assets Update

4. **Inclusive Play Audit-** The district audit is now complete, and the findings of the audit will be incorporated into the Strategy to be considered by Members at the September 2026 meeting. An action plan for the short, medium and long-term will be included in the strategy to address the findings of the audit, where possible.

Members will be aware that funds are being set aside from the Community Infrastructure Levy towards Inclusive Play and Open Spaces. This fund currently stands at £287,393.03 (1 June 2026). Parish Councils can apply to the Council for match funding to assist with the delivery of inclusive play and open spaces.

70 Market Street, Ely- The tenant has given notice, and vacant possession will occur on 31 August 2026. Once the property is vacant, it will be advertised as a commercial letting through an agent. Members will consider a new tenant in November 2026.

Portley Hill Depot, Littleport- Works are now completed at the Depot and expenditure was in line with committee approval.

Cloisters Public Conveniences, Ely- The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager has considered the most appropriate time to carry out improvement works. With the summer months approaching, it is not appropriate to close the facilities in a period of expected high footfall. Accordingly, the works will be carried out from September 2026. The schedule, once finalised, will be shared with residents and local businesses.

Solar Panels on public conveniences- The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager is working with the Council’s Climate Change & Environment team to review the feasibility of installing PV Panels on 1 or 2 of the Council’s public conveniences.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Human Resources (HR) Implications
None	None	None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)
None	None	None

Appendices

Appendix 1- Asset Spend Tracker.

Background documents

Finance & Assets Committee- 26 March 2026- Agenda Item 8- Assets Update and Asset Management Plan

Asset	Budgeted Expenditure	Nature of Work	Actual Expenditure	Notes
Public Car Parks				
	50,000.00	Broad Street- resurfacing and remedial works		Not started
Total Public Car Parks	50,000.00		0.00	
Closed Churchyards				
	17,000.00	St Marys Church- Gully/brickwork	14,650.00	Complete- underspend is reflective of the extent of the work that needed to be
Total Closed Churchyards	17,000.00		14,650.00	
Littleport Depot				
	201,020.06	Phase 2 Depot Improvement Plan	201,020.06	Complete
Total Littleport Depot	201,020.06		201,020.06	
Play Areas/Open Space				
Total Play Areas	0.00		0.00	
Public Conveniences				
	5,000.00	Annual Deep Cleaning of all Public Toilets		
	34,000.00	Refurbishment of Cloisters		refurbishment will be programmed from September 2026
Total Public Conveniences	39,000.00		0.00	
Public Footpaths/Open Spaces				
	10,000.00	Williams Close Street Lighting		Commenced- posts now in situ, awaiting solar lights to be installed
Total Public Footpaths/Open Space	10,000.00		0.00	
The Grange				
	30,000.00	Works identified in conditions surveys		Work programme is being formulated
Total The Grange	30,000.00		0.00	
70 Market Street, Ely				
Total 70 Market Street, Ely	0.00		0.00	
72 and 74 Market Street, Ely				
	20,000.00	Installation of secondary double glazing	12,940.00	Work complete- currently reviewing whether further works are needed. Underspend is due to the budget only being an estimate at the time of requesting.
Total 72 Market Street, Ely	20,000.00		12,940.00	
Cemetery Lodge				
Total Cemetery Lodge	0.00		0.00	
Ely Museum				
	1,000	Annual Gutter Cleaning		
	10,000	Works identified in conditions survey		developed
Total Ely Museum	1,000.00		0.00	
St Johns Road Garages				
Total St Johns Road Garages	0.00		0.00	
The Old Barn, Littleport				

Total The Old Barn, Littlepor	0.00		0.00	
Mepal Outdoor Centre				
	11,471.40	Site security cameras	1,911.90	Paid monthly and there needs to be a review once the BC is open.
Total Mepal Outdoor Centre	11,471.40		1,911.90	
Other				
	10,000.00	Repairs to car park at eSpace North		Not commenced
Total Other	10,000.00		0.00	

Total Budgeted Expenditure	389,491.46	Spend to Date	230,521.96
Asset Management Budget	170,194.00		
Depot Reserve	201,020.06		
Contribution from S106/Other	23,000.00		

TITLE: LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING REQUEST

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Community Infrastructure Manager

Report number: AB26

Contact officer: Lucy Flintham, Community Infrastructure Manager
Lucy.flintham@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616303, Room 11, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To consider the allocation of up to £100,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre expansion project.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to approve the allocation of up to £100,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funding to the Viva Arts and Community Group Theatre expansion project.

Background/Options

3. East Cambridgeshire District Council introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 1 February 2013. The contributions raised through this levy are used to fund, in whole or in part, the necessary infrastructure to support growth and development in the district.
4. On 24 February 2026, the Council approved a new funding scheme to make receipts available to local infrastructure projects, with the eligibility and scoring criteria approved at Finance and Assets on 26 March 2026. The scheme opened on 13 April 2026.
5. Viva Arts and Community Group is requesting a funding contribution of £100,000 towards the expansion of the theatre to enable larger youth participation and provide enhanced and inclusive welfare and safeguarding spaces to continue to operate with full compliance with the Children in Entertainment Regulations.
6. Viva Arts and Community Group have completed various fundraising events and will provide a total of £40,000 from these events and their reserves to complete the £140,000 project. The application included letters of support from Soham Town Council, The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) and The Anglia Learning Trust. In addition, a public consultation has been completed, and it has been evidenced that 20% of Soham residents responded positively to the proposal. Subject to planning permission being granted, work is expected to start in January 2027 and complete in August 2027.

Arguments/Conclusions

7. The project will deliver improved facilities at an existing community facility and as such can benefit from CIL funding.
8. The project contributes to the delivery of the District Council's Corporate Plan under the 'Sustainable Communities' heading and improves the community, arts and cultural infrastructure for Soham and surrounding villages.
9. There are sufficient funds in the CIL account to meet this request, and as such, for the reasons set out above, Members are recommended to approve the funding allocation.

Additional Implications Assessment

10.

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

Appendices

None

Background documents

Council – 24 February 2026 (Agenda Item 14)

Finance & Asset Committee – 26 March 2026 (Agenda Item 9)

TITLE: Planning Charges

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: David Morren

Report number: AB27

Contact officer: David Morren, Strategic Planning & Development Management Manager, david.morren@Eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 656337
Room 008, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. This report relates to the insertion of an additional charge relating to requests as to whether planning permission is required for works for which no current fee is set.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to note the report and to authorise the changes in the Fee Structure.

Background/Options

3. Following a review into recent service requests, Planning wish to introduce a further charge into their schedule for pre-application advice in relation to whether or not planning permission is required for a proposed development (This would be an informal confirmation but one that a member of the public or agent could rely on).
4. There is currently no fee level set for such a request and the only way to get a site specific determination at present is to pay for a full pre-application advice, or to apply for a formal certificate of Lawfulness which brings about additional costs for a resident as they will need potentially expensive formal plans and other such documents drawn up (and a higher administration fee from ECDC). It has been noted that a number of requests are made to duty officers or have come via requests to drop a kerb (for example) with the County Council, where confirmation is required from the District Council that formal planning permission is not required. It is therefore proposed in line with a number of other local authorities (including those neighbouring the district) to bring in a charge to do this informally.
5. It is proposed that the charge should be £75 with a limit of one hour of officer time. This is in line with the current charging schedule for such levels of requests in respect of hourly rate and comprises a significant discount on the current options available to our residents. The current cheapest option available to residents is a simple householder pre-app which costs £160.95. All planning-related enquiries that are site-specific are currently a chargeable service, and this will allow customers to avoid the need for a full pre-app or to apply for a certificate when more basic information is required. The website would be updated accordingly. It should be noted that this is likely to marginally reduce income in light of the above

considerations and is being introduced not as a revenue-raising scheme but one to simplify and reduce costs for our residents.

Arguments/Conclusions

6. Officers consider that the additional charge will result in a simpler, more cost-effective service for our residents, allowing them to ask simple questions not covered currently by the existing fee regime.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Appendices

None

Background documents

Current Pre-App Fee Schedule

TITLE: Bereavement Centre Project progress update

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Director Operations / Bereavement Centre Project Officer

Report number: AB28

Contact officer: Isabel Edgar, Director Operations
Isabel.edgar@eastcambs.gov.uk, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To update on the Bereavement Centre Project progress.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to note the progress towards completion of the Bereavement Centre.

Background/Options

3. As requested by Members, a report providing an update on the current capital build project of Lake View Bereavement Centre and Crematorium.
4. This report details activity from March to 2 June 2026 and programmed works until practical completion of the build. The overall programme remains on track

Arguments/Conclusions

Project Progress

5. The following milestones have been achieved since March:
 - a) Main Structure: The main chapel, offices and crematory structures have achieved first fix stage, with progress in the side and main chapel towards second fix. Externally, the cladding mounting brackets and backing boards are complete, and the 'Pretty Plastics' and timber fins are due to be completed by the end of May.
 - b) Tribute Terrace/Flower Court & Snowdrop Lodge/wake facility decking: The framework is progressing, with the finished decking area due to be completed by 5 June 2026.
 - c) Landscaping and Habitats: Bare roots mixed species hedge has been planted and is being monitored through the establishing stage. The drainage swale by the memorial garden has been lined and capped, and the approved mix of water purifying flora is to be planted as part of the landscaping programme. The Council and Kier have partnered with Phoenix Trust to provide bird and bat boxes for the site.

- d) Groundworks: Main visitor carpark has been completely laid out, and the final stages of finishing works are to be completed by the end of June. Paving has been completed on the roadway to the wake facility.
- e) Utilities: The site has successfully been electrified in the first week of April 2026. The fibre trenches have been surveyed and signed off, with the next stage of the process discussed in 4.3a). The main water connection is programmed for w/c 8 June, with the fire hydrant commissioning to follow.
- f) Snowdrop Lodge: The modular function room has been installed, although not yet handed over from manufacturers as still in the snagging stage. The timber decking has been discussed above with the Tribute Terrace decking.
- g) Procurement: The cremator and ancillary equipment are planned for delivery mid-June 2026 following manufacturing and shipment from the Netherlands. Completion of the client-provided refrigeration has been completed, and Kier are in discussions to programme installation. Chapel furniture has been ordered and is in production, and ongoing discussion and coordination for the audio-visual systems installation are continuing. All other line of business procurement is underway and on schedule.
- h) Highways: Section 278 works application has been inspected by the County Council, with the final legal steps of the process left to enable Kier to undertake the approved entrance works for the site. Works are expected to commence in mid-June following the successful delivery of the cremator and the completion of legal processes.
- i) Topsoil Management: All topsoil from both donor sites has now been successfully transported to site and distribution across the planned areas has commenced. During the process, a non-notifiable contaminant was identified; however, this has been managed in accordance with the approved Remediation Strategy.

Risk Management

- 6. All risks are being managed through the project team and recorded in line with project governance requirements.
- 7. The main risks to the programme remain involving the delivery and installation of the cremator and the proposed S278 works, as previously identified in the Finance and Asset Committee Report on 25 March 2026, with the addition of the following areas:
 - a) Following the fibre being installed to the boundary of the building from the site boundary, a potential risk has been highlighted in the delay in installing and activating the internal building network for broadband connectivity. Without the internal network being installed, the operation of the cremator and the onsite cloud-based software programmes that allow booking and the ceremony audiovisuals will not be operational. As this element of the work is reliant on a third party, the project team are in discussions and working collaboratively with the ICT department to find an acceptable alternative if the internal work is not completed within the given time allowance.

- b) Permit B Licencing - The Environmental Permit (Permit B) application for the crematorium has now been formally submitted and published for public consultation on the [East Cambridgeshire District Council website](#). The permit is a statutory requirement under environmental legislation and is necessary to authorise the operation of the cremators. Submission of the application marks a significant milestone in the operational readiness programme for the Lake View Bereavement Centre.

Whilst submission represents positive progress, an associated risk remains due to the length and complexity of the Permit B approval process. Final determination and approval timescales are outside the Council’s direct control and are dependent on the regulatory review process, consultation responses and any further information requests that may arise during assessment. Based on current anticipated timescales, the earliest likely approval date is during the first week of August 2026. However, in a worst-case scenario, there remains a risk that determination could be delayed, potentially resulting in the operational opening of the facility being approximately one week later than currently programmed. As such, the Permit B approval process continues to be closely monitored as part of the overall operational readiness programme.

