

# Public Document Pack

## COUNCIL

A meeting of Council will be held at Council Chamber, Fenland Hall, County Road, March on MONDAY, 11 JULY 2022 at 4.00 PM and I request you to attend accordingly for transaction of the following business:

Whilst this meeting will be held in public, we encourage members of the public to view the meeting via our YouTube channel due to the Council still observing some Covid-19 restrictions.

The YouTube link for this meeting is <https://youtu.be/7kVOAsrC0rA>

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Previous Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)  
To confirm and sign the minutes of 12 May 2022.
- 3 Civic Engagements Update. (Pages 13 - 14)  
For information only.
- 4 To receive any announcements from the Chairman of the Council and/or the Head of Paid Service.
- 5 To receive members' declaration of any interests under the Local Code of Conduct or any interest under the Code of Conduct on Planning Matters in respect of any item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 6 To receive questions from, and provide answers to, councillors in relation to matters which, in the opinion of the Chairman, accord with the provisions of Procedure Rules 8.4 and 8.6.
- 7 To receive reports from and ask questions of Cabinet members with portfolio holder responsibilities, in accordance with Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2. (Pages 15 - 66)
- 8 Motion submitted by Councillor Hoy (Pages 67 - 68)  
Motion submitted by Councillor Hoy with regards to Central Government consultation on two measures in the private rented sector.
- 9 Motion submitted by Councillor Boden (Pages 69 - 70)  
Motion submitted by Councillor Boden with regards to Air Quality Monitoring in Whittlesey.
- 10 Motion submitted by Councillor Tierney (Pages 71 - 72)

Motion submitted by Councillor Tierney with regards to the Council's Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Policy.

- 11 Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 73 - 84)

To Report to Full Council the commitment and effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Management Committee's work from April 2021 to March 2022.

- 12 Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 85 - 94)

To consider the overall financial and operational performance of the Council's treasury management activity for 2021/22.

- 13 24 High Street, Wisbech - Contract Award (Pages 95 - 126)

To provide Council with an update on progress related to the 24 High Street Project and for Council to consider increasing funding within the capital programme to fund the project and to instruct officers to enter into a construction contract for 24 High Street Wisbech

*Schedules 1 to 3 comprise exempt information - to exclude the public (including the press) from a meeting of a committee it is necessary for the following proposition to be moved and adopted: "that the public be excluded from the meeting for Items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated.*

Fenland Hall  
March



Chief Executive

Friday, 1 July 2022

**NOTE** The Council may, by resolution, as exemplified below, exclude the public from a meeting during the consideration of any item of business whenever 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, there would be

disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100 I of the Local Government Act, 1972

"Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for Item No./Minute No. on the grounds that the item involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act"

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## COUNCIL



**THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2022 - 4.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor A Miscandlon (Chairman), Councillor N Meekins (Vice-Chairman), Councillor I Benney, Councillor Mrs S Bligh, Councillor C Boden, Councillor G Booth, Councillor J Clark, Councillor S Clark, Councillor D Connor, Councillor M Cornwell, Councillor S Count, Councillor D Divine, Councillor Mrs J French, Councillor K French, Councillor A Hay, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor M Humphrey, Councillor A Lynn, Councillor C Marks, Councillor D Mason, Councillor A Maul, Councillor Mrs K Mayor, Councillor J Mockett, Councillor P Murphy, Councillor D Patrick, Councillor M Purser, Councillor W Rackley, Councillor C Seaton, Councillor R Skoulding, Councillor W Sutton, Councillor S Tierney, Councillor R Wicks, Councillor S Wilkes and Councillor F Yeulett

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs M Davis, Councillor Mrs D Laws, Councillor D Topgood and Councillor S Wallwork

**C1/22      TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE PERIOD TO THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING AND TO RESOLVE THAT AN ALLOWANCE OF £4,116 PLUS TRAVELLING EXPENSES BE PAID TO THE PERSON ELECTED.**

It was proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and resolved that Councillor Alex Miscandlon be elected as Chairman of the Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting and that he be paid an allowance of £4,116 plus travelling expenses.

The Chairman thanked everyone who voted for him to serve the Council as Chairman for a third term. He stated he do will his best to uphold the standards set and hopes to have a very successful year.

**C2/22      TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE PERIOD TO THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING AND TO RESOLVE THAT AN ALLOWANCE OF £1,000 PLUS TRAVELLING EXPENSES BE PAID TO THE PERSON ELECTED.**

It was proposed by Councillor Miscandlon, seconded by Councillor Boden and resolved that Councillor Nick Meekins be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting and that he be paid an allowance of £1000 plus travelling expenses.

The Vice-Chairman thanked all members who voted for him and stated he would support the Chairman in any way he can. He added that whilst looking forward to carrying out the role, it was with a tinge of regret that the reason he was able to undertake the role was due to the ill health of Councillor Skoulding and wished him well for his continued recovery.

The outgoing Vice-Chairman, Councillor Skoulding, thanked Councillor Miscandlon for the opportunity of being Vice-Chairman, and members for voting for him. He said it had been a fantastic couple of years and he also wanted to give particular thanks to Member Services for all their support.

**C3/22      PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 24 February 2022 were confirmed and signed.

**C4/22**      **TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE.**

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended his Civic Reception in March and hoped they found it to be as thoroughly enjoyable an evening as he did. He thanked Member Services for their support in organising the event and all officers for the way they have adapted to working in such challenging circumstances during the pandemic. Along with the return of the Chamber to its intended configuration, he hopes that this third year of his Chairmanship will also see a return to some normality in the fulfilment of the role with the next planned event being the annual MacMillan coffee morning on 29th September.

**C5/22**      **MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL 2022/23**

It was proposed by Councillor Miscandlon, seconded by Councillor Boden and agreed that the meeting dates for the Annual Meeting of the Council and for the ordinary meetings of the Council for 2022/23 to be as follows:

The Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023 to be held on Monday 22 May 2023.

The ordinary meetings of the Council to be held on:

Monday 11 July 2022  
Monday 3 October 2022  
Monday 12 December 2022  
Monday 20 February 2023

Councillor Booth pointed out that two of those dates clash with Wisbech St Mary Parish Council meeting dates which would affect both himself and Councillor Mrs Bligh. Councillor Miscandlon stated this was duly noted.

**C6/22**      **TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM, AND PROVIDE ANSWERS TO, COUNCILLORS IN RELATION TO MATTERS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PROCEDURE RULES 8.4 AND 8.6.**

Councillor Miscandlon stated that no questions had been submitted under Procedure Rules 8.6 and asked if there were any questions under Procedure Rule 8.4 from Councillor Cornwell as Leader of the Opposition Group.

- Councillor Cornwell asked, given the District Council is third in a four-tier local government set up, could Councillor Boden give assurance that the delivery of the business plan will not be compromised though what is currently happening at the Combined Authority? Councillor Boden replied that he is unable to give such assurances.
- Councillor Cornwell queried whether it is time that local government in Cambridgeshire and its many tiers was reorganised. He asked Councillor Boden if he has any knowledge of what is happening currently? Councillor Boden responded that it has been Government policy that changes to the structure of local government in parts of the country would take place with the consent of those authorities concerned, with these changes usually being towards the creation of unitary authorities or authorities with an elected mayor. He stated that it is possible that Government may impose changes upon Cambridgeshire and Peterborough given what has been happening. Councillor Boden confirmed that he has had surprising conversations with leaders of other councils within the Combined Authority area about the mechanism which needs to be utilised to abolish the Combined Authority, but he has not initiated these conversations. He feels it is a fluid situation at the moment, and regrettably it

is not because authorities are working collectively towards a more coherent and less bureaucratic system but because some areas are getting so desperate and are talking about the possibility of change either being forced upon us or us, as a matter of desperation, making changes.

- Councillor Cornwell asked if Councillor Boden would confirm, resulting from a question at the last meeting concerning the massive drainage levy the Council now funds, that he has sent a paper to our MP as he said he would to attempt to raise the problem at a national level? Also, could he advise of any other action taken in relation to that matter. Councillor Boden responded that he has been in contact with MP about this situation and also with councillors in other areas just outside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who share the same concerns, with a view to working more together to effect change. Matters are proceeding in this matter, and regarding the individual drainage levies, one of the drainage boards agreed they would not increase their drainage levy this year. He hopes to work with Councillor Cornwell as it comes to the setting of drainage levies next year in ensuring that Fenland District Council gets a full complement of councillors to ensure that unrealistically high drainage levy proposed increases are not agreed.
- Councillor Cornwell said that in a previous question about climate change, Councillor Boden had stated that Councillor Tierney would be presenting a Council approach to climate change, but no timescale was mentioned and he asked if one could be given? Councillor Boden responded that he hopes a resolution will be presented at the next meeting of full Council. Councillor Cornwell thanked Councillor Boden.

**C7/22**      **TO ASK QUESTIONS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULES 8.1 AND 8.2**

Members asked questions of Portfolio Holders in accordance with Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2 as follows:

- Councillor Patrick asked Councillor Murphy if he had yet visited the open space at Petts Close as requested at the last meeting? Councillor Murphy stated he had not yet. Councillor Patrick then asked if the grounds maintenance contractors, Tivoli, are being properly monitored as he has photographs of areas in Wisbech that have not been mown this year and Wisbech is looking poor because of it. Councillor Murphy said he was sorry to hear that, but the Council has had more compliments on grass cutting in the district this year. He asked Councillor Patrick to provide him with further information after the meeting and he will investigate. Councillor Patrick thanked Councillor Murphy.
- Councillor Booth stated that the issue of rural fly tipping had been raised last night at a meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council, who will be writing to the Council to ask if more can be done to deal with the blight in this area, with also the mention of making more use of CCTV. Councillor Booth made the point to Councillor Murphy that the Council has the powers for this and needs to be more proactive. Councillor Murphy said unfortunately this is something the Council is always looking at as it is so prolific, as soon as an area is cleared, more appears. Officers sift through all the fly tipping to find invoices or means of identification and unfortunately this takes a lot of time to do. The Council has had some good results lately, but it is ongoing. Councillor Murphy stated with regards to CCTV, the Council has tried using cameras, but they have been stolen previously and it is not cost effective to put up more, however, he can assure Councillor Booth that this issue is being looked at all the while.
- Councillor Sutton asked Councillor Murphy if he is aware of the cessation of the collection of crisp packets from the terracycling scheme. He stated that there is a group in Christchurch that has collected close on a tonne of various items for the scheme over the last few years, along with other similar groups in the district and it is disappointing that many of these items will now likely go into the green bins. He asked if there is any intention to bring any of this into mainstream recycling and if not, why? Councillor Murphy said there are no plans, items are sorted at Waterbeach but the Council has nothing to do with waste when it gets there

and would not have the resources to sort through waste to collect the number of crisp packets that would be required to collect a tonne. Councillor Sutton said that was a shame as some £400 had been raised for a local school as a result of this and he asked if this is something that Recap could look at? Councillor Murphy replied that he is Chairman of Recap and again they would not be looking at this. Councillor Sutton said it is a shame that terracycling has finished and the Council cannot pick this up.

## **C8/22      POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY REPORT**

Members considered the Committee Structure, Political Balance and Allocation of Seats report presented by Councillor Boden.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor S Clark and AGREED:**

- 1. to maintain the Committees and Panels set out at Appendix A of the report for the 2022/23 municipal year;**
- 2. that the terms of reference set out at Part 3 of the Council's [Constitution](#) in relation to the committees and panels referred to above should continue as currently drafted;**
- 3. the allocation of seats and position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman on those committees subject to political balance arrangements as set out in Appendix A of the report;**
- 4. the appointments to seats allocated in accordance with paragraph 3 above (as set out in Appendix B) to include co-opted or non-members, and**
- 5. the list of Outside Bodies and allocation of seats in accordance with political balance arrangements as set out at Appendix C of the report for 2022/23, with the appointments to be made by Cabinet.**

## **C9/22      CPCA APPOINTMENTS (INC EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE)**

Members considered the Combined Authority Membership and Other Appointments report presented by Councillor Boden.

Councillor Boden mentioned that one change not reflected in the papers is that on the Combined Authority Housing and Communities Committee, Councillor Mrs Laws was made the primary member with Councillor Boden the substitute.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Connor and AGREED:**

- the appointments and nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board and Non-Executive Committees for the municipal year 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report to include the amendment stated above;**
- to note the proposed nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Executive Committees for the municipal year 2022/23 as set out at Appendix 3 of the report.**
- that the Chief Executive be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Combined Authority Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee in consultation with the relevant Political Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Authority between now and the next Council meeting and at any time throughout the municipal year.**



## **C10/22 LICENSING REPORT - TAXI TARIFF**

Members considered the Taxi Tariff Licensing Report presented by Councillor Humphrey.