Financial

8. The project remains within the agreed budget. As of the cost plan dated 8 May 2026 provided by the Project Cost consultants, there is circa £73,000 remaining unallocated and unspent in the contingency. The project team continue to review anticipated variations and risks to achieve the best outcome for the project.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Appendices

None

Background documents

Finance and Assets Committee - Asset update reports 25 September 2025 and 7 November 2025

Finance and Assets Committee – 29 January 2026

Finance and Assets Committee – 25 March 2026

TITLE: Lake View Bereavement Centre, Memorialisation Framework and Fees & Charges

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager

Report number: AB29

Contact officer: Marisa Rogers-Jones, Crematorium and Bereavement Centre Manager.
marisa.rogers-jones@eastcambbs.gov.uk 01353 616310, Room 12, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To receive an update on fees and charges for Lake View Bereavement Centre, including the Memorialisation Framework, fees and charges relating to the pet memorial area, including pet ash interments and full-body pet burials.

Recommendations

2. Approve the Lake View Bereavement Centre Memorialisation Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/2027 detailed within Appendix 1
3. Approve the Lake View Bereavement Centre Pet Memorial Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/2027 detailed within Appendix 2
4. Delegated authority to the Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager, in consultation with the Director Operations, to make minor operational and supplier-led pricing adjustments to the memorialisation and pet memorial pricing schedule where required

Background/Options

5. At the meeting of the Finance and Assets Committee on 26 March 2026, Members approved the overarching Fees and Charges Schedule for Lake View Bereavement Centre. At that time, it was recognised that the detailed memorialisation framework and pet memorial provision would be brought back to Committee once supplier arrangements and operational requirements had been further developed
6. This report provides Members with that update and seeks approval of the proposed memorialisation framework and associated fees and charges
7. At the time of writing this report, the memorialisation fees and charges detailed within Appendix 1 remain subject to final confirmation with suppliers. The proposed pricing has been developed using current indicative procurement costs and market benchmarking; however, final prices may vary prior to the opening of Lake View Bereavement Centre due to fluctuations in supplier pricing, material costs, availability and ongoing procurement negotiations. The proposed delegated authority arrangement will allow minor amendments where necessary to reflect confirmed supplier costs and ensure operational readiness ahead of opening.

8. In developing the proposed fees and charges, a detailed pricing exercise was undertaken. This included benchmarking against comparable crematoria and pet memorial providers, reviewing current market rates, and assessing the Council's own operational and administrative costs. Prices have been set to ensure full cost recovery while remaining competitive and proportionate within the local and regional market.
9. Lake View Bereavement Centre has been designed to offer a sensitive, nature-led environment where memorialisation is carefully integrated within the landscape. The memorialisation framework has therefore been developed to:
 - Reflect the natural burial ethos of the site
 - Provide meaningful and flexible options for families
 - Ensure consistency with environmental and ecological principles
 - Allow flexibility to respond to supplier-led cost changes and operational requirements

The proposed memorialisation framework includes:

- Wooden Memorial Plaques
 - Benches within designated areas
 - Natural Habitats
 - Urns for Ashes
 - Oak vases
 - Book of Remembrance
10. All memorial options have been designed to sit sensitively within the landscape, avoiding permanent or intrusive structures within meadow burial areas, in line with the Council's environmental commitments and the site's designation as a County Wildlife Site
 11. As part of the wider bereavement offer, it is proposed to introduce a dedicated pet memorial area within the grounds of Lake View Bereavement Centre. This recognises the important role companion animals play in people's lives and the increasing demand for respectful and dignified pet memorial services. Nationally, demand for both pet burial and pet memorial services has increased in recent years, reflecting changing attitudes toward companion animals and the expectation of dignified end-of-life options.

The proposed pet memorial area will:

- Provide a peaceful and designated area for pet ash interments and full-body pet burials
- Companion animals (e.g., dogs, horses, cats and small pets)
- Operate in a manner consistent with the overall ethos of the site
- Offer simple and nature-led remembrance options
- Full-body pet burials will be managed in accordance with environmental regulations and site-specific ground conditions

The designated area provides sufficient capacity to meet projected demand over the medium term, ensuring the service can operate sustainably without requiring additional land in the foreseeable future

12. The introduction of this service also presents an opportunity to provide a further modest but sustainable income stream whilst supporting the wider community through an additional bereavement service

Arguments/Conclusions

13. The finalised memorialisation framework ensures that Lake View Bereavement Centre can provide a complete and cohesive bereavement service from the point of opening.

14. The proposals:

- Deliver a balanced range of memorial options to meet varying needs and preferences
- Maintain the integrity and natural character of the site
- Support the long-term financial sustainability of the service
- Respond to community expectations and emerging service demand
- The addition of a pet memorial area further strengthens the Centre’s role as a place of remembrance and reflection, supporting both emotional wellbeing and community need

15. Approval of the proposals will enable the service to operate with a fully developed and clearly defined memorialisation framework

16. Memorialisation products and associated administration fees may be subject to anticipated pricing fluctuations of approximately 15–20% per annum, reflecting supplier costs, material availability, procurement outcomes and wider operational requirements

17. The proposed flexible pricing approach and delegated authority arrangement will allow the Council to respond proportionately to supplier-led pricing changes whilst maintaining operational efficiency and avoiding unnecessary delays in implementing minor amendments to fees and charges

18. The approach remains consistent with the Council’s wider fees and charges framework, which ensures that all the Council’s administrative and ongoing maintenance costs are fully covered for these discretionary items and supports the ongoing financial sustainability of Lake View Bereavement Centre

Additional Implications Assessment

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

Financial implications

19. The memorialisation framework will generate additional income to support the financial sustainability of Lake View Bereavement Centre, in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy
20. The introduction of the pet memorial area provides a further modest income stream whilst making effective and sensitive use of available land within the grounds
21. Memorialisation products and associated administration fees will be reviewed periodically in line with supplier pricing, operational requirements and the Council's approved fees and charges framework

Appendices

22. **Appendix 1:**
Lake View Bereavement Centre – Memorialisation Framework Fees and Charges
Schedule 2026/27
23. **Appendix 2:**
Lake View Bereavement Centre – Pet Memorial Area Fees and Charges
Schedule 2026/27

Background documents

- Finance and Assets Committee Report - Lake View Bereavement Centre Fees and Charges, 26 March 2026
- Lake View Bereavement Centre Rules and Regulations Policy 2026

Appendix 1

Lake View Bereavement Centre Memorialisation Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27

Leases

Sponsored plaques - 10-year lease

Other wooden memorials are provided for the lifespan of the memorial product, subject to condition, maintenance requirements and management policies as outlined within the Lake View Bereavement Centre Rules and Regulations.

WOODEN MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Oak post and plaque (Premium range)	£305
Oak post and plaque (Prestige range)	£555
Mini Memorial Remembrance Garden post	£285

SPONSORED PLAQUES – 10-year lease (including engraving)

Oak small	£95
Oak medium	£105
Oak large	£210
Bench plaque large	£160
(Plaques can be placed in designated areas around the grounds)	

NATURAL HABITATS

Oak bird box (including engraving and inscription) 5-year term	£245
Insect box	£45

URNS FOR ASHES

Banana Leaf Urn	£90
Acorn Urn	£150
Loop Earhrise Mushroom Urn	£285
Stone Orbs (one, two or up to four ashes)	Price on application
Oak Vase	£50

BENCHES

Country oak 3-seater bench including first engraved inscription line	£825
----------------------------------------------------------------------	------

Book of Remembrance Entry (inclusive of calligraphy, up to 5 lines)	£250
----------------------------------------------------------------------------	------

- Minimum 2-line entry
- Price includes:
 - Gold initial
 - Floral illustration
 - Special delivery
- Additional emblems £68.40

Appendix 2

Lake View Bereavement Centre Pet Memorial Fees and Charges Schedule 2026/27

Pet Interment Fees

Category	Fee
Small animal (up to 2kg)	£25.00
Cat (up to 6kg)	£50.00
Small dog (up to 9kg)	£70.00
Medium dog (9.1kg – 18kg)	£95.00
Large dog (18kg – 30kg)	£125.00
Extra large dog (30.1kg – 49.9kg)	£150.00
Giant dog (50kg – 79.9kg)	£200.00
Super giant dog (80kg+)	£425.00
Pony	£485.00
Large horse	£800.00
Interment fee	Price on application

TITLE: Business Grant Scheme

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Kieran Carr

Report number: AB30

Contact officer: Rory Thompson, Economic Development Officer

Rory.thompson@eastcambs.gov.uk 01353 616137, Room No. 12, The Grange, Ely.

Issue

1. To approve the council's proposed Business Grant Scheme as set out in Appendix 1.

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

2. Approve the proposed Business Grant Scheme as detailed in Appendix 1
3. Agree that the Business Grant Scheme will open on 6 July 2026, with all projects to be completed by 31 January 2027.
4. Agree that when the funding is fully utilised, the Council reserves the right to close the scheme to any further applications.

Background/Options

5. A total budget of £18,980 has been carried forward from the 2024/25 Capital Growth Fund, following the completion of previous capital-focused grant projects which did not fully utilise the allocated funding.

Arguments/Conclusions

6. The proposed scheme provides an effective mechanism to utilise the remaining Capital Growth Fund allocation and continue supporting business growth within the district, with the opportunity to apply for small grants to support the purchase of small items of equipment.
7. The scheme will support SMEs with turnover under £250,000 to invest in small-scale capital equipment such as machinery, tools, and IT hardware with the aim of improving business efficiency and enabling business growth.
8. Approval of the scheme will enable timely deployment of the available funding and ensure that it delivers maximum benefit within the required timeframe.
9. The grant scheme will be promoted through our normal channels targeting small businesses.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Business Grant Scheme 2026/27 programme details.

Background documents

None



AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPENDIX 1

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Business Grant Scheme 2026/27

1. Introduction

East Cambridgeshire District Council is delivering a 2026/27 Business Grant Scheme to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the district.

The scheme is designed to support small-scale, high-impact growth projects that improve productivity, introduce new products or services, or create jobs.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be based within East Cambridgeshire
- Be an SME with turnover under £250,000
- Provide match funding
- Demonstrate compliance with UK Subsidy Control rules

Businesses must not:

- Be insolvent, in administration, or subject to a striking-off notice
- Have exceeded permitted subsidy thresholds
- Operate solely as investment/finance vehicles
- Apply via an intermediary

Charities are only eligible if applying through a trading arm (E.g. Subsidiary Limited Companies, Community Interest Company (CIC) undertaking commercial trading activities etc.)

3. Project Outcomes

Projects must deliver at least one of the following:

- Creation or safeguarding of jobs
- Introduction of new technology or processes
- Launch of new products or services
- Measurable improvement in productivity



AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPENDIX 1

Projects must demonstrate a clear growth rationale.

4. Eligible Expenditure

Funding is available for capital expenditure directly linked to growth.

Eligible Capital Expenditure

- Machinery and tools
- Equipment improving productivity
- IT hardware (one-off purchases only)

Ineligible Expenditure

- Salaries or wage contributions
- Freelance or contractor staffing costs
- General overheads (rent, utilities, insurance etc.)
- Debt repayment or refinancing
- Ongoing marketing retainers
- Subscription software or licence renewals
- Routine professional fees (legal/accountancy)
- Stock purchases
- Retrospective costs

5. Grant Levels & Intervention Rate

Grant Amounts

- Minimum grant: £500
- Maximum grant: £2,500

Intervention Rate

- ECDC can contribute up to 75% of total eligible project costs

Applicants must demonstrate that project match funding is in place.



AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPENDIX 1

6. Application Process

The scheme operates via a single-stage application process.