Councillor Count proposed an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Connor, to the recommendations by the inclusion of an additional recommendation, as follows:

For licensing officers to conduct a review into the availability of taxi provision within Fenland and report their findings to the Licensing Committee to make recommendations to full Council as appropriate.

Councillor Count said this was an opportunistic amendment proposal as the Licensing Committee has done an excellent job under the chairmanship of Councillor Humphrey. He fully endorses the recommendations as laid out and will be supporting them regardless of what happens to his amendment. Councillor Count highlighted his own experience, along with reports from many others, of the difficulties of getting a taxi in March, particularly on a Sunday or during the late hours. When he raised this with other councillors and members of the public, he has found this to be aligned throughout Fenland. He would expect the villages to have more difficulty, but March is a major town, so he is concerned by this lack of provision. Councillor Count does not know what the cause is, there could be any number of reasons and certainly nothing drawn out in the consultation responses, but by putting forward this recommendation, officers can investigate by talking to the drivers and find out why we do not have the coverage so we can maybe create an action to improve the availability of the taxi service in the area.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Tierney said that in respect of the rise in taxi fares, it is his understanding that this is the maximum fare that drivers can charge; they can charge less if they want to. Fenland District Council is merely setting the maximum fare but not insisting on a rise in fares and he felt it important to clarify this. He said that Councillor Count raises an interesting point that it is difficult late at night to get a taxi but why? Is it because there is not the demand, or does the Council put obstacles in the way to people becoming a taxi driver? He suggested that a few councillors may wish to be involved in the review.
- Councillor Hoy commented that she has often spoken to drivers about this, they say it is not worth it financially because the maximum fare we set is quite low. With the current price of diesel, the fare gained will not go far, particularly with additional costs such as insurance. She would be interested to see what comes back in the report. Also, she had not realised that the Council does not even have to set a maximum fare at all, it could set no fare and the market may find a natural rate and perhaps officers can look at that too.
- Councillor Wilkes agreed it is difficult to get a taxi and almost impossible on Sundays or after 6pm on weekdays. He is reliant on taxis and feels imprisoned when he cannot get one, however, if the Council has no option to have this tariff increase, his concern is also for those who are taxi reliant but with limited income or pensions. He asked if there would be additional concessions for such people?
- Councillor Lynn pointed out that most drivers earn their money on Fridays and Saturdays and are out until 3 or 4am. They may have given up their day to earn £15 on a Saturday and so lost a day with family. The reason why they are not available on a Sunday is because perhaps they do not get enough calls to warrant being available.
- Councillor Sutton said this is all down to market forces. It seems to him that if the problem is so bad in so many towns, budding entrepreneurs should buy a taxi.
- Councillor Booth requested that the review does look at the impact on the villages. There are some good local firms that look after the villages, but the provision of service and the cost is a barrier to people living in them, particularly if they want to visit the towns, which also then affects the economy of the towns.

- Councillor Humphrey said he would be happy to take this amendment away and for Licensing to conduct a review to take to Licensing Committee for recommendation to Full Council. A survey can easily be conducted with the trade, but he did want to emphasise the fares relate to hackney carriages and not private hire.
- Councillor Connor said if councillors are to be involved in the review at Councillor Tierney's suggestion, then he would like to be involved, which is likely anyway as he is on the Licensing Committee. He thanked Councillor Count for that amendment and hopes that Council supports it.

Councillors voted on the additional recommendation, which was agreed unanimously.

**Proposed by Councillor Humphrey, seconded by Councillor Mrs Mayor and AGREED**

- **to approve the proposed Table of Fares set out in Appendix B of the report, as recommended by the Licensing Committee**
- **for licensing officers to conduct a review into the availability of taxi provision within Fenland and report their findings to the Licensing Committee to make recommendations to full Council as appropriate.**

*(Councillor Wilkes requested it be noted in the interest of transparency that he is taxi reliant)*

*(Councillors Patrick and Rackley declared a pecuniary interest in this item, by virtue of the fact that they are taxi drivers, and left the room for the duration of this discussion and voting thereon)*

**C11/22      FDC RESPONSE TO LGBCE ON DRAFT WARD PROPOSALS**

Members considered FDC's response to LGBCE on Draft Ward proposals report presented by Councillor Boden.

Councillor Boden thanked Councillor Davis for suggesting it would be helpful to increase the number of councillors to 43 for a better scheme of warding within the town of March. Although the proposal did not work out, it worked out very well on the basis of 42 councillors, using the historical links at County Council divisional level between Christchurch and March and Benwick and March.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses as follows:

- Councillor Booth said it is apparent that if you are not part of the ruling group your comments will be disregarded, and he will not be supporting this. He would like to put on record that the parishes he represents, Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary, are very disappointed with this process and that the Council has not taken their comments on board.
- Councillor Sutton said he will not support this. He finds any increase in members totally unnecessary and does not back the boundary changes as they are. His view is that putting towns and villages together will never be a good idea as they are very different packages and village residents do not want to be associated with the towns and vice versa.
- Councillor Tierney said he will be supporting this. He made the point that there will never be a scheme that everyone is happy with. Councillor Tierney stated that he has worked hard in his ward, but these changes will mean it will not exist and will form part of another ward with the effect this will have or what the future will bring being unknown. He is not sure that Councillor Sutton is right about villages and towns; people choose where to live and just try to get along together and he knows people in villages who will often say they live in Wisbech, it just depends on the nature of the conversation. He feels that people are not concerned over ward boundaries; they just want a councillor to help them when they need it.
- Councillor Patrick requested a recorded vote on this matter.
- Councillor Cornwell expressed the view that an impasse has been reached and not everyone is going to be satisfied. He stated that members of the Fenland Independent Alliance are totally against this proposal and will be generating its own response. He also

requested a recorded vote.

- Councillor Boden agreed there is no system of ward boundaries that will ever satisfy everyone. He stated that the LGBC uses statutory criteria that exists to ensure that Council wards as best as possible reflect the communities that exist within the area, and it is a balancing exercise to reflect all the criteria. He believes the proposal put forward here matches the criteria of the LGBCE as far as it is possible to do so, which is not perfect, but nothing ever is.

It was proposed by Councillor Patrick that a recorded vote be taken, which was supported by Councillors Bligh, Booth, Cornwell, Sutton, Wicks, Wilkes and Yeulett

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Connor and AGREED the revised proposals as outlined in the report which will result in 18 District Council Wards representing 42 District Councillors. As a result, the average number of electors per councillor will be 2046, and**

- **Endorse the LGBCE proposed future district warding arrangements in relation to**
  - **Chatteris North and Manea**
  - **Chatteris South**
  - **Elm and Wisbech St Mary**
  - **Parson Drove and Roman Bank**
  - **Whittlesey East and Villages**
  - **Whittlesey Lattersey**
  - **Whittlesey Northwest**
  - **Whittlesey South**
  - **Wisbech Leverington**
  - **Wisbech North**
  - **Wisbech Riverside**
  - **Wisbech South**
  - **Wisbech Walsoken and Waterlees**
- **Agree to the revised proposals be submitted to the LGBCE as outlined in the report in relation to**
  - **Doddington and Wimblington**
  - **March East and Christchurch**
  - **March North**
  - **March South**
  - **March West and Benwick**
- **Delegate to officers to formally submit the Council consultation submission to the LGBCE for consideration by the deadline of 06 June 2022.**

**In favour of the recommendations: Councillors Benney, Boden, J Clark, S Clark, Connor, Count, Mrs J French, Miss K French, Hay, Hoy, Humphrey, Lynn, Mason, Mayor, Meekins, Miscandlon, Mockett, Murphy, Purser, Rackley, Seaton, Skoulding and Tierney**

**Against the recommendations: Councillors Bligh, Booth, Cornwell, Divine, Maul, Patrick, Sutton, Wicks, Wilkes and Yeulett**

**Abstention: Councillor Marks**

**C12/22 ANGLIA REVENUES PARTNERSHIP - S.113 AGREEMENT (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Members considered the confidential Anglia Revenues Partnership – S.113 Agreement report presented by Councillor Mrs French.

**Proposed by Councillor Mrs French, seconded by Councillor Boden and AGREED to approve the Head of the ARP and the ARP Operational Improvement Board negotiating and entering into a renewed Section 113 agreement to enable ARP officers to provide ongoing fraud services to Norwich City Council.**

*(A discussion was held on whether the item needed to be held in private and following a vote members resolved to exclude the public from the meeting for this item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)*

5.10 pm

Chairman



Fenland District Council Fenland Hall County Road March Cambridgeshire PE15 8NQ  
 Tel 01354 622281 DX 30955 March Minicom 01354 622215 [www.fenland.gov.uk](http://www.fenland.gov.uk)

## Civic Engagements

**From May 12, 2022 to June 30, 2022**

May 14, 2022	Mayor of Peterborough Finale Ball Attended by the Chairman
May 16, 2022	Mayor of Ely Mayor Making Attended by the Chairman
May 17, 2022	HRH The Princess Royal Visit to the Queen Mary Centre Attended by the Chairman
May 20, 2022	Mayor of Wisbech Mayor Making Attended by the Chairman
May 24, 2022	Civic Leaders Open Day – RAF Molesworth Attended by the Chairman
May 25, 2022	Benwick in Bloom event Attended by the Chairman
May 26, 2022	Young Technicians Academy event Attended by the Chairman  Benwick School Prize Giving event Attended by the Chairman
June 1, 2022	Jubilee Bench event Attended by the Chairman
June 2, 2022	Jubilee Beacon lighting Peterborough Attended by the Chairman
June 3, 2022	Kings Lynn Service of Celebration for the Queen Attended by the Vice Chairman
June 4, 2022	42 Engineer Geo Regiment Freedom of the Town Parade -St Ives Attended by the Vice Chairman
June 5, 2022	Ely Cathedral -Service of Thanksgiving Attended by the Vice Chairman
June 19, 2022	Mayor of Peterborough Mayor making Attended by the Chairman
June 25, 2022	Opening of the Annabelle David Centre Attended by the Chairman
June 29, 2022	Bishop of Ely Garden Party Attended by the Chairman

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# **Cabinet and Corporate Management Team**

## **Portfolio Holder Briefing Report**

**July 2022**  
**(For performance in April & May 2022)**

# Cabinet Members



**Councillor  
Chris Boden**

Leader of the Council  
& Portfolio Holder for  
Finance



**Councillor  
Ian Benney**

Portfolio Holder for  
Economic Growth



**Councillor  
Sam Clark**

Portfolio Holder for  
Health



**Councillor  
Mrs Jan French**

Deputy Leader of the  
Council



**Councillor  
Miss Sam Hoy**

Portfolio Holder for  
Housing



**Councillor  
Mrs Dee Laws**

Portfolio Holder for  
Planning



**Councillor  
Andrew Lynn**

Portfolio Holder for  
Licensing &  
Community Safety



**Councillor  
Peter Murphy**

Portfolio Holder for  
Open Spaces, Street  
Scene & Waste  
Management



**Councillor  
Chris Seaton**

Portfolio Holder for  
Social Mobility &  
Heritage



**Councillor Steve  
Tierney**

Portfolio Holder for  
Transformation,  
Communication &  
Environment



## Communities

### Projects from Business Plan:

**Work with landlords to improve housing conditions and management standards in the district's private sector, including using the Council's enforcement powers** (Cllr Sam Hoy)

The Council has undertaken 3 positive interventions in response to new requests for service for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) across the district.

The Council has also inspected 38 properties as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and investigated 13 complaints from tenants occupying privately rented accommodation in the same period. Council officers intervened to remove Category 1 hazards (serious faults) and Category 2 hazards (less serious faults) from properties to make them safe for the residents.

The geographical spread is as follows:

Town	HMOs investigated	Ukraine Homes / Privately Rented Homes investigated
Wisbech	3	16
March	0	7
Chatteris	0	13
Whittlesey	0	3
Villages	0	12

Enforcement:

- In the first 2 months of 2022/23 Officers have served:
  - 2 improvement notices.
  - 8 Notices of Intent to fine landlords / agents in relation to breaches of Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR)
  - 4 Notices of Intent to serve a Civil Penalty Notices

Other

- Work has been undertaken to update Overview and Scrutiny on the progress of the Housing Enforcement Policy since July 2018 including proposed amendments to the policy that is going through the due consultation and governance process.

**Support property owners to bring long-term empty homes back into use, helping to address the district's housing needs (Cllr Sam Hoy)**

**Represents the total number of properties brought back into use through officer involvement**

**From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023**

	<b>LTE 6-23 MTHS</b>	<b>LTEP 24 MTHS +</b>
<b>Total Officer involvement</b>	13	3
<b>Total for the period</b>	1.4.22 – 31.3.23	16

**Case Examples:**

- 1) The Empty Homes officer supported the owner of a property, which has been empty since 1999, to sell at auction. The officer met with the new owners who purchased in April and have submitted a planning application, hoping to extend the property and bring it back into use as a 5-bedroom home. The property is in a poor state of repair and the officer is supporting the owners to apply to the Valuation Office Agency requesting removal of the property from council tax for the duration of the renovation. Once planning is agreed they hope to have the property ready for sale within 6-9 months.
- 2) An owner who purchased a property in October 2021 was supported by the Empty Homes Officer who successfully negotiated the removal of the property from council tax by the VOA. The owner used the savings from this towards insulating the property and spent £40k on a full renovation. The property was occupied by a tenant on 1 May 2022. The renovation was so good the energy rating increased from an F to a C which is excellent for the tenants and will ensure they have a warm energy efficient home when the fuel increases rise again this autumn.

Before and after photographs:





**Prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping through working with individuals, families, landlords, housing associations and providers to meet the housing needs of residents in crisis (Cllr Sam Hoy)**

The Housing Options team has successfully prevented 335 households from becoming homeless since April 2022. Housing advice has been given to 1220 households with no duties being owed. In total there were 1905 approaches for homelessness assistance in 2021/22. This is a 5% increase from the previous year (1803 approaches).

There continues to be a high number of B&B placements as emergency accommodation. This is in part due to an increase in requests for assistance and an increase in the number of families and complex cases presenting as homeless. There were 200 B&B placements in 2021/22 compared to 159 in the previous year, representing a 20% increase in use.

The team continues to work closely with households, landlords and other partners to resolve issues before notices are served. We recently had a short-term temp officer undertaking a project (in Q4) specifically tackling rent arrears cases in the private sector. This was funded by a central government grant and resulted in circa 30 additional preventions (these are not included in government reported figures as they were reported separately due to the nature of the funding).

The proportion of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through Housing Options work was 56% (335 preventions divided by 601 prevention and relief duties owed).

The team continues to be focussed on homeless prevention and supporting those in need within the Fenland community. Alongside this they will also be working towards gaining DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation over the coming year.

In the financial year 2022/23, for the period April 1st to May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Council has prevented 30 households from homelessness to date. The proportion of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved

through Housing Options work was 37% (30/81).

### **Deliver four Golden Age Fairs across the district (Cllr Sam Clark)**

The first stand-alone Golden Age Fair took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at Gorefield Community Hall and Sports Pavilion. The Golden Age Team and 19 partners took part in the event with a great turn out of over 100 older people visiting our partners and gaining vital information. Some of the partners included March Breathe Easy, Care Network, CamSight, Healthwatch, Peterborough Environment City Trust, Cambridgeshire Libraries and the Think Communities team from Cambridgeshire County Council.

The event highlighted a need for financial advice at future event following the absence of the Fenland Ferret. Therefore, we have secured Citizens Advice Rural Cambs to attend future events and look forward to them joining with us.

Following our last Golden Age Team meeting in May we have planned for the following events:

- Whittlesey Big Bash – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- Chatteris – Venue TBC – September 2022
- International Golden Age Fair – Rosmini Centre – December 2022
- Wimblington – Venue TBC – February 2023

### **Increase the use of local open spaces and collaborate with local activity providers and other partners to address health inequalities (Cllr Sam Clark)**

FDC has been awarded a grant of approximately £140,000 from the emerging Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System for work that will tackle prevention and supporting community engagement. Fenland's project will run over two years and focus on;

- Wellbeing Walks targeted in areas of deprivation and health inequalities
- Learn to Move sessions targeting older people and those with dementia to stay well and independent
- Get Started sessions engaging residents from deprived areas to start activity in a supported manner
- Community Mental Health Wellbeing sessions using physical activity to improve mental health

## Other Projects:

### Leisure Update (Cllr Sam Clark)

Freedom continues to work hard to recover the leisure business to pre-pandemic levels. Management fee payments have been finalised for 2021/22 and total approximately £200,000. This is significantly higher than any expectation of a payment for last year.

Business in leisure remains difficult across the country, with cost of living concerns impacting on consumer spending. An additional concern for Freedom is the increasing cost of utilities. Freedom's current fixed gas and power agreements expire in autumn 2022, leading to very steep rises in costs. The leisure business uses a lot of energy to heat swimming pools and power large buildings. Freedom has put in place actions to mitigate for these costs where possible. Regardless, there will be a significant financial impact and the Council is working with Freedom to consider further mitigation options and potential support.

With regards to performance in the leisure centres, a summary of recovery levels against February 2020 pre-pandemic levels can be found below. Freedom is rechecking the studio figures, with the other statistics comparing favourably with other Freedom local authority contracts and the industry as a whole.

- Memberships – 90%
- Casual swim – 99%
- Swimming Lessons – 191%
- Catering – 71%
- Studio – 46%
- Children's Activities – 71%

### Pride In Fenland Awards (Cllr Sam Clark)

The next event is planned for November 2022.

**Health & Wellbeing Update (including Covid-19 Outbreak Plan implementation)**  
(Cllr Sam Clark)

The Enduring Transmission Programme drew to a close in March 2022. The programme helped more than 250 Fenland residents to access hardship support for isolation.

Work is ongoing to develop a phase 4 to the programme which will see public health support for local business who may wish to sign up to the scheme. The programme is still being developed but it aims to address the key health needs in Fenland. This includes; smoking cessation, alcohol issues, mental health support and cancer screening. The programme will support by enabling access and screening to support and referrals via the workplace.

**Key PIs:**

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 22/23	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP1	Total number of private rented homes where positive action has been taken to address safety issues	277	250	54	
CELP2	NEW INDICATOR The proportion (%) of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through Housing options work (%)	57%	57%	37%	
CELP3	Number of empty properties brought back into use	77	50	16	
CELP4	Amount of New Homes Bonus achieved as a result of bringing empty homes back into use	£93,099	£45,000	N/A (December 22)	N/A
CELP6	Number of Active Health local sessions per year that improve community health	504	500	90	
CELP19	Satisfaction with our leisure centres (Net Promoter Score)	85%	85%		
CELP20	Value of Arts Council Grants achieved in Fenland	N/A	£40,000		

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments
CELP2 - Homeless PI – is below target due to increase in competition to access solutions through the private rented sector and some short-term staffing resource pressures. However, it is envisaged that this will improve as we work towards meeting the target by the end of the financial year.

## Environment

### Projects from Business Plan:

#### **Continue to deliver environmental enforcement using fixed penalty notices and the court process for serious offences (Cllr Peter Murphy)**

During April – May 2022, we have recorded 126 incidents of fly tipping (the same period last year was 153). As part of our enforcement work, officers have visited 50 of these sites to look through the waste to determine who may be responsible. Often, no evidence is found, but we ensure a thorough search is carried out and follow up on any leads.

As a result of these finds, we have sent out 11 'Contact Me' letters to addresses found which has resulted in a further 5 'Formal Interview Under Caution' postal documents being sent out. Our ongoing investigations have resulted in:

- 2 Fixed Penalty Notices of £400 to those who we believe were responsible for fly tipped waste found in Wisbech.
- 3 Fixed Penalty Notices of £400 to Householders for failing in their duty of care and employing fly tippers to take their waste away. The offences relate to fly tipping found in Chatteris and March.
- 1 Fixed Penalty Notice of £150 to a male who was seen littering in Wisbech.

Additional enforcement work carried out saw 3 Parking Fixed penalty Notices issued to cars for parking on the market in March on a market day.

A total of 28 vehicles have been reported as abandoned in April and May. Most of these were not deemed abandoned and we did not require our contractor to remove any vehicles. All had Notices served on them but were all removed by persons unknown.

As part of our work supporting local businesses through our Tidy Fenland Voluntary Code of Practice, we have been visiting town centre businesses in Fenland. During this period, we have visited 54 premises and spoken with management staff to check on trade waste compliance. This resulted in 26 signing up to the Code during the visit and they were happy to display our poster. An additional 2 businesses were provided with cigarette bins to prevent excess litter.



**Deliver the Four Seasons events programme in partnership with our four market towns**  
(Cllr Peter Murphy)

April saw the 12<sup>th</sup> annual St George's Fayre held in the town of March. After 2 years absence, visitor numbers did not disappoint with the public attending in their thousands. The volunteer committee have been overwhelmed with positive feedback received from the community for what proved to be a fantastic community event.

We continue to go to great lengths to curate an event that not only benefits the economy but also supports Fenland's cultural offering. We were therefore delighted to hear that March Museum had the highest footfall to date and to witness first hand traders and local businesses alike experiencing non-stop custom. A wrap up meeting took place in May where the committee considered the options for 2023 and the opportunities to further build on the professional stage entertainment.

Preparations are nearing completion for the upcoming Chatteris Festival, which will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June. This year's theme is 'Fairy Tales and Folklore'. New attractions put forward by the volunteer committee this year will include a Dog and Duck Show and mask making. The Colour Fun Run, which was very popular in 2021, will return again on the Sunday.

**Community groups supported to deliver environmental projects including Street Pride, Friends of and Green Dog Walkers** (Cllr Peter Murphy)

A total of 21 events were held in April by community groups to improve the environment. This included regular work parties as well as the Friends of Octagon Graveyard in Wisbech holding an open day to showcase recent work undertaken to reclaim the graveyard.

In May, there were 25 regular work parties held. Two key events to highlight include the official opening of a platinum jubilee tree seat installed in Benwick by Street Pride / In Bloom volunteers. The tree seat is made from 100% recycled materials and replaces the one which was originally installed in 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V. However, it is believed the seat was destroyed during VE celebrations in 1945. Leverington Street Pride celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month and were presented with a new litter picking trolley.

It is great to see the variety of projects coming forward from the groups and that they are starting to feel comfortable to meet in large groups again.

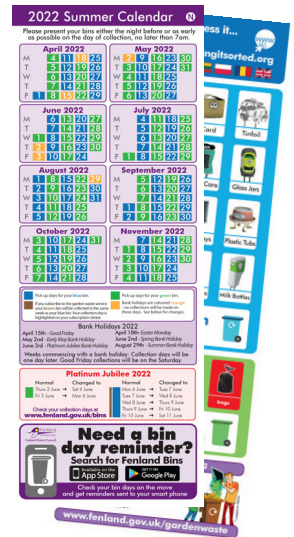
## Deliver the Recycling Action Plan (Cllr Peter Murphy)

### Performance 2021/22

Recycling teams are rejecting blue bins where incorrect materials are obvious, and as a result reported issues on more than **3,556 occasions** in 2021/22. Each of these properties has been delivered a standard letter advising of what can go in their blue bin and why this is important.



With the team successfully focussing on ensuring services were delivered with the pressures of Covid and driver shortages, the usual targeted positive campaign work was impacted. As a result, the Environmental Services supervisors checked a total of **3,620 blue bins** when the usual target to 2 visits to 18,000 properties. Of those visited, **1,005 (28%) were very good**, containing all the correct materials, and received a 'thank you' tag and



172 (5%) were found to contain incorrect materials and received information on how to improve.

Following up on the winter calendars that were delivered on around **46,000 green bins** in November there was a Recycling Leaflet accompanying **all Council Tax bills** and the new summer calendar delivered to **46,000 bins** during March.

### Income and Performance

The value of recycling materials continues to improve. The overall net income for materials collected in 2021/22 was **£475,160**, including recycling credits, for the financial year to support the delivery of the service, and continues to be positive this year with income and recycling credits generating a further **£100,800 of income** already in April and May.

In 2021/22, **8,984 tonnes** of materials suitable for recycling was collected in customers' blue bins. This gives the Council a provisional recycling rate for waste collected of 41%, against an average the last year in England of 44%.

### Waste Analysis 2021

The most recent RECAP waste analysis, showed that Fenland customers are putting more of their recycling in their blue bin as there is increasingly less recycling in the residual waste samples. This table shows the percentage of readily recyclable materials found in green bins in 2016, 2019 and 2021. The trend implies customers are choosing to recycle more.