Applicants must submit:

- Completed application form
- Project summary
- Project cost breakdown
- Required quotations
- MFA (Minimum Financial Assistance) declaration

7. Assessment & Decision Making

Applications will be:

- Assessed by the Economic Development team
- Reviewed for eligibility and completeness
- Scored against an assessment framework

Funding will be allocated on a rolling, first-come, first-served basis, subject to:

- Meeting minimum quality standards – Applications must provide sufficient information to enable assessment against the grant criteria, including a clear description of the project, the business need for the grant, and the expected impact on the business (such as supporting growth, improving productivity, introducing new technology or processes, launching new products or services, or creating/safeguarding jobs). Projects must also meet all eligibility requirements.
- Budget availability

The Business Grant Scheme will open on 6 July 2026 and close when all money has been allocated

All projects must be completed, and all grant claims submitted, processed, and paid by 31 January 2027. The Council reserves the right to close the scheme early should available funding become fully allocated.

8. Payment & Procurement

- Grants are released after confirmation of expenses



AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPENDIX 1

- No costs may be incurred before a signed Grant Funding Agreement is issued
- Two quotations are required for items over £3,000
- VAT should be excluded

9. Monitoring & Reporting

Successful applicants must provide:

- Invoices and proof of payment
- A short completion report
- Evidence of agreed outputs (e.g. equipment installed, website launched)

The Council reserves the right to visit funded businesses.

11. Subsidy Control

Under the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022, organisations must ensure that the total amount of Minimal Financial Assistance received does not exceed the applicable threshold over the relevant rolling period.

Examples include business grants, innovation or R&D funding, subsidised loans, business rate relief, energy efficiency funding, and discounted use of publicly owned assets.

All applicants must complete an MFA declaration confirming compliance with UK Subsidy Control requirements.

12. Fraud & Due Diligence

Due diligence checks may include:

- Credit checks
- Director disqualification checks
- Bankruptcy and CCJ searches

False declarations may result in grant clawback and potential prosecution.

Businesses must notify the Council of any changes affecting eligibility.



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

ContactUs@eastcambs.gov.uk

01353 665555

AGENDA ITEM 12 – APPENDIX 1

13. Publicity

Successful applicants must acknowledge support from East Cambridgeshire District Council in relevant publicity.

The Council may publish details of grant awards on its website.

TITLE: Growth and Infrastructure Fund Update

Committee: Finance and Assets

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Director Community

Report number: AB31

Contact officer: Sally Bonnett, Director Community sally.bonnett@eastcambs.gov.uk
(01353) 616451, room 105, The Grange, Ely

Issue

1. To receive an update on the Growth and Infrastructure Fund grant scheme.

Recommendations

2. Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

Background/Options

3. At the meeting of the Finance and Assets Committee held on 24 November 2022, a funding allocation of up to £105,000 to Bottisham Parish Council – Bottisham New Cemetery project and up to £250,000 to the National Trust - Wicken Fen Burwell Lode Crossing project was approved from the Growth and Infrastructure Fund.
4. At the meeting of the Finance and Assets Committee held on 25 January 2024, an allocation of £423,107.60 to Witchford Parish Council – Ely Road Cycleway project was approved.
5. Each of the organisations has recently confirmed to the Council that they will not be proceeding with their projects for the following reasons:
 - Bottisham Parish Council – cost increase, lack of demand for burials, changes to legislation regarding cemetery reuse
 - National Trust – significant cost increases
 - Witchford Parish Council – not able to proceed under the proposed funding arrangements, i.e. with the parish council taking legal responsibility for funding the project
6. The organisations have been offered the opportunity to apply for CIL funding to enable delivery of the projects.
7. A meeting has been arranged with Witchford Parish Council to discuss their decision not to proceed.

8. The now unallocated funding needs to be spent by May 2027 on projects which meet the Cambridgeshire Horizons objectives to assist, promote, encourage, develop and secure sustainable growth.

Arguments/Conclusions

9. Due to the Cambridgeshire Horizons spending deadline of May 2027, there is insufficient time to reopen the Growth and Infrastructure Fund for a further application round, undertake assessment, and allocate funding. There is also a risk that an adequate number of applications would not be received to fully commit the remaining funds, and that approved projects would not be delivered within the required timeframe to ensure all funding is spent.
10. Officers are currently exploring using the funding to provide a grant to ECTC to increase the level of affordable housing at phase 3 of Arbor Square, Ely and to install PV panels on the car park canopy at the Lake View Bereavement Centre as both projects can be delivered by May 2027.
11. There is also an option to use the Growth and Infrastructure Fund money in place of CIL funding for projects that are already in progress. This would ensure the Growth and Infrastructure Fund money was fully spent before the deadline and would result in the CIL allocations being put back into the pot for future community projects
12. A paper setting out proposals for the spend of the remaining Growth and Infrastructure Fund money will be presented to the September meeting of this committee. The position of Witchford Parish Council and the total amount of funding available will also be known by this time.

Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Appendices

None

Background documents

Minutes of the Finance and Assets meeting held on 24 November 2022 and 25 January 2024.

Title: Finance Report

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Director, Finance

Report No: AB32

Contact Officer: Jude Antony Director, Finance, Tel: (01353) 616470
E-mail: jude.antony@eastcambs.gov.uk, Room 127. The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

This report provides Members with budget information for services under the Finance & Assets Committee and then, as part of its corporate remit, for the Council as a whole.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to note:

- this Committee has a year-end underspend of £1,331,912 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £7,969,054.
- that overall, the Council has a year-end underspend of £1,990,003 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £19,249,383.
- that the overall position for the Council on Capital is an outturn of £12,518,671, which is an underspend of £4,449,410 when compared to the revised budget.

3.0 Budget Monitoring

Under Financial Regulations, each policy committee is required to consider projections of financial performance against both its revenue and capital budget on a quarterly basis, with this Committee further considering the overall Council position.

This is the final report for the 2025/26 financial year, detailing the actual expenditure incurred and the income received as of 31 March 2026.

Revenue

Appendix 1 details the overall revenue position for both this Committee and the Council overall. In Appendix 1, the budget lines under the stewardship of this Committee and the funding lines are shown in detail, followed by the Operational Services Committee position in summary.

The detailed revenue position for the Operational Services Committee is shown in Appendix 2. The Committee reported a net underspend of £476,084 against its

approved budget for 2025/26. The most significant variances relate to Licensing (£393,020), Planning (£217,820), Care & Repair (£158,261), Leisure Centres (£132,677) and Building Regulations (£71,175). Further details of these and other year-end variances were reported to the Operational Services Committee on 22 June 2026.

The Finance and Assets Committee reported a total year-end underspend of £1,331,912 against its approved budget for 2025/26. This position reflects a number of variances across the services within the Committee's remit. The principal variances contributing to the overall outturn are summarised in the table below.

Service	Variance	Explanation
Corporate Man. Policy Research/Review	(£27,419)	The underspend relates to grant funding received from MHCLG towards the costs associated with the implementation of the external audit backstop arrangements. As the grant funding was not known at the time the budget was set, it has resulted in a favourable variance at year-end.
Council Tax Collection	(£69,016)	ARP underspent at year-end and was therefore able to refund the partner councils some of the management fee paid earlier in the year.
Economic Development	(£74,438)	A staffing underspend was realised in 2025/26 as a result of the work programme delivered during the year. This position will be reviewed in 2026/27.
Finance	(£37,979)	The underspend is primarily attributable to salary savings arising from a vacant Principal Accountant post within the team during the year. The post has now been filled.
General Gang	(£33,782)	The underspend relates to savings from a staff vacancy during the financial year 2025/26.
Housing Benefits	(£22,610)	The budget was built on 2024/25 figures (the most recently available at the time), the revised final cost is now based on 2025/26 expenditure.

Housing Strategic	(£180,843)	There were savings in salaries and consultants' budget throughout the financial year.
Interest & Financial Transactions	(£696,018)	Interest income exceeded the budgeted amount due to effective treasury management, higher investment balances during the year, and interest rates remaining elevated longer than prudently assumed in the budget.
Information Technology	£113,808	The overspend is primarily attributable to increased costs associated with IT software licences, hardware and infrastructure, which exceeded the original budget provision.
Local Charges	£13,428	The increase in the charges that CCC make for the Con 29 fees were more than what we budgeted for in 2025/26.
Legal Services	(£81,400)	The favourable variance is attributable to salary savings generated by vacant posts within the service during the financial year.
Strategic Plans	(£25,378)	The underspend relates to lower-than-anticipated expenditure on consultancy costs within the Local Plan budget during the financial year.
Management Team	£72,816	The overspend is attributable to a reduction in the recharge of employee costs to the Council's trading companies following changes to the management structure, together with expenditure incurred in relation to Local Government Reorganisation.
Miscellaneous Finance	(£113,728)	The favourable variance arises from a lower-than-budgeted Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) charge. The original budget assumed a higher level of capital expenditure; however, actual expenditure was lower than forecast, resulting in a reduced MRP requirement for the year.
Member & Committee Support	(£90,856)	Vacancies within the team this year have resulted in an underspend.

NNDR Costs	(£10,299)	Court costs recovered during the year exceeded the budgeted income target, resulting in a favourable variance.
Office Accommodation	(£43,962)	There were savings in employee costs during 2025/26 as a result of vacancies within the team throughout the financial year.
Parking of Vehicles	(£77,091)	The underspend is the result of increased Car Parking income, back to pre-COVID levels, due to more commuters using the council-owned car park.
Parks & Gardens	£48,561	Section 106 contributions received during the year for Parks and Gardens allocations were lower than budgeted, resulting in an adverse variance.
Public Conveniences	£41,208	The overspend relates to increased costs of providing cleaning cover at public toilets across the district during periods of staff holiday and sickness absence.
Reprographics	(£27,273)	The favourable variance is attributable to increased commercial income generated by the Reprographics Service during 2025/26.
Parish Precepts	(£10,000)	This relates to one of the Parish precepts which was incorrect at the time of budget preparation. This was resolved at a later date.
Business Rates	(£1,068,528)	The underspend relates to additional Renewable Energy receipts generated in 2024/25. Under the accounting arrangements for these receipts, any over-collection in a financial year is credited to the accounts in the following year, resulting in the favourable variance reported in 2025/26
Internal Drainage Boards	(£172,007)	The Internal Drainage Boards prepare their budgets at the same time as the Council, so assumptions are made as to the actual levy to be charged. The forecast reflects the payments due, but more significantly, additional Government Grant received to meet

		the sharp increase in levy costs. (The grant announcement was only made in July 2025 and only a selected few councils are allocated funding, so while budget provision was built into the budget, a prudent approach was taken to the value of our contribution.)
--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Capital

The Council's revised capital programme for 2025/26 totals £16,968,081. This includes £1,553,906 of slippage brought forward from 2024/25 and an additional budget allocation of £2,197,397 for the Crematorium project.

The Council's final capital outturn position for 2025/26 is an underspend of £4,449,410 against the revised budget. Within the Finance & Assets Committee, there is a net overspend of £1,123,365. This is primarily due to additional borrowing provided to East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC), with total lending of £2.875 million during the year compared with the original budget provision of £1.5 million. This overspend was partially offset by the deferral of the Solar Panels on Council Buildings project and by lower-than-anticipated expenditure on Depot capital maintenance works. The Operational Services Committee reported an underspend of £5.572 million, details of which are set out in the Operational Services Committee Outturn Report.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

The net revenue expenditure for the Council is a £ 3,049,102 underspend compared to the approved budget. This has been moved to the Surplus Savings Reserve.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Financial Implications

The underspend reported in this report will be added to the Council's Surplus Savings Reserve and will become available to balance the budget in future years.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026.