<b>RECYCLABILITY OF RESIDUAL WASTE (%) FENLAND</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
PAPER	3.6%	1.5%	1.4%
CARD, CARDBOARD & CARTONS	2.3%	2.0%	1.7%
GLASS	3.5%	2.2%	2.6%
METALS	2.2%	1.7%	1.4%
PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS	3.4%	3.5%	2.4%
	15.0%	10.9%	9.5%

However, there remains even more to be done. The waste analysis also showed what percentage of readily recyclable materials customers are presenting in their blue bins; at around 8 out of every 10 items available there is still room for improvement.

<b>Dry Recycling Captured - Annual Tonnages</b>	<b>Residual Bins 2021</b>	<b>Recycling Bins 2021</b>	<b>Capture Rate 2021</b>
Recyclable Paper	350	2860	89%
Recyclable Card	420	1120	73%
Tetra-Pak	20	50	71%
Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Pots and Trays	590	1040	64%
Glass	650	2900	82%
Steel Cans	190	290	60%
Aluminium Cans and Foil	160	210	57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2380</b>	<b>8470</b>	<b>78%</b>

At current prices, this is around £250,000 worth of potential income for the Council that customers are choosing to put in their residual bin and destine for landfill. As a result, future work will give a focus to cans, plastics and card.

### **Deliver a competitive trade waste service** (Cllr Peter Murphy & Cllr Tierney)

The work to improve the profitability of the commercial waste services offered by the Council is making steady progress, despite the impact of the pandemic on our customer base.

Income impacted by the pandemic in 2020/21 has recovered this year, showing a positive trend, even though the total number of customers receiving our services dropped slightly.

<b>Commercial Waste Service</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
Total Income (£)	£377,900	£342,300	£447,200
Total Customers	529	552	528
New Customers	51	40	50
Waste collected (Tonnes)	1,334	1,131	1,431
Recycling (Tonnes)	125	86	126
<b>Net Income/profit (£)</b>	<b>£117,980</b>	<b>£95,170</b>	<b>£132,810</b>

Work to commence the separate collection of food waste collections has naturally been delayed by the pressures on services of the pandemic and driver shortages. Recruitment, changes to work patterns and rounds will allow this work to commence later in the year with the customers already expressing an interest.

### **Review the current arrangements for parking enforcement in Fenland (Cllr Jan French)**

FDC, along with SCDC and HDC, continue to meet regularly with Cambridgeshire County Council via a joint working group to collectively move the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) forward and to track progress. More progress has been made to date on CPE in the Fenland and South Cambridgeshire Districts as HDC have yet to undertake any TRO survey works.

FDC progress to date and current focus:

- 1) Having undertaken a full Traffic Regulation Order survey for all 210 On-Street parking and waiting restrictions within the Fenland DC administrative area, 1193 queries/anomalies were found. This information has been passed to Cambridgeshire County Councils Policy and Regulation Team for resolution.
- 2) Work continues by FDC officers to draft a new preliminary CPE Off Street Parking Places Order for all FDC owned/managed parking facilities in preparation for the implementation of CPE.
- 3) FDC and CCC officers continue to work on drafting a preliminary agency and service level agreement for consideration by the CPE project team, before being put forward to FDC members for approval. The agreement will set out delegated authority to FDC and define responsibility for things such as sign and line maintenance, PCN income and operational deficit along with resolution of contractual issues associated with enforcement.
- 4) Cambridgeshire County Council formally consulted all statutory consultees and partner organisations on the implementation of CPE within Fenland at the end of March. Consultees were given one month to register their comments or objections

- and the collective feedback will be used to finalise the CEA/SEA DfT application.
- 5) A draft application to the Department for Transport for a Civil/Special Enforcement Area Designation Order for the introduction of CPE in Fenland has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with FDC. The application will be finalised using statutory consultee feedback and it is anticipated that the application will be put forward to the DfT later in the year.
  - 6) FDC officers have liaised with neighbouring local authorities to ascertain what enforcement and administrative services could be provided for the Fenland area. Two Local Authorities have the potential to deliver enforcement and administrative services for FDC and these shall be explored further along with private enforcement companies going forward as the project develops.

Whilst the timeline required to implement CPE in Fenland has been estimated to be approximately 2 years, several factors including County Council and Contractor resources could inadvertently result in project slippage. Currently the project remains on track for the CPE designation order to be brought into effect in October 2023.

### **Deliver the CCTV shared service with Peterborough City Council (Cllr Andrew Lynn)**

The CCTV shared service has maintained its 100% service function across a 24/7 period.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022, the CCTV service has been able to respond to 217 incidents across our four market towns including incidents relating to anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, violent crime, illegal drug use, possession of weapons and theft.

CCTV interventions since April 2022 has led to 14 arrests being made by Cambridgeshire Police. This highlights the work CCTV services do to support the Council and partners in responding to crime and disorder and helping to make our communities safer and reduce the fear of crime.

The CCTV service also continues to be pro-active in delivering services that helps reduce crime & disorder and anti-social behaviour by delivering regular camera patrols of our four market towns and other key locations. Since April and up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 the CCTV team have delivered 675 patrols. All patrols were conducted across the 24/7 period ensuring that, no matter what time of day or night, our local communities are being protected and that any issues or concerns are being identified as early as possible.

The CCTV service also provides the Councils 'out of hours' telephone contact services for services such as homelessness, stray and lost dogs, cleansing incidents, dangerous buildings and structures, and environmental complaints. From April 2022, the CCTV service has responded to over 63 service requests from our out of hours telephone contact service.

The CCTV partner liaison meeting, which includes invites to all CCTV stakeholders including our town council partners, is being held during June via MS Teams and will include a full and comprehensive update on the work of CCTV and performance.

### **Other Projects:**

#### **Open Spaces and Grounds Maintenance Contract Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)**

Mowing season commenced in March and despite variable weather all has progressed well to date with all major cuts (2 per month) achieved on time. Smaller omissions have all been corrected quickly. Cemeteries and the larger parks have continued to look their best. No defaults have been issued.

Tivoli, under strong management, continue to deliver a good service notwithstanding the increase in energy costs, the fluidity of the labour force, and the continuing effects of Covid. It would be fair to say that praiseworthy public comments about their performance far outweigh the negatives. Their co-operation and response around the many issues related to storms Doris and Eunice were particularly noteworthy and appreciated.

The wildflower project at Manor field, Whittlesey has also proven to be a resounding success as the first blooms appeared with much positive media feedback. Other (smaller) areas are now being identified for development later this year.

Play areas have been completed at Larham Way (Chatteris), Huntingdon Road (Chatteris) and Burdett Grove (Whittlesey) with further tenders let for Cricketers Way (Chatteris) and Guyhirn play. These will be completed over the summer.

Contract work for the new Splash pad at Wisbech Park is well advanced and a summer opening is anticipated.

#### **Street Lighting (Cllr Jan French)**

##### **Street Light Repairs & Maintenance**

Seventy streetlight faults were reported and attended to between January and May 2022 by FDC's streetlight maintenance contractor on behalf of FDC, Clarion Housing Association and seven of the Parish Councils. The majority of the defects were associated with Parish Council lighting assets which provides a good indication that FDC's own streetlighting stock maintenance has reduced.



### Capital Street Light Replacement Works

The majority of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Capital Programmed replacement works have now been completed with 637 FDC streetlights having now either been replaced or had the existing lanterns upgraded to LED. A few units remain outstanding which have been delayed either due to supply delays or UKPN connectivity work, however it is anticipated these works will be concluded by end of August. The Engineering Team are now looking at the 2022/23 FDC LED upgrade works which will help to further reduce streetlight energy and maintenance costs.

In addition, officers continue to co-ordinate streetlight replacement works on behalf of Gorefield, Christchurch, Tydd St Giles, Parson Drove and Newton Parish Councils. It is also likely that defective streetlight replacement works for Elm Parish Council will be required going forward.

### FDC Car Park Maintenance (Cllr Jan French)

A number of routine repairs and maintenance works were undertaken within several FDC managed Car Parks throughout the District between January and May. Works included gully cleaning along with pothole repairs and bollard replacements.

Further programmed maintenance and minor improvement works are being scheduled for 2022 for FDC managed Car Parks to include painting, signing and patch repair works.

Customer feedback from the works undertaken in October to reline and reconfigure parking bays in Chapel Road car park, Wisbech has been good, and the completed works has made the car park operationally safer.

### Getting it Sorted Volunteers Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)

The Getting It Sorted volunteers' website ([www.gettingitsorted.org](http://www.gettingitsorted.org)) attracted **11,094 hits** during 2021/22. The top five enquiries were how to recycle "Shredded Paper", "Yogurt pots", "Crisp packets", "Plastic bottles" and "Bubble wrap". These were included within social media campaigns.

The Getting It Sorted social media posts attracted **141,715 views** during the year. Many directed customers to the volunteer and school education pages of the website where they can find a range of recycling information and pledge to recycle more. More than **2,000 customers** have signed up now to receive a regular email from the volunteers around all things recycling.

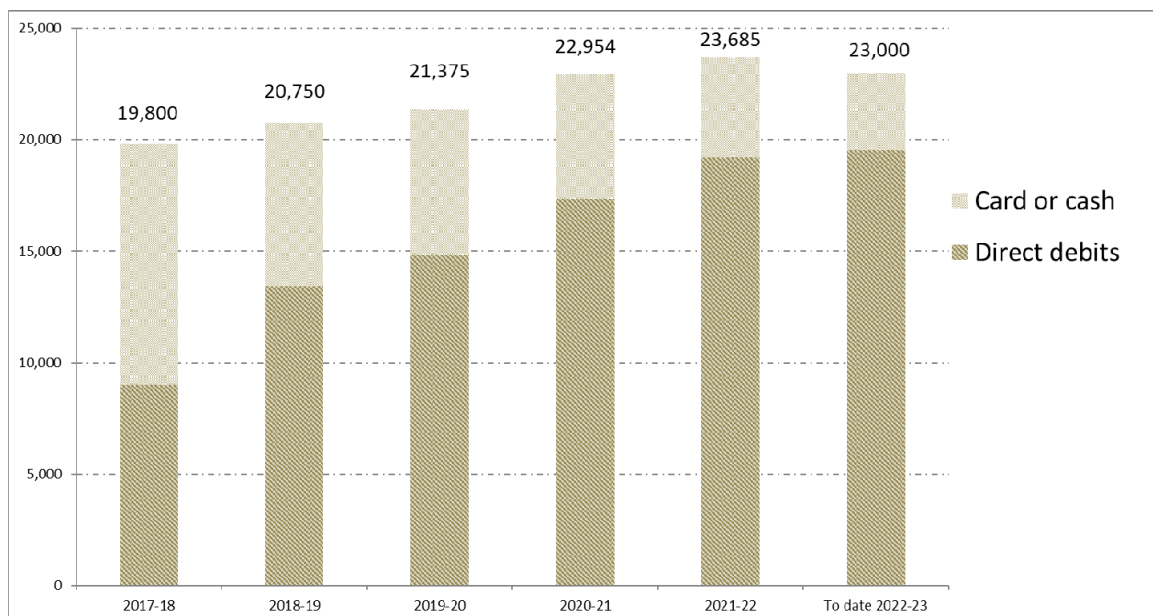
## Garden Waste Service Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)

The Garden Waste service continues to provide a reliable and good quality service that our customers are satisfied with.

So far this season there are more than 23,000 active subscriptions which is 1,200 ahead of the same point last season.

We can see that the proportion of customers deciding to take up the reduced-price direct debit has increased each year since the service started. With 19,200 direct debits last year, the total income to cover the cost of services generated was £931,000 and the resulting average subscription fee is £39.30.

### Garden Waste Direct Debit and 'Cash/Card' payments by Year

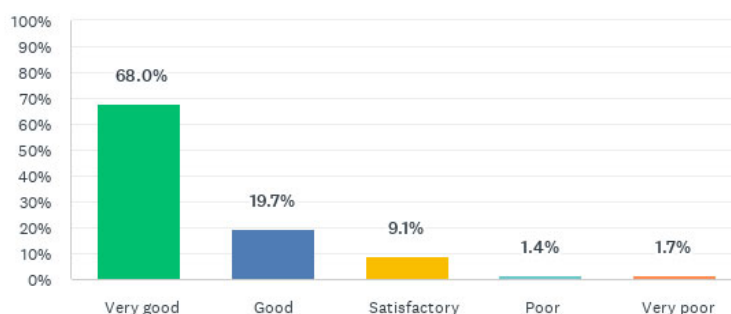


Included within the cash/card payments we have around 700 customers who take advantage of the PayPoint option to renew their garden waste subscription at their local Post Office or shop.