Appendix 2 – Operational Services Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026

Appendix 3 – Capital Budget Monitoring Report – 31 March 2026

Appendix 4 – Reserve Balances – 31 March 2026

7.0 Background Document

Council Budget approved by Full Council on 25 February 2025

Finance & Assets Committee - Budget Monitoring Report - 31st March 2026

Revenue	Total Budget 2025-26	Actual to 31 March 2026	Variance
	£	£	£
Asset Management	153,442	153,442	--
Award Ditches	11,468	10,512	(956)
Civic Relations	18,721	15,029	(3,692)
Climate Change	100,000	100,000	--
Closed Churchyards	37,777	37,777	--
Community Transport	15,000	15,000	--
Corp.Man.Policy Research / Review	245,497	218,078	(27,419)
Council Tax Collection costs	614,713	545,697	(69,016)
Data Management	175,648	170,287	(5,361)
Depot	(76,499)	(76,499)	--
Economic Development	32,486	(41,952)	(74,438)
Enterprise Zone Business Rates	610,816	610,816	--
Finance	359,950	321,971	(37,979)
General Gang	99,947	66,165	(33,782)
Health & Safety (Work)	28,784	26,410	(2,374)
Housing Benefits	518,819	496,209	(22,610)
Housing Strategic	207,243	26,400	(180,843)
Human Resources (including Training)	287,498	285,981	(1,517)
Interest & Financial Transactions	(994,055)	(1,690,073)	(696,018)
Information Technology	1,136,674	1,250,482	113,808
Internal Audit	88,568	84,016	(4,552)
Land Charges Admin	(29,917)	(16,489)	13,428
Legal Services	189,832	108,432	(81,400)
Local Elections	25,000	29,864	4,864
Strategic Plans	229,069	203,691	(25,378)
Management Team	725,349	798,165	72,816
Member & Committee Support	711,686	620,830	(90,856)
Miscellaneous Properties	(47,367)	(42,569)	4,798
Misc Finance	556,098	442,370	(113,728)
NNDR Collection Costs	61,973	51,674	(10,299)
Office Accommodation	618,884	574,922	(43,962)
Out Of Hours call out Service	14,000	10,047	(3,953)
Parking Of Vehicles	47,544	(29,547)	(77,091)
Parks And Gardens Team	509,711	558,272	48,561
Payroll	133,939	126,445	(7,494)
Public Conveniences	213,197	254,405	41,208
Registration of Electors	50,644	52,980	2,336
Reprographics	159,263	131,990	(27,273)
Sport & Recreation Admin	127,652	135,912	8,260
Finance & Assets Committee Total	7,969,054	6,637,142	(1,331,912)
Operational Services Committee	6,842,567	6,366,483	(476,084)
Other Spend			
Parish Precepts	3,596,232	3,586,232	(10,000)
Internal Drainage Boards	801,368	629,361	(172,007)
Movement in Corporate Reserves	40,162	40,162	--
Revenue Budget Total	19,249,383	17,259,380	(1,990,003)
Funding	/AP001		
Council Tax	(8,310,874)	(8,310,874)	--
Revenue Support Grant	(125,690)	(116,261)	9,429
Business Rates	(7,647,071)	(8,715,599)	(1,068,528)
Other Government Grants (NHB / RSG etc.)	(1,352,853)	(1,352,853)	--
Budgeted draw from Surplus Savings Reserve	(1,812,895)	(1,812,895)	--
	(19,249,383)	(20,308,482)	(1,059,099)
Revenue Total	0	(3,049,102)	(3,049,102)

Revenue	Total Budget 2025-26	Actual to 31 March 2026	Variance
	£	£	£
Building Regulations	36,436	107,611	71,175
Community Projects & Grants	206,095	175,791	(30,304)
Community Safety	64,358	65,483	1,125
Cons. Area & Listed Buildings	74,808	81,520	6,712
Customer Services	665,279	672,696	7,417
Dog Warden Scheme	50,553	38,311	(12,242)
Emergency Planning	32,148	38,961	6,813
Environmental	52,087	55,659	3,572
Environmental Health	620,980	602,139	(18,841)
Care & Repair	(98,842)	59,419	158,261
Homelessness	326,611	374,419	47,808
Leisure Centre	(502,043)	(634,720)	(132,677)
Licencing	26,040	(366,980)	(393,020)
Marketing & Grants	34,266	31,126	(3,140)
Parish Forums	1,561	979	(582)
Nuisances	115,533	119,797	4,264
Planning	395,659	177,839	(217,820)
Public Relations	124,682	125,083	401
Recycling	1,649,812	1,668,185	18,373
Refuse Collection	1,850,473	1,844,146	(6,327)
Street Cleansing	1,082,792	1,082,888	96
Street Naming & Numbering	33,279	25,028	(8,251)
Travellers Sites	0	21,103	21,103
Revenue Total	6,842,567	6,366,483	(476,084)

Capital Outturn 2025/26

Capital	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variance between Revised Budget & Outturn
	£	£	£	£	£	£
OPERATIONAL SERVICES						
Conservation Area Schemes - 2nd round		27,506		27,506	0	(27,506)
Refuse & Cleansing Vehicles	1,964,000	623,620		2,587,620	1,554,627	(1,032,993)
Waste - Wheelied Bins	1,040,000			1,040,000	253,091	(786,909)
Food Waste Caddies	280,256			280,256	112,109	(168,147)
Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants	697,299	520,505		1,217,804	1,029,688	(188,116)
Empty Properties, Discretionary DFGs, Minor Works, Home Repair Asst.	75,000			75,000	35,843	(39,157)
Vehicle Etc. Replacements	100,000			100,000	299,288	199,288
Bereavement Centre	7,560,223	1,342	2,197,397	9,758,962	6,229,727	(3,529,235)
Leisure Centre				0	0	0
Operational Services Total	11,716,778	1,172,973	2,197,397	15,087,148	9,514,373	(5,572,775)
FINANCE & ASSETS						
Solar Panels on Council Buildings		100,100		100,100	0	(100,100)
Depot		280,833		280,833	129,298	(151,535)
New Loan Agreement with ECTC	1,500,000			1,500,000	2,875,000	1,375,000
Finance & Assets Total	1,500,000	380,933	0	1,880,933	3,004,298	1,123,365
Total	13,216,778	1,553,906	2,197,397	16,968,081	12,518,671	(4,449,410)

SOURCES OF FINANCING	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Operational Services						
Government Grants (DFG)	602,678	520,505		1,123,183	1,029,688	(93,495)
Government Grants (Food Waste)	894,056	0		894,056	365,200	(528,856)
Capital Receipts	209,621	27,506		237,127	35,843	(201,284)
Borrowing	1,850,200	623,620		2,473,820	1,054,627	(1,419,193)
Section 106 / CIL	8,160,223	1,342	2,197,397	10,358,962	7,029,015	(3,329,947)
Operational Services Total	11,716,778	1,172,973	2,197,397	15,087,148	9,514,373	(5,572,775)
Finance & Assets						
Revenue Contributions	0	0		0	0	
Capital Receipts	0	100,100		100,100	0	(100,100)
Borrowing	1,500,000	280,833		1,780,833	3,004,298	1,223,465
Finance & Assets Total	1,500,000	380,933	0	1,880,933	3,004,298	1,123,365
Capital Funding Total	13,216,778	1,553,906	2,197,397	16,968,081	12,518,671	(4,449,410)

Capital Resources Forecast	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	1,498,475	260,173		1,758,648	1,758,648	
Add receipts from Sales of Assets	50,000			50,000	66,021	16,021
Less Capital Receipts Applied	(209,621)	(127,606)		(337,227)	(35,843)	301,384
Capital Reserves Carried Forward	1,338,854	132,567	0	1,471,421	1,788,826	317,405

Borrowing	Published Budget 2025-26	Slippage from 2024-25	Additions	Revised Budget 2025-26	Outturn	Variations
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward	10,276,638	(79,453)		10,197,185	10,197,185	
Less MRP Applied	(685,622)		100,322	(585,300)	(585,300)	0

Repayment from ECTC	(1,900,000)			(1,900,000)	(2,850,000)	(950,000)
Add additional Borrowing Applied	3,350,200	904,453		4,254,653	4,058,925	(195,728)
Borrowing Carried Forward	11,041,216	825,000	100,322	11,966,538	10,820,810	(1,145,728)

Reserve Accounts

Description	2025/26			
	Opening Balance 1 April	Transfers to Reserve	Contributions from Reserve	Forecast Balance 31 March
	£	£	£	£
District Elections	50,397	25,000		75,397
Housing Conditions Survey	35,000	5,000		40,000
Change Management	0			0
Major Project Development	100,000			100,000
Surplus Savings Reserve	10,229,244	3,049,103	(1,746,019)	11,532,328
Vehicle Replacements	74,240			74,240
Sports Facilities Funding Reserve	58,000		(10,000)	48,000
IT	160,000	67,209		227,209
CIL Admin	206,621			206,621
Asset Management	96,441		(42,840)	53,601
Community Fund Reserves	18,207		(7,529)	10,678
Housing	69,926			69,926
Historic Homelessness Grant	742,431		(109,162)	633,269
Affordable Housing	97,526		(9,414)	88,112
General Fund Balance	1,385,852	40,162		1,426,014
Commercial Invest to Save	20,000			20,000
CLT Grant Applications	20,000			20,000
Travellers' Sites	0			0
Enterprise Zone NNDR	1,234,540	428,148	(70,112)	1,592,576
Growth and Infrastructure Fund	2,522,015		(1,021,686)	1,500,329
Exceptional Hardship Fund	6,939		(3,964)	2,976
Community Transport	125,281	14,000		139,281
Climate Change	88,229	26,084		114,313
Other				
CIL	12,947,370	5,942,116	(8,033,725)	10,855,762
Section 106 Agreements	4,722,039	903,319	(1,350,495)	4,274,862
Internal Borrowing	(10,197,185)	(4,058,925)	3,435,300	(10,820,810)
Total Reserves	24,813,113	6,441,216	(8,969,646)	22,284,682

Total Reserves	17,340,889	3,654,706	(3,020,726)	17,974,868
General Fund	1,385,852	40,162	0	1,426,014
Earmarked Reserves	15,955,037	3,614,544	(3,020,726)	16,548,854

TITLE: 2025/26 TREASURY OPERATIONS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Committee: Finance and Assets Committee

Date: 25 June 2026

Author: Director, Finance

Report No: AB33

Contact Officer: Jude Antony, Director, Finance
jude.antony@eastcambs.gov.uk; 01353 616470

1.0 Issue

To report on the Council's treasury operations during the 2025/26 financial year.

This report reviews the Treasury Management activity during the financial year 2025/26 and reports on the prudential indicators as required by CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice.

2.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to recommend to Full Council that they approve this report detailing the Council's treasury operations during 2025/26, including the prudential and treasury indicators, as set out in the Annual Treasury Management Review (Appendix 1).

3.0 Background / Options

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 2025/26. 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 2025/26, the minimum reporting requirements were that

Full Council received the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved by Full Council on 25 February 2025);
- a mid-year treasury update report (this was reviewed by Finance and Assets Committee on 27 November 2025 and approved by Full Council on 25 February 2026);
- an annual review following the end of the year, describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

A further Committee received

- reports at the end of quarters one and three (these were incorporated into the Finance Reports presented to Finance and Assets Committee on the 25 September 2025 and 29 January 2026).

4.0 Results

Cash investments totalled £30.131 million as of 31 March 2026, a decrease of £2.157 million on the previous year. The Council's cash investments were all for periods of less than one year.

The overall reduction in balances from £32.3 million on 31 March 2025 to £30.1 million at 31 March 2026 is primarily driven by planned use of earmarked reserves and S106/CIL balances during the year.

The Council's loan to ECTC increased from £5.825 million on 31 March 2025 to £5.850 million on 31 March 2026.

Interest received during the financial year was £1,838,370, which was £707,210 above the budget of £1,131,160. This figure comprised £1,585,630 from investments in money markets and short, fixed-term investments, and £252,740 from the loan to ECTC.

There are two main reasons for this overachievement in interest receipts:

- While interest rates reduced during the year, they reduced at a slower rate than the prudent estimate built into the budget, which has resulted in greater interest receipts and
- Higher investment balances were maintained during the year as a result of the reprofiling of capital expenditure and some delays in the delivery of capital schemes. Consequently, cash resources remained available for investment for longer than originally forecast, generating additional investment income.

The weighted-average rate of return on cash investments held during the year (excluding the loan to ECTC) was 3.75%.

5.0 Conclusions

The size of the Council's investment portfolio has historically been relatively small, meaning that investment decisions have had to be made primarily to meet cash flow requirements rather than to optimise investment returns. While the portfolio's value is now higher than in previous years, these disciplines have been retained. However, opportunities for proactive investment decisions were taken during the year, with funds moved to longer-term investments (three-month) and away from overnight accounts.

During the financial year, the Council operated within its approved treasury limits and prudential indicators.

6.0 Additional Implications Assessment

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

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

Financial Implications

The additional income gained from interest receipts has contributed to the Council’s net underspend in 2025/26, as detailed in the Year-end Finance Report also on this meeting’s agenda.

7.0 Appendices

Annual Treasury Management Review 2025/26

8.0 Background Documents:

Treasury Management Strategy as approved by Full Council on 25 February 2025.

Quarterly and half-year update reports as detailed in 3 above.

Classification: Public

Annual Treasury Management Review 2025/26

East Cambridgeshire District Council

DATE 31 MARCH 2026

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

This is an optional area which clients may wish to include in their report if they feel that members would appreciate having this list of abbreviations and definitions.

CE: Capital Economics - is the economics consultancy that provides MUFG Corporate Markets Treasury Limited, 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 Council finance and treasury management.

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

MHCLG: the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government - the Government department that directs local authorities in England.

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

EU: European Union

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

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

FOMC: the Federal Open Market Committee – this is the branch of the Federal Reserve Board which determines monetary policy in the USA by setting interest rates and determining quantitative easing/tightening policy. It is composed of 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.

HRA: housing revenue account.

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

MPC: the Monetary Policy Committee is a committee of the Bank of England, which meets for one and a half days, eight times a year, to determine monetary policy by setting the official interest rate in the United Kingdom, (the Bank of England Base Rate, commonly called Bank Rate), and by making decisions on quantitative easing/tightening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annual Treasury Management Review 2025/26

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 2025/26. 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 2025/26 the minimum reporting requirements were that the Full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (Council 25th February 2025)
- a mid-year, (minimum), treasury update report (Council 24th February 2026)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)

In addition, this Finance and Assets Committee has also received quarterly treasury management update reports on the following dates 25th September 2026 and 29th January 2026.

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

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

Member training on treasury management issues was last undertaken on 5th October 2023 as part of the training for all members following the District Council elections earlier in that year.

Executive Summary

During 2025/26, 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	31.3.25	2025/26	31.3.26
	Actual £0	Original £0	Actual £0
Capital expenditure	3,200	13,216	12,519
Capital Financing Requirement:	988	3,350	4,059
Gross borrowing	10,197	11,041	10,820
External debt	0	0	0
Investments (all under 1 year)	32,288	0	30,131
Net borrowing	32,288	0	30,131

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report. The Director of Finance also confirms that no external borrowing was undertaken 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	31.3.25 Actual	2025/26 Budget	31.3.26 Actual
Capital expenditure	3,654	13,216	12,519
Financed in year	2,666	9,866	8,460
Unfinanced capital expenditure	988	3,350	4,059

Capital expenditure in year was lower than the published budget due to a number of schemes progressing slower than originally anticipated, with expenditure reprofiled into future years in line with revised delivery timelines. The main variances were:

Bereavement Centre expenditure was lower than budget as works and associated costs have been reprofiled into 2026/27 in line with the updated project timetable.

Refuse and Cleansing Vehicles expenditure was lower than budget due to delays in vehicle deliveries, with costs now expected in the 2026/27 financial year.

Waste Wheelie Bins and Food Waste Caddies expenditure was lower than budget due to delayed procurement and implementation, with expenditure slipping into 2026/27.

Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants expenditure was higher than budget following additional grant approvals and slippage from 2024/25.

Vehicle replacement expenditure was higher than budget as replacement works were brought forward during the year.

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 2025/26 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

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

Reducing the CFR – the Council's underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing need, (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). 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 2025/26 MRP Policy, (as required by MHCLG Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2025/26 on 25th February 2025.

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

CFR (£000): General Fund	31.3.25 Actual	2025/26 Budget	31.3.25 Actual
Opening balance	10,652	10,277	10,197
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	988	3,350	4,059
Less MRP	-593	-686	-585
Less ECTC Loan Repayments	-850	-1,900	-2,850
Closing balance	10,197	11,041	10,821

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 (2024/25) plus the estimates of any

additional capital financing requirement for the current (2025/26) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

£'000	31.3.25 Actual	2025/26 Budget	31.3.26 Actual
Gross external borrowing position	0	0	0
Capital Financing Requirement	10,197	11,041	10,821
Under Funding of CFR	10,197	11,041	10,821

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 2025/26 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	2025/26
Authorised limit	10,000
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	0
Operational boundary	0
Average gross borrowing position	0
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	N/A

3. Treasury Position as of 31st March 2026

The Council's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service 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 2025/26 the Council's treasury position, was as follows:-

The Council had no external debt.

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

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 fixed deposit accounts have different maturity dates, with the last date being 05th June 2026.

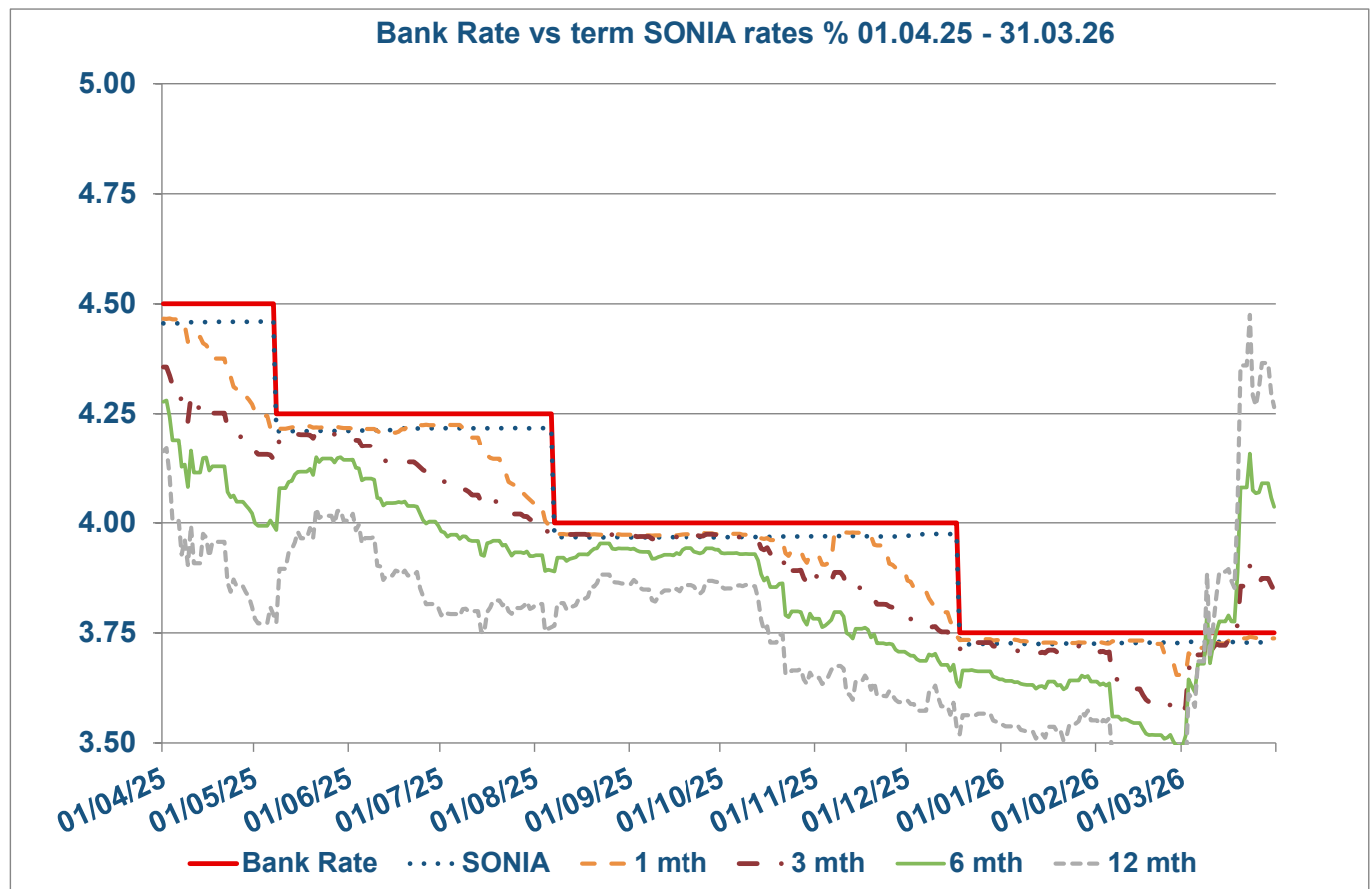
The loan facility to East Cambridgeshire trading Company runs until March 2027. However, the nature of the loan facility allows the Company to borrow and repay funding as their cashflow allows within the maximum facility of £7,500,000.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	31.3.25 Actual £'000	31.3.24 Actual %	31.3.26 Actual £000	31.3.26 Actual %
Treasury investments				
Banks – main bank account	187	0.6%	261	0.9%
Banks – call accounts	22,101	68.4%	23,000	76.3%
Money Market Funds	10,000	31.0%	6,870	22.8%
TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS	32,288	100%	30,131	100%
Non-Treasury investments				
Third party loans - ECTC	5,825	95.5%	5,850	95.5%
Third party loans – EC CLT	277	4.5%	247	4.5%
TOTAL NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS	6,102	100%	6,097	100%
Treasury investments	32,288	84.1%	30,131	84.10%
Non-Treasury Investments	6,102	15.9%	6,097	15.9%
TOTAL OF ALL INVESTMENTS	38,390	100.00%	36,228	100.00%

4. The Strategy for 2025/26

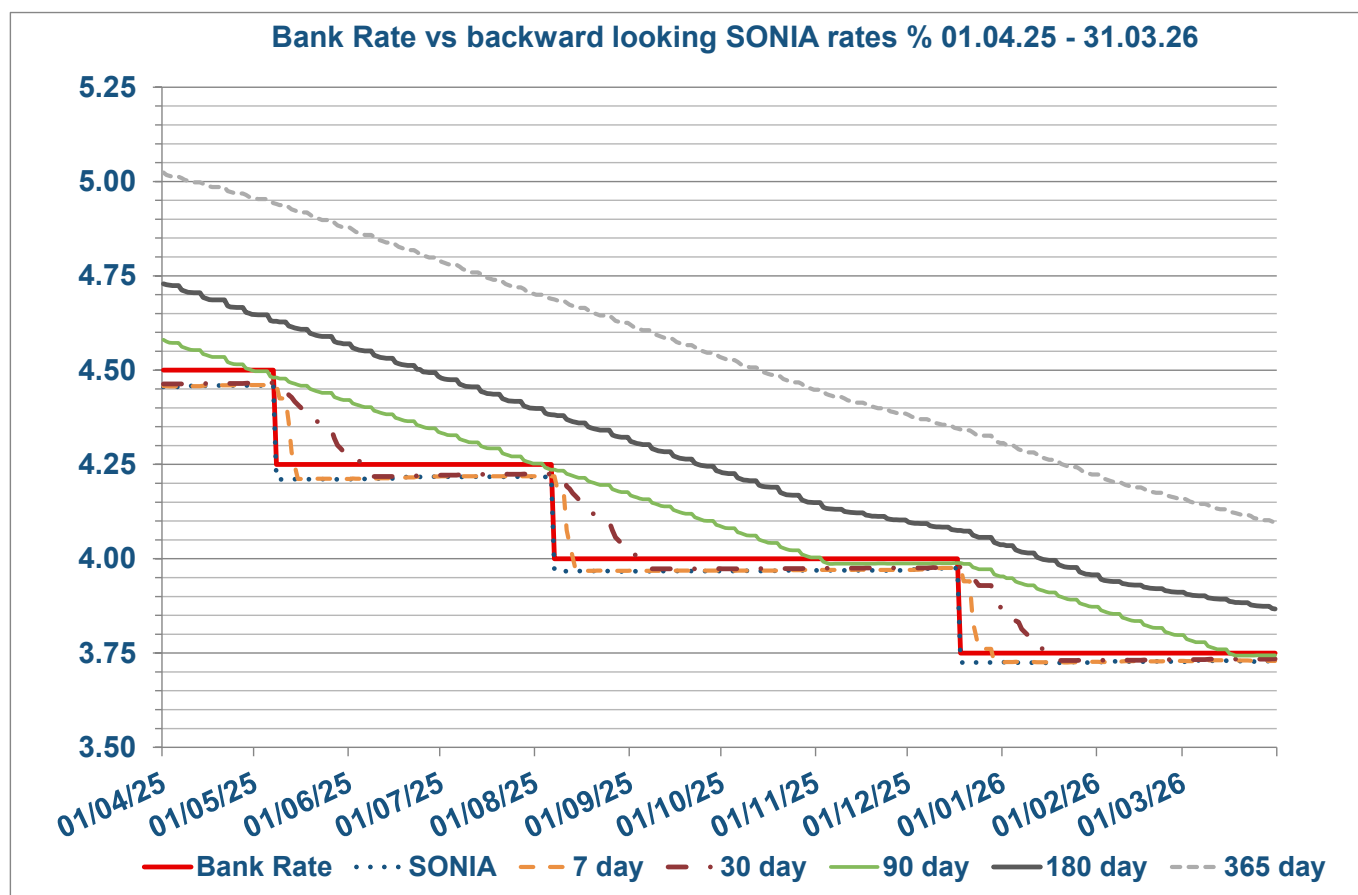
4.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Term) 2025/26