Last year, customers making use of the Garden Waste Service reported very high levels of satisfaction with the service provided; 97% (403 from the 416 respondents).



Overall, how would you rate your experience of the Garden Waste Service?



## Community Safety Partnership Update (Cllr Andrew Lynn)

### Community Safety Team Update

The Community Safety team has welcomed Russell Wignall to the team. Russell joins primarily to work with other partners and the community to respond to concerns of community nuisance and supporting the PCC's priority of Putting Communities First. The team has supported the FDC Licensing Officer by visiting licensed premises in March alongside the Police Licensing Officer in relation to concerns of drink spiking and providing information how to deal with suspected cases of spiking. Also discussed were prevention techniques and how to act should a suspected spiking's present itself. It was pleasing to see that the venues we visited were taking the matter seriously and were willing to engage with the authorities. Posters had been distributed and pleased to report most of the venues had put the posters up. This helps FDC strengthen its relationships with licensed premises whilst also looking to keep customers safe

### CSP Workforce Development

Training themes for CSP Workforce Development sessions are linked to the priorities within the CSP action plan. Frontline staff from statutory and voluntary sectors who work across Fenland are invited to attend these free training sessions.

Those attending include staff from housing providers, FDC teams, police, probation, traveller teams, young people workers, family workers, children centres, food banks, volunteers, schools, healthcare workers, faith groups, community organisations and citizens advice.

### Substance & Alcohol Abuse Awareness

On 10/02/2022 (in partnership with CGL) the CSP hosted a training session on Substance & Alcohol Abuse Awareness.

### Domestic Abuse Training: Non-Fatal Strangulation

On 17/03/2022 the CSP coordinated a domestic abuse training session on Non-Fatal Strangulation. This was delivered by Vickie Crompton from the DASV partnership. A link to further online training on this topic has been circulated.

### **Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control Awareness Training**

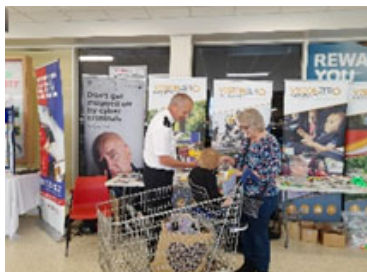
On 24/03/2022, the CSP coordinated a Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control Awareness Training This was delivered by in partnership by Refuge and Vickie Crompton from the DASV partnership. Information and advice from this training has been circulated to attendees and partners.

### **Community Safety Newsletter 11<sup>th</sup> Edition**

The newsletter which reports on the activity of the CSP has been redesigned. The 11<sup>th</sup> Edition will be published in June 2022 and will be available on the CSP webpage and will be distributed to partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors. Hard copies are available in local libraires. In this edition you will find updates on workforce development sessions, engagement events, CAPASP. Plus, support and advice and reporting links on a range of concerns for the Fenland community to refer to.

### **Community Engagement**

On 21/04/2022, the Fenland Community Safety Partnership held a Community Safety event at Wisbech Tesco in partnership with Cambs Police, Refuge, Neighbourhood Watch, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP), Vison Zero—Road Safety Partnership, Illegal Money Lending Team England and Neighbourhood Watch.



During the event local residents were provided with information and advice on loan sharks, road safety, domestic violence, cybercrime, scams, and rogue trading, and from neighbourhood watch.

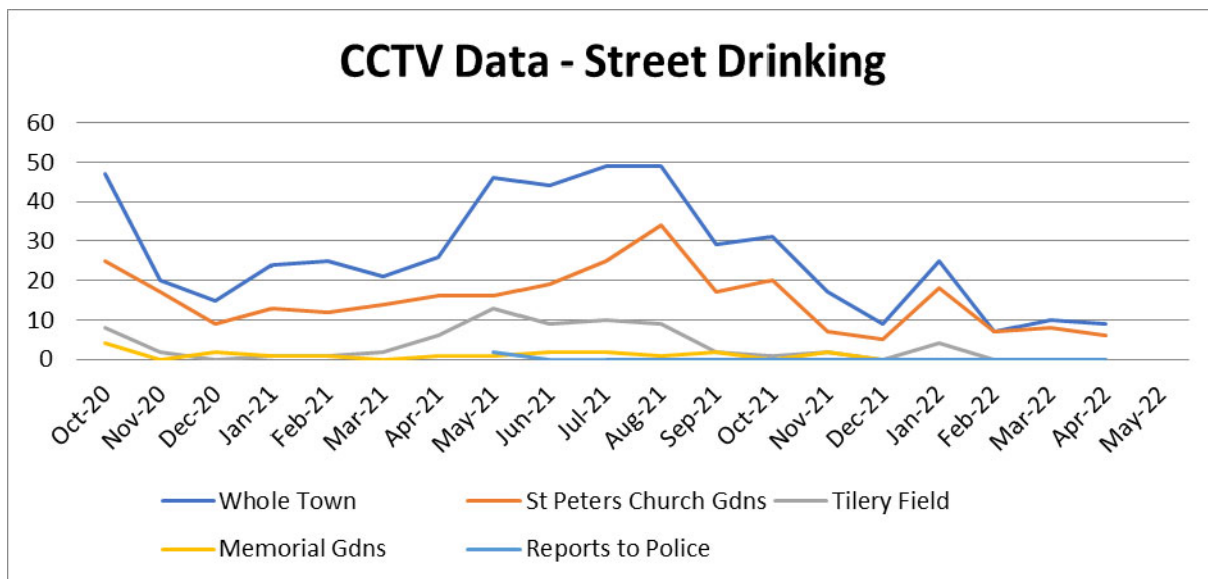
Fenland Community Safety Partnership will be delivering further community engagement events throughout 2022 and 2023. These will be advertised on the FDC website, partnership pages and in your local area. Residents will be invited to come along and meet the community safety team and their partners for information and advice on a wide range of community safety matters.

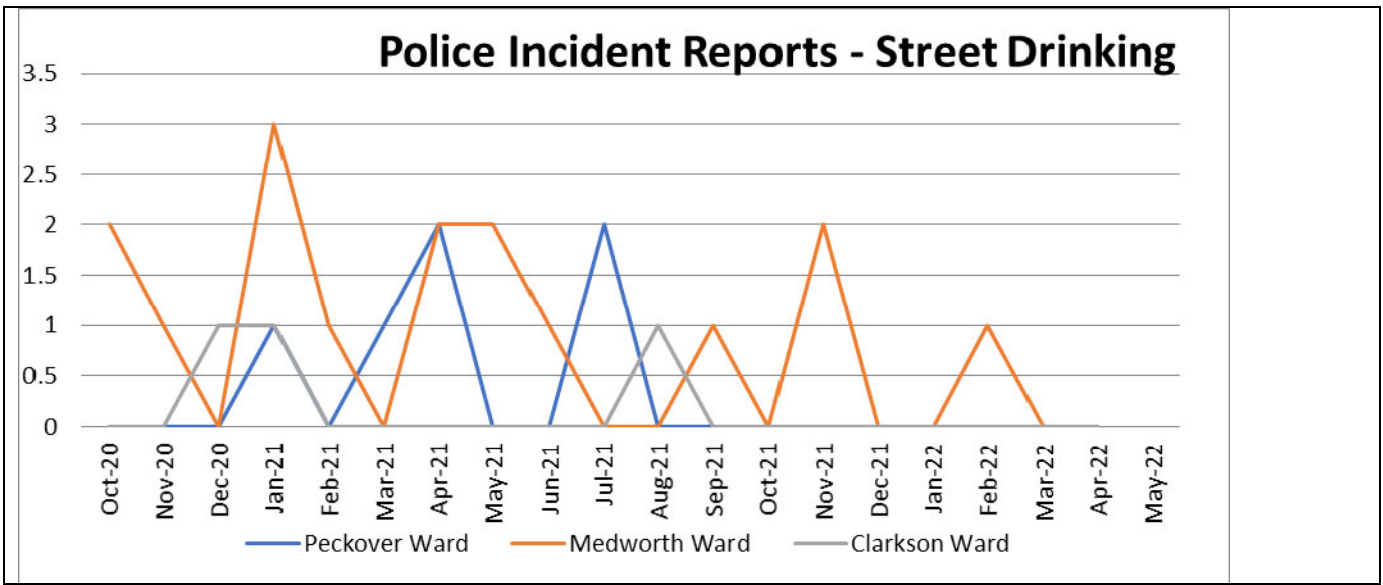
## Street Drinking Update (Cllr Andrew Lynn)

Partners including FDC teams, CCTV, Police, Substance Abuse Support Services and homeless outreach continue to monitor and meet regularly.

Current community reporting into services is low and this is corroborated by the observations of CCTV operators as well as little social media activity. There are occurrences of street drinking happening but the associated poor behaviour being experienced in the past doesn't appear to be happening. There has also been a reduction in the discarded alcohol related litter with evidence to suggest the litter bins are more frequently used.

Police partners are leading on the introduction of a partnership response to street based anti-social behaviour which will also encompass street drinking, with the first partnership meeting scheduled for early June. The response is based upon prevention, intervention and enforcement and therefore adopts the same approach as the Council's enforcement policy.





**Key PIs:**

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 22/23	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP8	Rapid or Village Response requests actioned the same or next day	95%	90%	97%	
CELP9	% of inspected streets meeting our cleansing standards (including graffiti and flyposting)	99%	93%	100%	
CELP10	% of household waste recycled through the blue bin service (1 month in arrears)	27.5%	28%	27%	
CELP11	Customer satisfaction with refuse and recycling services (quarterly)	96.3%	90%		
CELP12	Customer satisfaction with our garden waste service (quarterly)	98.75%	85%		
CELP13	Number of Street Pride, Green Dog Walkers, and Friends Of community environmental events supported	191	204	46	
CELP14	% of those asked who are satisfied with events	97%	96%	97.7%	

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments
CELP11 & CELP12 - Customer satisfaction with refuse, recycling and garden waste will be completed and reported later in the year.

## Economy

### Projects from Business Plan:

**Continue to review council land and property assets to ensure they are fit for purpose and optimised to deliver better public services, improve efficiency and release surplus land for residential and commercial development as outlined in our Commercial Investment Strategy** (Cllr Ian Benney)

Occupancy remains at 100% across all industrial investment units and the Boathouse, whilst the South Fens Business Centre is at 64% but with occupancy levels improving.

Work has been completed to identify lease events that are coming to an end or are due for action and which will result in an increased revenue benefit to the Council and the first tranche of these rent reviews are in the process of being acted upon.

The first 3 properties in the surplus asset disposal programme were sold at Auction in May achieving a figure more than double the guide price. The remaining first phase sites are currently being worked up to planning approval status with a view to maximising potential returns at auction.

The next phase of surplus sites are being investigated prior to be submitted to members for approval prior to disposal process commencing

**Continue to lobby for improvements to our transport infrastructure, including the A47 economic corridor** (Cllr Chris Seaton)

#### Wisbech Access Strategy

This is a CPCA funded project being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council. The latest information about the project can be found on the County Council website from the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-funding-bids-and-studies/wisbech-access-strategy>

A Wisbech Access Strategy report was presented to CPCA Business Board in July 2021 and CPCA Board in September 2021. The report required a strategic decision on the way forward linked to timescales and budgets. It was agreed that funding would be made available to complete the detailed design and the land acquisition for the 3 schemes – A47 Broad End Road, A47 Elm High Road and A1101 Ramnoth Road/Weasenham Lane. The work is progressing alongside a full business case project. These projects are expected to now be complete in late Summer/early Autumn 2022. A copy of the main accompanying paper for the meetings mentioned above can be

found from the following link:

[https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc\\_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1529/Committee/62/Default.aspx](https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1529/Committee/62/Default.aspx)

#### Kings Dyke Level Crossing

This project being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council, Growth Deal Funding by the former Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Transforming Cities Fund. The Project is currently in its construction phase. The new road will be open to the public by the end of 2022.

The County Council website includes significant detail about this project including technical reports and questions and answers. This webpage can be accessed from the following link. [Kings Dyke Crossing](#).

#### March Area Transport Study

This is a CPCA funded project being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council. It includes a range of transport projects across March to address transport issues and to facilitate new housing and employment growth.

The project is currently in detailed design stage and full business case project work which is due to complete in late 2022. Papers confirming the outcome of the previous Outline Business Case (OBC) work including recommendations to draw down funding for detailed design and the final business case, were part of CCC, CPCA and FDC meetings in November and December 2021.

A copy of the OBC report can be found on the County Council website from the following link:

[Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Technical details and feasibility study work associated with this project can be found on the County Council website from the link below

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-funding-bids-and-studies/march-transport-study>

#### March to Wisbech Railway Line

This is a CPCA funded project with current study and assessment work being undertaken by Network Rail. FDC is currently awaiting the outcome of the study work which is now expected during Summer 2022.

In March 2021 CPCA gave an update to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Wisbech railway project. This included a recommendation to draw down an additional £300,000 for the further study work mentioned above. The work will look to align the Wisbech Railway work with the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement project and in the short term a Wisbech to March service. A copy of the March 2021 CPCA report can be found in the link below.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/View>



[MeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1973/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx](https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1973/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx)

#### A47 Dualling (CPCA Project)

It was reported in late 2020 that National Highways (formally Highways England) Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) announcement did not include the A47 dualling project. Discussions between CPCA, National Highways and Government in early 2021 have since continued and negotiations are ongoing. In February 2021 National Highways agreed to undertake a review of the stage 0 work completed by CPCA. This review is to determine if there is any further work needed with a view to National Highways adopting the development work into their own programme. It was also agreed that the work will also consider proposals from East Tilney to A47/A17 junction in Norfolk. We are awaiting the outcome of this project.

The above information was reported to the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee in March 2021. A link to the paper from that meeting is below.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1973/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

#### A47 Guyhirn (National Highways Project)

The Guyhirn roundabout project is now complete and was formally opened in May 2022.

Full details about this scheme can be found on the [Highways England website](#).

### **Support the delivery of interventions listed within the four market town 'Growing Fenland' socio-economic masterplans (Cllr Ian Benney)**

All £4m of CPCA funding has now been allocated to Growing Fenland projects. Updates on the projects are shown below:

#### **Chatteris**

##### **Chatteris Town Renaissance Fund (£92k)**

The Chatteris Town Renaissance Fund project is progressing well and continues to consider and process applications for business grants as a result of the continued promotion of the scheme.

A total of 90% of all street furniture refurbishment work is now complete.

##### **Chatteris Skills Development (£36,179)**

All of the ICT equipment ordered has now been delivered. The equipment will be



configured over the next few months ready for use in the autumn.

### **Chatteris Museum & Community Space (£771,821)**

Chatteris Town Council are working towards purchasing the freehold and leasehold of 2 Park Street (the former Barclays Bank) from the existing tenants.

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of the former Barclays Bank (2 Park Street) into a museum. The purchase is close to being agreed and quotes will be sought from local builders to carry out the work once the architect has drawn up a schedule of works.

Planning permission to extend and convert 14 Church Lane has been agreed in principle, pending further agreements being approved.

### **March**

#### **Match funding for March Future High Street Project (£900k)**

Please see update for March Future High Street Project on page 36.

### **Whittlesey**

#### **Whittlesey Interactive Highway Signs (£57,500)**

Project complete (please [click here](#) for further information)

#### **Whittlesey Heritage Walk (£218,169)**

Work is progressing well with the Whittlesey Heritage Walk project, overseen by the steering group, with completion expected by end of August 2022. This is slightly later than planned due to delays with 3<sup>rd</sup> party land permission.

Updates include:

- The Whittlesey Heritage Walk long and short routes have been fully uploaded to the Love Exploring App. This will be made live on the project launch date.
- Highway improvements have been commissioned through CCC Highways. Phase 1 dropped kerbs and replacement fencing/railings have been completed. Footpath surfacing and phase 2 of works are being programmed for the coming months.
- The design work is being finalised for the 22 no. information boards.
- The supply and installation of the information boards is expected in late July.
- Brochure/Leaflet design for the route is underway.
- 6 no. additional public benches have been installed. The 7<sup>th</sup> bench is pending Ely Diocese approval.
- Twenty20 productions have been commissioned to create a video to promote the Walk.

#### **Whittlesey Heritage Visitor Centre (£500k)**

The Whittlesey Town Council Property Working Group continue to drive this project forward. Officers have discussed potential capital grant support with Arts Council England. Any support is exceptionally unlikely from this source and, as a heritage

building, an approach to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was suggested. Whittlesey Town Council has previously submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and was unsuccessful. FDC officers are meeting with the local HLF officer shortly to review the previous bid documentation and discuss a revised bid to bridge the current funding gap.

### **Whittlesey Business Capital Grants Scheme (£124,331)**

Please see update on page 36.

## **Wisbech**

### **Wisbech Market Place Enhancement Scheme (£200k)**

The enhanced Wisbech Market Place was opened on 20 June following 9 weeks of construction work. Enhancements include new paving, benches, waste bins, planters and other decorative features to provide an improved trading area and community space.

The Market Place is now fully open to the public and market traders with the final touch of the Wisbech Town Council crest to be added at a later date.

For further details please [click here](#).



### **Wisbech Football Counters (£19,500)**

This funding has been received by the Town Council and spent in full.

Football counters have been installed and the Town Council has been receiving data

since 13 December 2021. The data shows that in the first 29 weeks of operation, almost 1,500,000 people walked through the Wisbech Market Place area. At the request of the Town Council, the supplier of the footfall counters, Springboard, is now providing not only separate reports for both the Town Council and the Horsefair Shopping Centre (which has its own footfall counters via the same supplier) but a report which combines both sets of data. This data is proving to be very useful, as it shows, for example, the additional footfall that results from events etc being run in the town centre.

#### **Wisbech Replacement Shopwatch Radio Scheme (£33,800)**

This funding has been received in full by the Town Council but none of the money has yet been spent.

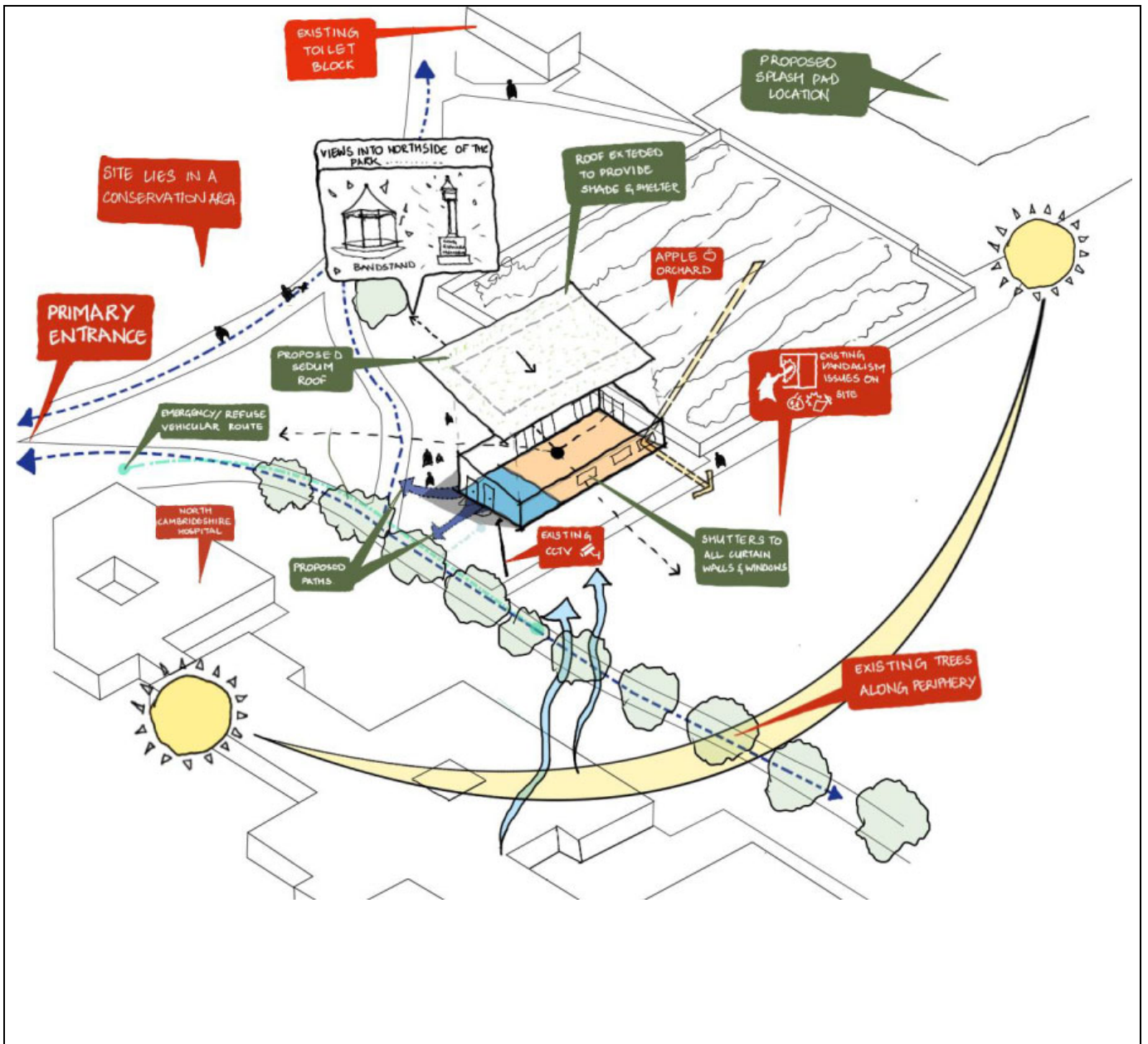
A meeting between the Wisbech Town Council Clerk and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of developing a Service Level Agreement in relation to the council "handing-over" the radio scheme to the Chamber of Commerce, has taken place. The Town Clerk is, consequently, in the process of producing a Service Level Agreement. A representative of the Chamber of Commerce has been involved in discussions with the supplier of the equipment regarding some of the pre-installation technical issues. These discussions have been successful and, consequently, the Town Council is awaiting an invoice from the supplier. This project has been incorporated within the Safer Wisbech Action Plan.

#### **Wisbech Water Park (£147,500) & Wisbech Park Community Hub (£299,200)**

Designs for the Community Hub are complete. The floor plan offers a multi-activity room, café space and servery, indoor toilets, a changing places toilet facility and a small office. Additionally, there are 2 unisex toilets available externally for use as public toilets when the Hub is closed, but public toilets are still required. It should be noted that the glass finishes will all have shutters to prevent vandalism and the public toilets will be fitted with robust toilet fittings. Additionally, the location of the facility sits under one of FDC's CCTV units for added security.

The images below illustrate the position of the building in the park (following consultation with planning officers), along with 3D renders of how the building may look on completion.

It is expected that the scheme will be submitted to planning in July.









**Wisbech Business Capital Grants Scheme (£200k)**

Please see update on page 36.

## **District Wide**

### **Civil Parking Enforcement (£400k)**

Please see update on Civil Parking Enforcement on page 14 **Error! Bookmark not defined.** **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

## **Continue to prepare a new Local Plan document, which will determine how the district will grow in the future** (Cllr Dee Laws)

The draft Local Plan was presented to Cabinet in June 2022 and approved. It will now be published for public consultation in July.

## **Deliver railway projects with CPCA support through the Manea, March and Whittlesea Stations Project Boards** (Cllr Chris Seaton)

### Manea Station

Following a period of improved weather, work to deliver the car park project has recommenced. The improved ground conditions have allowed surfacing work to take place and the delivery is moving forward. Work is ongoing with an expectation that the car park will be complete in early autumn 2022

### Whittlesea Station

The second strategic outline business case and options appraisal work is nearing completion. The Project Board will then need to review the recommendations and decide a way forward and next steps. These discussions will take place during Summer 2022.

### March Station

The platform 1 building project and the refurbished and extended station car park are now complete. The official opening event took place in May 2022. Please [click here](#) for further information.

FDC has released a video of the March Station project including aerial drone footage. This can be viewed from the link below:

[New drone video shows March Railway Station works from start to finish, from the air! | Hereward Community Rail Partnership \(herewardcrp.org\)](#)







**Work with partners to deliver property improvements and the activity plan as part of the National Lottery Heritage Funded Wisbech High Street Project (Cllr Chris Seaton)**

**Wisbech High Street Property Improvements**

The shop front programme has continued to progress well, with 3 further properties coming forward and submitting applications following the soft relaunch of the scheme last October. Number 18, 19 and number 31 will all receive grant towards historic shop front works by the end of the programme if they continue to engage well with FDC and follow the NLHF guidance regarding shopfront improvements. These follow number 13-17 which has now completed the refits with new shop frontages and residential apartments above.

**Number 24 High Street, Wisbech**

Works to prepare the site for construction are now complete.