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 31/03/2026						
	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	4.50	4.46	4.47	4.36	4.28	4.47
High Date	01/04/2025	07/05/2025	03/04/2025	02/04/2025	02/04/2025	23/03/2026
Low	3.75	3.72	3.65	3.57	3.49	3.40
Low Date	18/12/2025	22/12/2025	27/02/2026	27/02/2026	27/02/2026	27/02/2026
Average	4.04	4.01	3.98	3.94	3.87	3.77
Spread	0.75	0.74	0.81	0.79	0.79	1.08

Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Backward-looking) 2025/26



FINANCIAL YEAR TO QUARTER ENDED 31/03/2026							
	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
High	4.50	4.46	4.46	4.47	4.58	4.73	5.02
High Date	01/04/2025	07/05/2025	28/04/2025	06/05/2025	01/04/2025	01/04/2025	01/04/2025
Low	3.75	3.72	3.73	3.73	3.74	3.87	4.09
Low Date	18/12/2025	22/12/2025	22/01/2026	21/01/2026	18/03/2026	31/03/2026	31/03/2026
Average	4.04	4.01	4.02	4.05	4.13	4.26	4.55
Spread	0.75	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.84	0.86	0.93

Investment returns remained robust throughout 2025/26 despite Bank Rate reducing steadily through the course of the financial year (three 0.25% rate cuts in total), and at the end of March the yield curve had turned positive, reflecting inflation concerns emanating from the on-going conflict in the Middle East.

Bank Rate reductions of 0.25% occurred in May, August and December, bringing the headline rate down from 4.50% to 3.75%. Two of the Bank Rate cuts occurred in the same month as the Bank of England publishes its Quarterly Monetary Policy Report, therein providing a clarity over the timing of potential future rate cuts.

As of early April 2026, market sentiment has been heavily influenced by the Middle East conflict. Commentators anticipate a growing risk of inflation, meaning interest rates will not be cut for some time, and may increase to counteract inflationary pressures arising from steepening energy costs. Growth will also be impacted in many regions of the world. UK GDP is projected by the Office for Budget Responsibility (3 March 2026) to be 1.1% in 2026 before picking up to 1.6% in 2027 and 2028. But the likelihood is that there is downside risk to this forecast given events in the Middle East through March and still on-going.

Looking back through 2025/26, investors were able to achieve returns generally in a range of 4.5% - 5% for periods ranging from 1 month to 12 months in the spring of 2025. By the end of March 2026 deposit rates were somewhat volatile, regaining some traction as the Middle East conflict suggested energy driven inflation may lead to higher interest rates than would otherwise have been the case. Where liquidity requirements were not a drain on day-to-day investment choices, extending duration through the use of "laddered investments" paid off.

Heading into 2026/27, UK inflation is likely to increase to over 4% in the coming months as oil prices, for example, remain close to \$100 per barrel, over 50% higher than before the Middle East conflict started.

4.2 Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk

During 2025/26, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as near-term investment rates have generally been lower than medium to long-term borrowing costs. The latter are expected to fall a little through 2026 and 2027 in the light of economic growth concerns and the eventual dampening of inflation.

The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances has served well over the past few years. However, this 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 of Finance therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy.

Interest rate forecasts initially suggested gradual reductions in short, medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2025/26. Bank Rate did reduce to 3.75% as anticipated, but the initial expectation of significant rate reductions across the whole curve did not transpire, primarily because inflation concerns were very elevated in March 2026. At the start of April 2026, the market expected Bank Rate to increase over the coming months to 4% or 4.25%, from 3.75%, whilst all parts of the curve have also risen substantially through March. A significant fall in inflation will be required to underpin any material movement lower in the longer part of the curve.

5. Investment Outturn

Investment Policy – the Council’s investment policy is governed by MHCLG investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 25th February 2025. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

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

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

Balance Sheet Resources (£000)	31 st March 2025	31 st March 2026
Balances		
Earmarked reserves	17,632	17,975
S106 / CIL	17,669	15,131
Capital Receipts	1,759	1,789
Council Tax / Business Rates	1,425	4,499
cProvisions	1,227	356
Cash (Debtors / Creditors)	2,773	1,202
Internal Borrowing	-10,197	-10,821
Total	32,288	30,131

Investments held by the Council

- The Council maintained an average balance of £35,620 of internally managed funds.
- The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 4.8%.
- The comparable performance indicator is the average SONIA rate, which was 3.5%.
- Total investment income (including from ECTC) was £1,838,370 compared to a budget of £1,131,160

There are two main reasons for this over achievement in interest receipts:

- While interest rates reduced during the year, they reduced at a slower rate than the prudent estimate built into the budget, which has resulted in greater interest receipts and
- As a result of underspends on both the revenue and capital budget, cash holdings have been higher than assumed in the budget.

6. The Economy and Interest Rates

UK Economy

As with 2024/25, UK inflation has proved somewhat stubborn throughout 2025/26. Having started the financial year at 3.5% y/y (April), the CPI measure of inflation peaked at 3.8% from July to September, before dipping to 3% in January and February. Core inflation picked up to 3.2% in February, from 3.1%, and the recent upward pressure on energy costs could see CPI inflation breach 4.5% later this year.

Against this backdrop, the continued lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the potentially negative implications for global growth as a consequence of the implementation of US tariff policies, Bank Rate reductions look limited for the remainder of 2026 (as they do in the euro-zone). Bank Rate currently stands at 3.75%.

Moreover, borrowing has become more expensive in 2025/26. Gilt yields have risen materially in March 2026, more than reversing the falls earlier in the financial year. Additionally, the public finances have remained under pressure. The higher-than-expected public net sector borrowing of £14.3bn in February was £2.2bn above last February's outturn. But that borrowing overshoot was mainly due to timing effects relating to the £13.0bn government debt interest payment. That came in as the highest payment since June 2025, causing a 12.3% y/y jump in spending. On the flip side, sitting at £8.1bn, tax revenues were also higher than last February, largely on the back of solid growth in self-employment incomes in 2024/25, boosting self-assessment income tax receipts and stronger capital gains tax receipts.

However, the combination of some energy price support and pressures from higher inflation amid the ongoing energy price shock, higher interest rates and a weaker economy will ultimately put borrowing on an upward trend. With the rise in energy prices possibly pushing the Retail Prices Index inflation up to a peak of 5.7%, debt interest repayments will increase by about £10bn. A weaker growth profile, higher inflation, higher interest rates and gilt yields could erode about £11bn of the Chancellor's £23.6bn headroom.

The loosening in the labour market continues to bear down on wage growth. The 3myy growth rate of average earnings including bonuses slowed from 4.2% in December to 3.9% in January. Meanwhile, excluding bonuses, private earnings growth continued to fall from 3.4% to 3.3%.

The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation pressures remain, labour markets are still relatively tight by historical comparisons, and central banks are also having to react to a fundamental re-ordering of economic and defence policies driven largely by the US administration.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	3.75%	2.0%	3.5%-3.75%
GDP	0.1%q/q Q4 (1.0%y/y)	+0.2%q/q Q4 (1.2%y/y)	0.7% Q4 Annualised
Inflation	3.0%y/y (Feb)	1.9%y/y (Feb)	2.4%y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	5.2% (Jan)	6.2% (Jan)	4.4% (Feb)

The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving Bank Rate unchanged at 3.75% by a vote of 9-0, but suggesting rates may need to rise if inflation picks up markedly. The vote could best be described as moderately hawkish. The MPC stated it "stands ready to act as necessary" and "is alert to the increased risk of domestic inflationary pressures through second-round effects in wage and price-setting". Even so, we suspect the committee is likely to put equal weight on higher inflation and weaker growth, particularly the poor macroeconomic backdrop prior to the energy shock, keeping interest rates at 3.75% this year.

10-year Gilt yields have been exceptionally volatile in the final weeks of 2025/26, troughing at around 4.23% in late February before shooting up to 5.00% (and well through that on an intraday basis). That spike was driven by the outbreak of war in the Middle East, which prompted a dramatic reassessment of investors' Bank of England policy rate expectations. Having been pricing in rate cuts in late-February, as many as four rate *hikes* were discounted by late-March. The 10-year yield ended the quarter at 4.92% with around 65bp of rate hikes priced in over the coming

year. In addition to more hawkish monetary policy expectations, part of this increase in yields probably reflected an increase in term premia amid concerns that the government may react by loosening the fiscal purse strings.

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 experienced another volatile quarter, surging to an all-time high of around 10,900 in late February, leaving it up 10% from the start of 2026, before giving back most of those gains in March after the outbreak of the Middle East conflict. That pullback leaves the index at around 10,176 at the end of the quarter. For context it was at 8,582 at the start of April. The £ has stayed relatively resilient also at \$1.33, strengthening from \$1.29 back in April.

US Economy

Despite a weak finish to 2025, the US economy has generally been the strongest among the developed economies, but with uncertainties growing surrounding President Trump's central economic tenet of being able to apply tariffs on an ad-hoc basis, and bend the FOMC Fed Funds rate decision-making to his will, there is something of a stalemate in place at present over when, and if, rates will be cut further in 2026.

Inflation is currently stuck at around 2.5%, unemployment is only a little above 4%, and tax refunds are in the process of being facilitated for many households. But will those refunds be – at least partially – offset by higher gasoline prices?

The S&P500 started April 2025 at 5,633 and finished March 2026 at 6,528 having peaked at just over 7,000. The 10-year Treasury yield finished March at 4.30% having been 4.17% back at the start of April, and during the year has been both above 4.50% and below 4.00%.

EZ Economy

The Eurozone economy has run pretty much in parallel with that of the UK. A slightly stronger finish to 2025 (GDP of 0.2% q/q) than that of the UK cannot hide the fact that the economy has been negatively impacted by German economic stagnation until late in 2025. France has also struggled against a difficult political backdrop, but managed to post GDP growth of 0.3% q/q for October to December.

With Eurozone headline inflation close to 2%, the ECB has been able to reduce its Deposit Rate to 2%. Whether it rises from that low point will very much be driven by how energy prices trend over the coming months. The Euro has appreciated against the dollar from 1.08 at the start of April 2025 to 1.16 at the end of March.

TITLE: ANNUAL REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Committee: Finance & Assets Committee

Date: 26 June 2026

Author: Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Report number: AB34

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

jane.webb@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616278, Room No. 214B, The Grange, Ely

Issues

1. This report receives the annual reports from Council representatives on outside bodies within the Finance and Assets Committee's remit.

Recommendations

2. That the annual reports from the Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee be noted (Appendix 2).
3. That the list of Outside Bodies currently within the remit of the Finance & Assets Committee, as set out in Appendix 1, including any requested changes to representatives for the new municipal year, is approved.

Background

4. The Council's Constitution, as set out in the Terms of Reference for the Finance & Assets Committee, requires the Committee to appoint representatives to Outside Bodies within its remit from the broader Council membership for up to 4 years. In practice, appointments are made at the first meeting after the elections and are reviewed only between elections if circumstances change. A complete list of appointments was compiled following the May 2023 elections and has been reviewed as needed since then.
5. All representatives on outside bodies are requested to submit an annual report detailing the organisation's activities and the continued relevance of appointing a Council representative. These reports have been compiled and are included in Appendix 2.