Following ongoing work undertaken by FDC officers to secure a contractor for the delivery of the mixed-use scheme, FDC now has a quote from one contract via the framework to deliver the project. The cost as of June 2022 now sits at £2.477m which represents a £717,000 increase over the bids received at the last round of procurement. The new figure does include a number of Prime Cost Sums which may increase as the construction market continues to face cost inflation. Officers are carrying out ongoing Due Diligence ahead of progressing the project with the contractor.

### **Number 11-12 High Street, Wisbech**

The site is now back in the ownership of FDC and has been secured correctly by the asset team. Officers continue to work with partners to find a developer for the site following the withdrawal of the previous developer.

### **Wisbech High Street Activity Plan**

So far in 2022 there have been four virtual events as part of the Wisbech High Street Project activities programme. These have all been well attended with new guests joining often and we receive good feedback. The Lincoln Conservation staff we have partnered with to organise the events, and the external speakers have all made great effort to make each event relevant to Wisbech history, heritage, and the important buildings in the town. This has been especially well received with local members of the audience who have been able to relate event content to their own home and restoration projects.

Going forward, plans are being developed to work with Wisbech buildings to host in-person workshops for both adults and families as we approach the summer. This will give local people the chance to see up-close demonstrations of historic, specialised conservation and building techniques by industry experts. There will also be exciting opportunities for the public to try out these skills themselves and learn something new with thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Funded project.

## **Other Projects:**

### **Economic Growth Team Activity (Cllr Ian Benney)**

#### **Start & Grow**

The Start & Grow programme is providing business support, advice and grants to anyone looking to start a business and any early-stage business looking to grow. The programme was due to end at the end of June, but the scheme has been extended and is now due to end in December. Currently, 70 prestart and 55 micro businesses are completing the coaching course with a further 52 people on the waiting list. A total of 14 business have completed the coaching course and were eligible to receive grants totalling £127,669. Funding for the project was secured

through bidding into the Government's Community Renewal Fund project and the District Council is investing £200k of funding provided by Government via the Additional Restrictions Grant.

### **Business Development, Expansion & Relocation Projects**

The Economic Growth Team (EGT) continue to meet with targeted individual businesses to discuss their plans and how the Team can support them. Businesses are now receptive to in-person meeting and so these are replacing Teams meetings with issues and opportunities identified and introduction made to organisations that can provide support. With the help of the EGT, one company has achieved government backed Disability Confident status. The company is now actively seeking to employ people with learning disabilities. As well as meeting the company's CSR policy, this also aids recruitment.

The team continue to be actively involved with a number of local businesses and their expansion/relocation projects.

May saw the official opening of the Turmeric Co in Chatteris. The Economic Growth Team worked with the company prior to its relocation from North London and introduced them to Growth Works which resulted in a successful grant application for new equipment and a potential future grant for website development.

### **Stakeholders**

The EGT continue to build relationships with business support organisations including the various Growth Works teams. Meetings have taken place with Growth Works – Coaching (marketing), Growth Works with Skills and Inward Investment, Department for Work and Pensions, Smart Manufacturing Alliance, Federation of Small Business and the Low Carbon Business Support programme

The teams are members of the Agri-Food Tech & Sustainability Consortium (Part of ARU Peterborough - New University of Peterborough) and have been asked to be part of the Shoestring East of England regional stakeholder group run by the University of Cambridge's Institute of Manufacturing and is dedicated to helping SMEs get started with digitalisation. For a quick explanation of Shoestring, watch this 2 minute video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r48WRJRh5Gc>

The Team also met with UPP and City Fibre regarding work to deliver high speed broadband in the District.

### **Growing Fenland Wisbech & Whittlesey Capital Grants**

Meetings are being arranged with Cllrs with a number of successful applicants to see how the grant money was spent, how the business has benefited and to develop case studies.

**Future High Streets Fund** (Cllr Ian Benney, Cllr Chris Seaton & Cllr Jan French)

**Broad Street and Riverside:**

The enhancement scheme is progressing well. Members will have seen the most recent iteration of the design published on the FDC website and referenced in local press. The project is now at detailed design stage to firm up costs and viability for the scheme. The scheme is currently on programme and has not deviated too much from the original plan submitted as part of the Future Highstreets Fund Bid.

**Market Place:**

Following consultation with market traders and ongoing partnership working with CCC officers, the marketplace scheme now has a draft design which has been approved by members of the Member Steering Group. Detailed design is ongoing. Following communication with the March Market Traders, the programme has been adjusted with construction now expected between Jan-Feb 2023 during the quietest period of the year for the traders.

**Grant Funding:**

An expression of interest application was launched in April to all owners eligible for the Vacant Unit Activation Scheme. The deadline for the expressions of interest (EOI's) is July 30<sup>th</sup>. At present FDC has received 4 EOI's for the scheme. These comprise of 6 properties with some properties being in the same ownership. The Living Over The Shops grant is scheduled for launch later on this year. There are significant challenges with absentee landlords but officers continue to publicise the grant through written offers, press and online.

**Acre Road:**

The Acre Road project has been put on hold through the intention of a private developer to bring forward the site. Officers are now working with DLUHC and local agents to identify an alternative site to deliver a scheme on. Barclays is currently the most viable option but FDC await confirmation from DLUHC to adjust the project at present.

**Skills Update** (Cllr Chris Seaton)

We continue to support a range of apprenticeships within the Council in Planning, My Fenland, HR & Payroll, ICT, Business Administration, Leading a Team and Accountancy. We are hoping to begin offering apprenticeships within Environmental Health and Marine Service soon.

**Promote and develop our Business Premises at South Fens, The Boathouse and Light Industrial Estates to encourage investment, business and job creation and skills diversification** (Cllr Ian Benney)

Work continues to promote and develop our Business Premises and the overall occupancy rate currently stands at 94.35%. With the exception of South Fens Business Centre, all units are fully occupied. The South Fens Business Centre is currently at 64% occupancy but this figure is rising all the time as we continue to work with local agents to raise awareness of this facility in the local market.

**South Fens Business Park Expansion**

The planning application for the additional light industrial units at the South Fens Business Centre has been approved with work expected to start later in the year. A report will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 15 August and we have already received interest in the new units.

**Sail the Wash Partnership Update** (Cllr Ian Benney)

The Sail the wash partnership with FDC, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council & Lincolnshire County Council is in the process of closing down the partnership as all objectives have been delivered.

FDC (via Marine Services) have recently been undertaking additional hydrographic surveys on the North Norfolk coast as part of the scheme which has resulted in circa £30K additional income.

**Affordable Homes** (Cllr Sam Hoy)

The Council is forecasting to enable a total of 213 new affordable homes to be completed in this financial year. This is welcome as there has been a significant increase in households registering on the Council's Homelink register to look for an affordable home to meet their needs.

Homelink Applications:

- April 2022 – 1448 'live' applications
- April 2021 – 1313 'live' applications

- April 2020 – 1125 'live' applications

### **Environmental Health inspection and business support programme (Cllr Sam Hoy)**

During 2021-22, following the lifting of COVID restrictions for businesses, the food safety inspection programme recommenced. The Food Standards Agency issued a Recovery Plan for local authorities to follow whilst implementing their inspection plan. The recovery plan extends the timescale for lower risk businesses with fewer food safety hazards to receive an inspection visit. The Recovery Plan runs until March 2023.

In April 2022 the food standards agency asked councils for an update against the Recovery Plan and, further to additional staff being brought in in 2022, the Council's plan is well on target to meet all Recovery Plan requirements.

The food safety inspection plan for 2022-23 includes approximately 280 businesses ranging from retail outlets selling food (these lower risk types are contacted by letter) to food producing approved businesses and exporters. During April and May more than 50 businesses have been visited.

Following a round of recruitment in March and April, there are now 2 more qualified environmental health officers appointed to the service replacing staff who left in 2021 and 2022.

**Key PIs:**

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 22/23	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP15	% of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks (or within extension of time)	92%	70%	67%	
CELP16	% of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within extension of time)	72%	70%	68%	
CELP17	% of other planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within extension of time)	84%	80%	86%	
EGA1	% occupancy of our business estates	91.2%	92%	94%	
MS1	% occupancy of Wisbech Yacht Harbour (85 berths)	94%	95%	94%	
CELP18	% of businesses who said they were supported and treated fairly	100%	96%		

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments
<p><b>Planning Performance:</b> The performance has been a little below expectations, but we have had a high turnover of agency staff in the last few months, and this has cause disruption with the handing over of cases from one officer to another with the consequential delays in application determination. Our performance still exceeds the national performance requirements: 93% of major applications decided on time against a target of 60% and 85% of non-major applications determined on time against a target of 70% (performance is measured over a 24 month rolling period) The validation backlog has been reduced down to approximately 3 weeks now but there is limited availability of our casual staff in the coming weeks so the backlogs may climb again depending upon the volume of submitted applications.</p>

## Quality Organisation

### Projects from Business Plan:

#### **Launch our Commercial Investment Strategy** (Cllrs Chris Boden & Ian Benney)

As part of the Commercial and Investment Strategy, a facility of £25m was granted to the Investment Board to finance capital expenditure to be undertaken in accordance with the aims and objectives of the agreed strategy. At the end of March 2022, £4m of this facility has been utilised to fund the acquisition of a commercial investment in Wisbech and a house in March. These acquisitions were approved at Investment Board meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 respectively. Further utilisation will be needed when the funding position of Fenland Future Ltd is fully agreed.

The Commercial Investment in Wisbech has delivered a rental income of £230k for the year to March 2022. As we used our own funds to acquire this asset there is no external cost of capital and the loss of interest foregone on our funds is minimal at present. This acquisition has enhanced the Councils revenue position and has had a positive impact on the MTFs as presented to Full Council in February 2022.

#### **Deliver the Transformation project to modernise customer service arrangements across the district** (Cllr Steve Tierney)

My Fenland is the first major corporate transformation programme under the Council for Future priority that focusses on modernising the way we deliver all aspects of our services to our customers.

On Monday 10 May we marked the 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary of the new My Fenland team.

Over the last year the new team have not only taken on new work streams and processes, they have also moved to a new operating model, including a revised structure with new job descriptions and role profiles.

This has allowed the organisation to move away from the traditional service specific roles to generic job titles and structures, providing greater organisational resilience and enabling staff to learn new skills and gain a greater knowledge of Council services.

#### **Phase 1 and Phase 2 key achievements to date:**

- **5** admin services brought together

- **29** staff in new roles
- **285** training sessions completed covering **34** topics
- **63,125** answered calls to contact centre in 2021
- **99.5%** of customer queries resolved at first point of contact
- **15,454** payments made via PayPoint
- Over **£1.84m** in payments made via PayPoint
- New ways of working has released **2 days** per week chargeable support to Hunts DC
- **136** process mapped across services
- **33** processes redesigned
- **8** service teams supported by Technical Officers
- **17** customer digital journeys launched in 2021
- **8** new online website forms launched in 2021
- **15,542** website forms completed online in 2021
- **969,144** visits to our FDC website in 2021/21

Delivering these achievements have not only benefitted our staff, it has also enhanced our digital offer for our customers. All improvements are in line with the original project aim of **“improving customer experience and making it even easier for people to interact with the council”**.

The successes of Phase 1 and 2 of the project has demonstrated that both the new My Fenland team and the work the transformation team are doing is having a real benefit for our staff and customers.

#### **Future work...**

Process mapping of tasks and activities identified as a priority and agreed by the project team, work is underway in relation to process mapping and review of Planning Services, Estates, Trade Waste, Tree Management Software, Cemeteries and Private Sector Housing. Whilst these inform the transformation programme for 2022/23, we continue to receive requests for work across services.