Conclusions

6. Receipt of the annual reports demonstrates the organisation's work and its relevance to the Council's work.

Additional Implications Assessment

Financial Implications None	Legal Implications None	Human Resources (HR) Implications None
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Not required	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) Not required	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) Not required

Appendices

7. Appendix 1: Representation on outside bodies within the remit of the Finance and Assets Committee
8. Appendix 2 - Reports from representatives for Outside Bodies within the remit of the Finance and Assets Committee.

Background documents

9. None

FINANCE AND ASSETS COMMITTEE
OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES 2026-27

ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATIVES	APPOINTMENT(S)	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER
A10 Ely to A14 Improvements Scheme	2	Cllr Lee Denney Cllr Bill Hunt	Director Community: Sally Bonnett
East Cambridgeshire Community Land Trust	1	Cllr Anna Bailey	Director Community: Sally Bonnett
East of England Local Government Association	1	Leader of Council: Cllr Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: Emma Grimma
Local Government Association	1	Cllr Lucuis Vellacott	Chief Executive: Emma Grimma
Local Government Association – District Councils Network	1	Leader of Council: Cllr Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: Emma Grimma
Rural Services Network	2	Keith Horgan Julia Huffer	Director Community: Sally Bonnett
INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	REQUIRED REPRESENTATIVES	APPOINTMENT(S)	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER
Burnt Fen Internal Drainage Board	2	Cllr Martin Goodearl Derrick Beckett	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board	7	Cllr Christine Colbert Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann Cllr Christine Whelan Vacancy x 2 Rupert Moss-Eccardt Rebecca Denness	Director Finance: Jude Antony

Agenda Item 16 - Appendix 1

Haddenham Level Internal Drainage Board	2	Cllr Gareth Wilson Steve Cheetham	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board	6	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Martin Goodearl Cllr David Miller Andrew Butcher Mark Taylor	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Middle Fen & Mere Internal Drainage Board	5	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Mark Goldsack Cllr Keith Horgan Cllr Lucius Vellacott Alec Jones	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Padnal & Waterden Internal Drainage Board	7	Cllr Alison Whelan Clive Webber Lis Every Vacancy (x4)	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Swaffham Internal Drainage Board	4	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp	Director Finance: Jude Antony
Waterbeach Level Internal Drainage Board	1	Lucius Vellacott	Director Finance: Jude Antony

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



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

2026-27

(Including reports from representatives for 2025-26)

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Organisations (including 2025-26 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.

A10 ELY TO A14 IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Member Working Group established by resolution of Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Transport Committee (12/7/22);
- Members will receive information regarding the scheme as it develops;
- Members can discuss and express their views but it is not a decision-making body.

Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Representatives of ECDC
No. meetings per year:	To be decided at the first meeting
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Director Community, Sally Bonnett

Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Lee Denney
	Cllr Bill Hunt

REPORT FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Bill Hunt

(not received)

Cllr Ian Bovingdon.

(not received)

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 2026/27: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended all 4 meetings)

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 owns the freehold of 14 shared ownership affordable homes on at Simeon Close in Ely which it continues to manage, having sold its 100% freehold interest in the fifteenth property it previously owned. 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 AGMs in September 2025 and May 2026.

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.

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:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, Emma Grimmer
Representative for 2026/27:	Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey

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:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	Yes (attendance only, not travel)
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 6):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, Emma Grimma
Representative for 2026/27:	Cllr Lucius Vellacott

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer/Cllr Lucius Vellacott

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, Emma Grimma

Representative for 2026/27: Cllr Anna Bailey

REPORT FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 6 of 6 meetings).

In recognition of the changes being made to local government throughout the country, the District Councils’ Network has rebranded this year and is now known as the Local Councils’ Network (LCN). LCN is a cross-party member led network of councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), and provides a single voice for councils within the Local Government Association. Its membership is currently largely made up of District Councils and Borough Councils.

Being a member of the network supports the work of the Council and 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 year topics have focussed on the local government funding settlement and local government reorganisation.

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 2026/27: Keith Horgan
Julia Huffer

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 5 of 8 meetings)

ECDC's Corporate Plan lays out our objectives of sound financial management, a cleaner and greener East Cambridgeshire and the priorities for a sustainable community. The topics discussed by the RSN address all these areas.

The RSN are a key lobby group to central government for the benefit of rural communities such as ours.

This year the RSN have delivered online sessions covering matters such as rural transport problems, the challenges of rural telecommunication coverage, the rural housing, rural health service provision and rural net zero. Of particular importance in this last year was the analysis by the RSN of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement where it highlighted the ongoing decline of fair funding by central government to rural areas such as East Cambridgeshire.

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.

¹ Resources & Finance Committee: 29 March 2018 (Agenda Item 11, Minute 94); 26 July 2018 (Agenda Item 12, Minute 35).
Council: 19 April 2018 (Agenda Item 10, Minute 89).
Finance & Assets Committee: 20 June 2019 (Agenda Item 13, Minute 17); 26 September 2019 (Agenda Item 18, Minute 56).

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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Martin Goodearl Derrick Beckett

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 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, Jude Antony

Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Christine Colbert
	Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann
	Cllr Caroline Shepard
	Cllr Christine Whelan
	Rupert Moss-Eccardt
	Rebecca Denness

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Colbert

(Not received.)

Cllr Christine Whelan (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board 2025–26

The maintenance and operational activity of Cawdle Fen Internal Drainage Board during 2025–26 remains central to the Board’s purpose of managing water levels, maintaining drainage capacity and reducing flood risk within its district. Cawdle Fen is a small but strategically important drainage area on the south-eastern fringe of Ely. Although compact in size, the district contains low-lying land, key local infrastructure, commercial development, transport corridors and land that relies on effective pumped drainage.

The Board is responsible for maintaining a network of drainage channels which convey water towards Cawdle Fen Pumping Station. These drains form an essential part of the local flood-risk management system. Their proper maintenance ensures that surface water and land drainage flows can be managed effectively, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall or high river levels. In a pumped catchment such as Cawdle Fen, operational reliability is

especially important because water cannot always discharge naturally by gravity and may need to be lifted into the Ely Ouse.

Routine maintenance activity includes managing vegetation, clearing obstructions, maintaining channel capacity and ensuring that watercourses remain able to perform their drainage function. Weed growth, silt accumulation, debris and encroachment can all reduce flow capacity if not managed. Regular inspection and maintenance therefore help to prevent localised flooding, protect land and property, and support the wider drainage system serving this part of Ely.

The Board's published maintenance programme confirms that works are carried out in accordance with its Conservation Statement. This is important because drainage maintenance must balance operational need with environmental responsibility.

Watercourses are not simply engineering assets; they can also provide habitat for plants, invertebrates, birds and other wildlife. Maintenance must therefore be planned and delivered in a way that preserves drainage capacity while having proper regard to biodiversity, conservation and landscape considerations.

East Cambridgeshire District Council representation on the Board is important because the work of the Internal Drainage Board has direct implications for local communities, planning, infrastructure and council finances. ECDC-appointed members provide a democratic link between the Board and the wider district council, helping to ensure that drainage issues affecting residents, businesses and public infrastructure are properly understood. Their involvement is also important where development, highways, commercial growth or changes in land use may increase surface water run-off or place additional pressure on the drainage system.

This representation allows ECDC to maintain oversight of local flood-risk issues and to ensure that drainage considerations are not treated in isolation from planning and community impacts. It also helps the district council understand the practical reasons for Internal Drainage Board levies and the importance of continued investment in drainage maintenance. In an area such as Cawdle Fen, where drainage depends on active management and pumping, effective communication between the Board and the district council is essential.

The operational context for Cawdle Fen is also affected by development pressure. Parts of the drainage district include or adjoin commercial, highway and railway infrastructure. Increased impermeable surfaces from development can increase the speed and volume of surface water run-off. This places greater importance on ensuring that drainage systems are properly designed, maintained and, where necessary, improved. The Board therefore has an important role in commenting on drainage implications associated with development and ensuring that new works do not increase flood risk for existing landowners, businesses or residents.

For 2025–26, the key operational priority is the continued reliability of the pumped drainage system. This includes keeping the Board's maintained watercourses in good condition, ensuring that flows to the pumping station are not impeded, and maintaining awareness of any changes within the catchment that may affect drainage demand. As climate change increases the likelihood of more intense rainfall events, the resilience of small pumped catchments such as Cawdle Fen becomes increasingly significant.

Overall, the Board's maintenance and operational activity is essential to the protection of this low-lying part of Ely. Continued planned maintenance, timely inspection, environmental care, effective ECDC representation and careful scrutiny of development impacts will remain necessary to ensure that the drainage system continues to function effectively throughout 2025–26 and beyond.

Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann

(Not received.)

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (attended 8 of 8 meetings)

Things continue to be much as previous years:

Water management continues to be essential to support food production, protect property and underpin the local economy:-

The CPIER report alluded to significant GVA benefit from flood protection schemes. A modelling exercise for the Great Ouse Fens predicts 7-10 £bn of damage in the event of a significant flood control failure.

Many planning applications are only successful because, even though they are in Flood Zone 3, the site is protected by flood defences.

SUDSs only work if there is somewhere for the final outflow to go. IDBs move that water from catchwater drains through to the main river.

Finally, if the IDBs didn't provide a path for water to be abstracted, the local agricultural economy would fail.

So the work of the IDB is essential for the continued existence of East Cambs.

As this is a body that raises a levy against ECDC it is incumbent on ECDC to utilise its scrutiny and management power to meet its obligations to ensure the money is spent properly.

The Special Levy has again been increased this year.

The engineering issue with the culvert that runs along The Dock continues. Estimates place the expected costs as over £550k for remediation. Alternatives are being sought. If the suggested remediation is the only answer and there is no Grant-In-Aid available then the Special Levy could increase by £36k/annum. DEFRA have changed their funding mechanisms so a further application for capital funding has been made.

I am grateful to be appointed by ECDC as I find chairing Cawdle Fen IDB to be very rewarding.

The "Ely Group" of IDBs is exploring amalgamation. The driver for this is to give a critical mass to the resulting IDB to have greater influence locally and nationally. It was also reduce the number of meetings that the clerks would need to service by up to 10th

Cllr Caroline Shepard

(Not received.)

Rebecca Denness

(Not received.)

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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Gareth Wilson

(Not received.)

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham (attended 1 of 1 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. The HIDB continue to 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 2025/2026 winter and spring has seen exceptional 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 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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Martin Goodearl Cllr David Miller Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher Mark Taylor

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith

I am currently one of the four District Councilor representatives of East Cambs District Council, appointed to sit on the above board. Numbers of representatives may include some members nominated by Parish Councils in order to maintain the number of places allocated.

Meetings are held quarterly, with other board members representing the local farming community, payers of the appropriate drainage rates in respect of land farmed.

The board elects a Chair and Vice Chair holding this position for one year and who may well be re-elected in subsequent years, from amongst their ranks. Other board members attending these quarterly meetings are the Engineer, the Working Foreman, & The Clerk.

Meetings follow the standard practice of announcements, the Engineers report, a report from the Working Foreman and the Clerk. Most recently a presentation was given by our Health & Safety Consultant who regularly works with the board to maintain up to date practices.

There may be presentations from other professionals as required, and agenda items include follow up reports from previous meetings and new matters for discussion & decision making.

During this year of 2025/26, steady progress has been made in working up and carrying out a pattern of annual maintenance of the water courses and identifying the need for how often the various areas require attention. The Working Foreman is making steady progress on this, and is able to justify the decisions made.

The replacement and maintenance of the large machinery owned and used by the board is carefully monitored and decisions taken regarding the need for replacements or otherwise.

Much work has been carried out on pumping engines and sluice gates which can be extremely difficult and expensive but are of course essential. Grant finance may be available and awarded for some projects.

Recent erratic rainfall measurements are being closely monitored, affecting work patterns.

Local planning applications, of which this board is a statutory consultee, have been discussed, and the necessity of robust responses noted.

A subject under close scrutiny is the possibility of boards amalgamating into larger groups potentially for efficiency and financial savings. This board is keeping this option under consideration.

Proposals for a string of smaller farm-based reservoirs in order to assist with better water management are being closely watched for developments.

Our Clerk, Jean Heading, is retiring shortly following many years of service. At our most recent meeting, Jean was thanked for her long, excellent and efficient service, with Board Members offering their good wishes to Jean for her retirement.

Cllr Lorna Dupré (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

Flood and water management are key issues facing East Cambridgeshire and representation on—and good relations with—the Internal Drainage Boards are therefore important.

For this reason, continued representation on this outside body is worthwhile.

The Board continues to discuss the management of water and drainage in the area served by the local authority.

Cllr Martin Goodearl

(Not received.)

Cllr David Miller

(Not received.)

Parish Cllr Andrew Butcher

(Not received.)

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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Mark Goldsack Cllr Keith Horgan Cllr Lucius Vellacott Alec Jones

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ian Bovingdon

(Not received.)

Cllr Mark Goldsack

(Not received.)

Cllr Keith Horgan (attended 3 of 3 meetings)

All drainage boards provide a much needed service to our community by the effective management of our local waterways. A key tenet of our Corporate Action Plan is to enhance the natural environment and to build on our sustainability goals. The work done by Middle Fen & Mere IDB exemplifies the best practices of a sustainable business.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is more than just worthwhile it is essential. East Anglia water level swing between feast and famine very year and this will only get more challenging due to climate change. Keeping in touch with the work carried out by this IDB, the challenges they face, and the precarious nature of their funding arrangements will help us meet the obligations we have in ensuring our waterways are managed effectively and efficiently.

The main three 'hot' topics regularly discussed are finances, water supply (and removal) and the impacts of climate change. All these have a major impact not only on the operational obligations of the IDB but also the funding contribution of ECDC, the support for local farmers and other residents through strong water management and the ability of ECDC to meet its own climate change commitments.

Cllr Lucius N Vellacott (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Internal Drainage Boards is of paramount importance to the District. It helps to sustain the District Council's Corporate Objective to support businesses (farms) to thrive and improve local infrastructure. Though the work of the IDB is often overlooked by residents, agriculture and local development in East Cambs could not be sustained without it. They further retain an important role in the determination of planning applications to prevent flooding in the District, which is specifically relevant to the District Council.

Funding remains a significant issue for local flood authorities. The Special Levy required by the IDB may reach an unsustainable level for the District Council to maintain whilst keeping to its Corporate Objective to raise Council Tax only as a last resort. The IDBs and the District Council must engage to ensure the medium-term financial sustainability of their role via other means in addition to the Special Levy.

I recommend that the Council continue to appoint representatives to all Internal Drainage Boards in its jurisdiction.

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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr Alison Whelan Cllr Lis Every Parish Cllr Clive Webber tbc tbc tbc tbc

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Alison Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The Board's core work is the management of water levels, drainage infrastructure, pumping stations and watercourses within its district. This is directly relevant to flood risk management, climate resilience, land drainage, water supply, agricultural productivity, and the protection of homes, businesses and infrastructure. The minutes show regular discussion of drain maintenance, pumping station refurbishment, telemetry, weed clearance, water levels, abstraction, and the condition of pumping stations.

The Board's work also supports sustainable development. It considers planning applications, consents for discharge, surface water arrangements, developer contributions and the impact of new development on the drainage system. This is

directly relevant to ECDC's planning and infrastructure responsibilities, especially where growth creates additional surface water pressures.

The Board also has a significant financial relationship with ECDC. For 2026/27, the Board agreed a Special Levy on East Cambridgeshire District Council of **£109,208.32**, representing **72.23%** of the Board's expenditure. This makes continued engagement important from both a service-delivery and financial-governance perspective.

The Board is considering matters that are directly relevant to ECDC residents, council finances, planning, infrastructure and climate resilience. ECDC is responsible for paying a substantial Special Levy, so representation helps ensure democratic oversight and awareness of decisions that affect council resources.

There are also direct links with development management. The Board has adopted a revised Development Control Charges and Fees Policy, including developer contributions for discharges into the district. This is highly relevant to ECDC as local planning authority and CIL charging/spending authority.

Continued attendance would allow ECDC to monitor flood-risk infrastructure, challenge where appropriate, understand future capital liabilities, and maintain a clear link between planning decisions, drainage capacity and public expenditure. Special Levy and financial impact:

The February 2026 budget meeting agreed a Special Levy on ECDC of £109,208.32 for 2026/27. The Board also discussed maintaining reserves for future pump refurbishment schemes.

Padnal No. 2 Pumping Station:

The Board discussed a £100,000 Outline Business Case for the potential refurbishment of Padnal No. 2 Pumping Station. The minutes record that refurbishment costs may be affected by Fens 2100+ requirements and possible fish-friendly pump requirements, which could add significant costs. The Board also discussed a potential back-raking weedscreen, which may be eligible for CIL funding as a new or improvement project.

CIL and developer contributions:

The Board noted that IDBs cannot claim CIL directly, but can apply to ECDC for a CIL grant of up to 30% for new or improvement projects. The Board has also introduced a policy to charge developer contributions for consents and discharges into the district, including developments discharging at or below greenfield run-off rates.

Planning and consents:

The Board considered planning applications and consents, including discharge of surface and foul water from development at Brick Kiln Farm, Lynn Road, Chettisham, and Cambridgeshire County Council's diversion of an existing surface water system discharging into the Padnal Catchwater at Sandhill, Littleport.

Drain maintenance and vegetation clearance:

The minutes refer to maintenance of drains, vegetation clearance at Padnal Drove Catchwater and Clayway Catchwater, works at Thistle Corner, and the approved

drain maintenance programme. These matters are relevant to flood prevention and environmental management.

Water supply and abstraction:

The Board discussed water supply, abstraction restrictions, winter fill licences, reservoir filling, and water levels in the Padnal No. 2 catchment. These issues are relevant to climate resilience, agriculture, environmental sustainability and water-resource management.

Fens 2100+:

The Board discussed the Fens 2100+ project and its implications for pumping-station refurbishment and pump capacity. This is relevant to long-term flood resilience and infrastructure planning across the district.

Amalgamation of drainage boards:

The Board discussed options for amalgamation, including potential impacts on rates, differential rating, district council contributions, representation, and the future structure of local drainage governance. This is highly relevant to ECDC because any change in structure may affect future levies, accountability and local influence.

Governance, audit and transparency:

The Board considered its internal audit, Local Government Transparency Code compliance, IT and Email Policy, financial controls, fidelity guarantee insurance and risk assessment. These are relevant to public accountability and confidence in the use of levy-funded resources.

Board membership remains an issue, with vacancies continuing to be reported. This may become more significant if the Board faces increasing technical, financial and governance pressures.

Given the financial importance of the Special Levy, the possible future costs of pump refurbishment, and the implications of amalgamation, ECDC should maintain active representation.

Cllr Lis Every

(Not received)

Parish Cllr Clive Webber

(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:	Four ² 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, Jude Antony
Representatives for 2026/27:	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

REPORTS FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Brown (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The work of the IDBs is essential to many of ECDC's Corporate Objectives in making the District a safe and good place to live and work. Given the precepting powers of IDBs it is essential that ECDC has continued, and full, representation on IDBs, including Swaffham. With ongoing discussions about amalgamation of IDBs, continued representation at this time is very important.

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)

Swaffham Internal Drainage Board fits in with ECDC's Corporate Objectives by maintaining the drainage network in the district.

There is a large agricultural element with much employment in the area who rely on the drainage system.

The drainage board is also a consultee for planning applications.

I think continues representation on the Outside Body is worthwhile because IDBs are in receipt of public funds and it is important that ECDC is involved in any financial decision. Specific items discussed and considered to be relevant to ECDC include budget and precept setting, climate change and management of the agricultural area which we are in.

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 3 of 3 meetings)

The work of Swaffham Drainage Board, as with all of the Drainage Board is a very important part of the water management of the district.

This is especially so with the work being done by the Local Government Association Special Interest Group, which is lobbying Government to change the way that the Drainage Board levy is funded.

Cllr John Trapp

(Not received.)

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:	One ³ 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, Jude Antony
Representative for 2026/27:	Lucius Vellacott

REPORT FROM 2025/26 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Lucius Vellacott (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The work of all Internal Drainage Boards, including Waterbeach Level, is essential to a cleaner, greener East Cambridgeshire and the protection of our communities and farms from flooding. Their work is vital to this effort. The funding model of IDBs is damaged, however, and it is therefore positive that IDBs and the Council have fed into the Government's review of the process.

Continued representation on the IDBs is essential. The oversight and learning of members appointed to IDBs is of the utmost importance. However, it would be good if we could fill all vacancies with District Council representatives in the first instance.

The drainage rates of Waterbeach Level IDB were frozen this year and remain at a considerably lower level than other IDBs in the Group. This means the Special Levy for the Board on ECDC was unaffected from the previous year. The Board primarily covers areas in South Cambridgeshire District, so this year, no specific matters to East Cambridgeshire were raised other than this.

Please note that, as I was appointed mid-year, I only attended one meeting this municipal year. I thank David Chaplin for his many years of service.

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.

FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL AGENDA PLAN

AGENDA ITEM NO 17

LEAD OFFICER: Sally Bonnett, Director Community Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer: Jane Webb

Thurs 25 June 2026	4:30pm
Chair's Announcements	Chair
Actions taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency (if any)	DSO
Forward Agenda Plan	DSO
Write-off of unrecoverable debt (if any)	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Climate and Nature Strategy	Climate Change and Natural Environment Manager
Assets Update	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Bereavement Centre Fees and Charges	Crematorium and Bereavement Service Manager
Appointments, Transfers, Resignations [EXEMPT]	HR Manager
ECTC Management Accounts (Jan-March 2026) [EXEMPT]	ECTC Finance Manager
Annual Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies	DSO
Financial Outturn Report 2025/26	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Thurs 24 September 2026	4:30pm
Chair's Announcements	Chair
Write-Off of Unrecoverable Debt (if any)	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Draft Inclusive Play Strategy	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Assets Update	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Local Council Reduction Scheme Policy Review	Director Finance and S151 Officer
MTFS Update	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Budget Monitoring Q1	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Gender Pay Report	HR Manager
Health and Safety Annual Report	Health & Safety Manager
Actions Taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of Urgency (if any)	DSO
Forward Agenda Plan	DSO
EXEMPT – ECTC Management Accounts	ECTC Finance Manager
Thurs 26 November 2026	4:30pm
Chair's Announcements	Chair
Service Delivery Plans – 6-Month Performance Update	Service Leads
Write-Off of Unrecoverable Debt (if any)	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Finance Report	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Q2 Budget Monitoring	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Treasury Management Update	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Assets Update	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager

Notes:

- 1. Agenda items which are likely to be "urgent" and therefore not subject to call-in are marked ***
- 2. Agenda items in italics are provisional items / possible items for future meetings.**

FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL AGENDA PLAN

AGENDA ITEM NO 17

**LEAD OFFICER: Sally Bonnett, Director Community
Democratic Services and Elections Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer: Jane Webb**

Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement	Director Community
ECTC Half Yearly Report	Director Commercial
Actions Taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of Urgency (if any)	DSO
Forward Agenda Plan	DSO
EXEMPT – ECTC Management Accounts	ECTC Finance Manager
Thurs 28 January 2027	4:30pm
Chair's Announcements	Chair
Write-Off of Unrecoverable Debt (if any)	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Assets Update	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
2027/28 Annual Treasury Management Strategy MRP & AIS	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Q3 Budget Monitoring	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Revenue Budget 2027/28	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Actions Taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of Urgency (if any)	DSO
Forward Agenda Plan	DSO
EXEMPT – Appointments, Transfers, Resignations	HR Manager
Thurs 22 March 2027	4:30pm
Chair's Announcements	Chair
Service Delivery Plans 2027/28	Service Leads
Write-Off of Unrecoverable Debt (if any)	Director Finance and S151 Officer
Assets Update	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Assets Management Plan 2027/28	Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
Annual Review RIPA Policies	Director Legal
ECTC Annual Business Plan 2027/28	ECTC Finance Manager
ECTC Management Accounts	ECTC Finance Manager
Actions Taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of Urgency (if any)	DSO
Forward Agenda Plan	DSO

Notes:

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