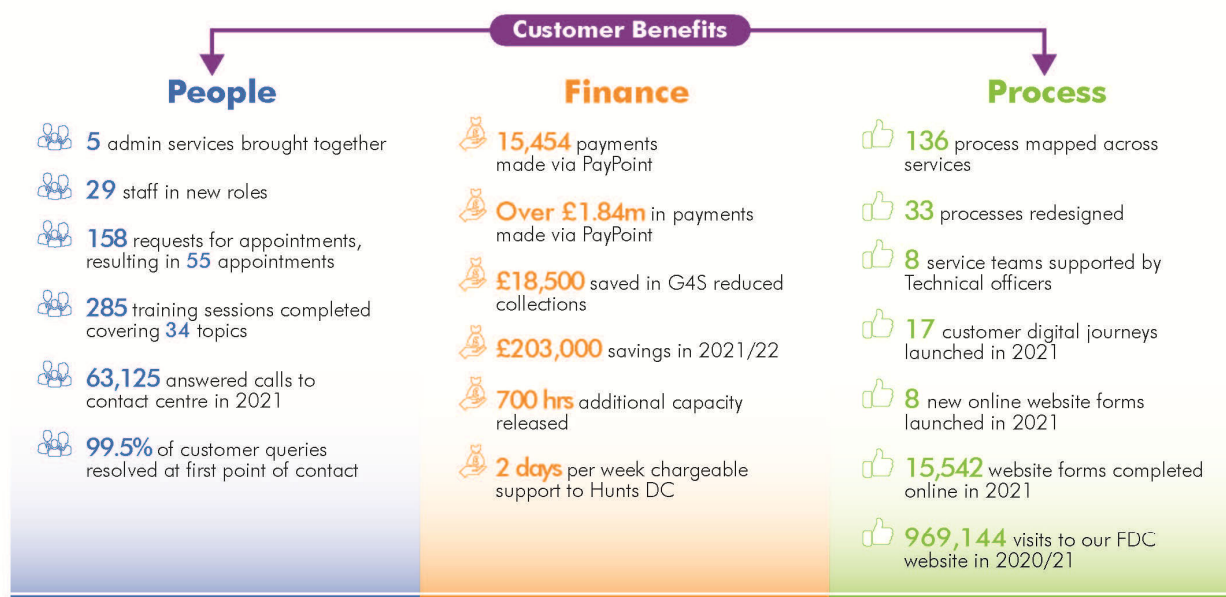


## Modernising Council Services

"Transforming council services to improve customer experience and make it even easier for people to interact with the council"

### Our Impact

The My Fenland project, our first corporate transformation project, was commissioned in January 2020. Since then we have delivered:



01354 654321  
 info@fenland.gov.uk  
 fenland.gov.uk



### Better Online Services Project (Cllr Steve Tierney)

The Better Online Services Project aims to **“Develop the Council’s website to provide residents and businesses with even better online services”**

Our aim is to have an inviting and user-friendly website for our residents and businesses. We aim to have a suite of online forms and digital journeys that enable residents and customers to self-serve via the website, with little or no back-office intervention.

We had 969,144 visits to [www.fenland.gov.uk](http://www.fenland.gov.uk) and 20,946 website forms completed online between April 2021 and March 2022.

## Better Online Services

"Developing the Council's website to provide residents and businesses with even better online services"







### Our Aim

Our aim is to have an inviting and user-friendly website for our residents and businesses. We aim to have a suite of online forms and digital journeys that enable our residents and customers to self-serve via the website, with little or no back-office intervention.

### FDC Website

-  **New website** - design and content transformed to offer residents a more modern, user-friendly browsing experience
-  **Mobile friendly** - information and features are the same for all devices: pc, laptop, tablet, phone
-  **848,949** visits to fenland.gov.uk from April 2021 to March 2022
-  **20,946** website forms completed online from April 2021 to March 2022
-  **Front page** - regular updates on the latest Council news, events, and information
-  **Social media** - links to regular Council news, events and information to our Twitter followers (**8,757**) and our Facebook followers (**5,875**)

### Online Forms

-  Our website offers over **50 online forms**
-  **8** new online forms launched in 2021
-  **20,946** website forms completed online from April 2021 to March 2022
-  New **Missed Bin** form allowing real time reporting
-  New suite of **Environmental Service Request** forms that allow reporting of; abandoned vehicles, broken glass, dead animals, dog fouling, fly-tipping, fly-posting, graffiti, request a litter pick or street sweep, overflowing litter bin, syringes & needles
-  **Missed Bin** and **Environmental Service Request** forms are automatically added to operative's in-cab workpacks in real time without the need for staff intervention

### Digital Journeys

-  **17** customer digital journeys launched in 2021
-  New suite of **Taxi Licensing** journeys that allow new and renewal applications for: private hire driver, vehicle and operator, and hackney carriage driver and vehicle
-  New suite of **Premises Licensing** journeys that allow new and renewal applications for: food registration, club certificate, interim authority notice, notification of interest, new and transfer licenses, full & minor variation, temporary event notice, tables & chairs, and pavement licence
-  **Taxi Licensing** and **Premises Licensing** applications are automatically added into our back office system in real time without the need for staff intervention



**Identify and deliver projects that support us to become a 'Council For the Future' (CFF)**  
(Cllr Chris Boden & Cllr Steve Tierney)

Please see update included in the Council's Annual report for 2021/22.

**Other Projects:**

3Cs Update (Cllr Steve Tierney)			
Jan – May 2022	Total received	Total within time frame	%age within time frame
Correspondence	13	13	100%
Stage 1			
Community Environment Leisure and Planning (CELP)	31	29	94%
Growth and infrastructure (GI)	0	0	NA
Policy Resources and Customer Services (PRCS)	18	16	89%
Stage 2			
CELP	5	5	100%
GI	0	0	NA
PRCS	2	2	100%
Stage 3			
CELP	2	2	100%
GI	0	0	NA
PRCS	0	0	NA

## Communications Update (Cllr Steve Tierney)

### News update:

The number of news stories added to the FDC website and distributed as press releases to local media:

- April = 14
- May = 11

### Monthly update on FDC social media sites:

The number of social media updates added to the FDC twitter and Facebook accounts:

- April: Twitter = 94  
Facebook = 92
- May: Twitter = 120  
Facebook = 108

We currently have 5,875 followers on Facebook and 8,777 followers on twitter.

### Consultation Summary:

- Local Government Boundary Commission – 29 March – 6 June 2022
- Article 4 Direction: How Fen, Horseway, Chatteris – 24 March – 21 April 2022
- Taxi Tariff Consultation – deadline 1 April 2022
- Housing Enforcement Policy Consultation deadline – 5pm on 8 June

### Business Plan 2022-23:

Our Business Plan 2022-23 identifies the key challenges and opportunities for Fenland. Its structure outlines our key Corporate Priorities (Communities, Environment, Economy and Quality Organisation), and an additional cross cutting 'Council for the Future' section. This section outlines transformative projects which aim to tackle areas of need within the district, or to transform services or the wider organisation to be fit for the future.



The impact of Coronavirus has and continues to affect our residents, partners, local businesses and our workforce. Recovering from the impact of Covid-19 and the 'Council for the Future' projects will be crucial in supporting the organisation to adapt and reshape to be able to effectively respond to future needs, aims and challenges.

Despite the challenges posed by Coronavirus and over a decade of continued public sector austerity, the Council remains committed to delivering high-quality services. We are working hard to attract crucial external funding needed to unlock Fenland's potential and bolster its prosperity and resilience in the coming years.

Millions of pounds worth of investment is already secured, and projects are underway as part of 'Partnership Investment in Fenland'.

The Draft Business Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 17 January 2022.

Cabinet and Council approved the Final Business Plan 2022-2023 on 24 February 2022

### Other Updates:

#### Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) update (Cllr Chris Boden)

Information relating to the CPCA can be found on their website:

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

Mayoral decisions can be found [here](#).

Officer decisions can be found [here](#).

The papers for recent meetings can be found by clicking on the links below:

CPCA COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING	LINK
Extraordinary Combined Authority Board Meeting	08.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Extraordinary Combined Authority Board Meeting	20.05.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Combined Authority Board Meeting	20.05.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Combined Authority Board Meeting	08.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Business Board Meeting	14.03.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Business Board Meeting	09.05.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Audit & Governance Committee	11.03.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Housing & Communities Committee	09.03.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28.03.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	13.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Employment & Skills Board	17.05.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Transport & Infrastructure Committee	14.03.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>

Forthcoming CPCA meetings include:

<b>CPCA COMMITTEE</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>LINK</b>
Combined Authority Board (resumption of annual meeting)	27.6.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Combined Authority Board	27.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Business Board	24.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Business Board	11.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Audit & Governance Committee	24.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Audit & Governance Committee	29.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Housing & Communities Committee	11.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Skills Committee	04.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Employment & Skills Board	12.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Employment Committee	24.06.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>
Transport & Infrastructure Committee	13.07.22	<a href="#">CMIS &gt; Meetings</a>

**Key PIs:**

Key PI	Description	Target 22/23	Cumulative Target	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
PRC1	% of customer queries resolved at first point of contact	Rolling monthly target of 85% per month	85%	98.9%	
PRC2	% of customers satisfied with our service (February 2023)	90%			
PRC3	% of contact centre calls answered within 20 seconds	Rolling monthly target rising to 46.5% by March 2023	25%	35.5%	
PRC4	% of contact centre calls handled	Rolling monthly target rising to 80% by March 2023	52.5%	85.8%	
ARP1	Days taken to process Council Tax Support new claims and changes	7.00 days		5.77	
ARP 2	Days taken to process Housing Benefit new claims and changes	6.00 days		5.63	
ARP3	In year % of Council Tax collected	95.72%	20.10%	19.92%	
ARP4	Council Tax net collection fund receipts	£64,734,624	£12,595,342	£12,401,887	
ARP5	In year % of NNDR collected	96.70%	19.04%	19.87%	
ARP6	NNDR net collection fund receipts	£24,017,406	£4,466,095	£4,844,862	
PRC5	Number of online forms submitted via FDC website	22,000		4,784	

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments





## Management Team PIs – 2021/22

Performance Indicator	Baseline (20/21)	Target (21/22)	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Communities</b>														
Days taken: new claims and changes for Council Tax Support	7.06 days	8 days	9.32	6.97	7.11	7.21	7.32	7.44	7.16	7.10	7.02	7.09	6.95	7.02
Days taken: new claims and changes for Housing Benefit	4.28 days	8 days	8.07	6.90	7.09	7.32	7.46	7.79	7.97	8.05	7.95	8.01	5.81	5.60
Total number of private rented homes where positive action has been taken to address safety issues	226	250				59			95		189	224	250	277
NEW INDICATOR The proportion (%) of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through Housing options work	N/A	Baseline	56%	74%	75%	50%	84%	45%	50%	50%	59%	61%	53%	57%
Number of empty properties brought back into use	87	70		12	20	27	32	39	41	50	56	58	63	77
Amount of New Homes Bonus achieved as a result of bringing empty homes back into use (To be reported TBC)	£79,217	£50,000									Expected			£93,099
Number of active health sessions per year that improve community health (added)	N/A	225	29	81	138	181	227	297	360	414	441	469	489	504
Satisfaction with our leisure centres (Net Promoter Score)	N/A	90%												85%
<b>Environment</b>														
Rapid or Village response requests actioned the same or next day	96%	90%	96%	97%	98%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%	95%
% of inspected streets meeting our cleansing standards	99.9%	93%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
% of collected household waste – Blue Bin recycling (1 month in arrears)	28%	28%	27%	27%	27%	28%	27%	28%	27%	27%	28%	28%	28%	27.5%
Customer satisfaction with Refuse and Recycling services	96%	90%										96.3%		
Customer satisfaction with Garden Waste service	98.75%	80%									98.75%			
Number of Street Pride and Friends Of community environmental events supported	44	204	0	0	0	43	60	77	93	109	126	140	161	191
% of businesses who said they were supported and treated fairly	100%	90%										100%		100%
% of those asked who were satisfied with events	N/A	90%				100%						96%		97%
<b>Economy</b>														
% of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks	100%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	95%	92%
% of minor applications determined in 8 weeks	92%	80%	80%	78%	78%	75%	72%	72%	74%	74%	75%	76%	74%	72%
% of other applications determined in 8 weeks	97%	90%	91%	92%	89%	91%	90%	89%	86%	86%	86%	87%	86%	84%
% occupancy of our Business Estates	88%	92%	88%	88%	87.9%	87.73%	87.66%	87.58%	87.94%	87.96%	87.63%	87.47%	87.26%	87.6%
% of customers satisfied with our Business Estates	N/A													
% occupancy of Wisbech Yacht Harbour	95%	85%	97%	93%	92%	92%	93%	95%	93%	93%	93%	95%	95%	94%
<b>Quality Organisation</b>														
% of customer queries resolved at the first point of contact	97.3%	85%	99.3	99.4	99.3	99.4	99.4	99.9	99.6	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5%	99.5%
	Year to date target		85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
% of customers satisfied by our service (measured annually in February)	75%	90%											91.3%	
% of contact centre calls answered within 20 seconds	74.81%	40%	18.5	24	19	18.6	16.68	17.97	21.6	26.1	28.85	30.3	30.84	30.45
	Year to date target		20	21	22.5	23.5	21	28	31.5	35.5	38	39	39.5	40
% of contact centre calls handled	96.44%	80%	65.2	73	68	67.72	65.68	76.34	70.61	73.08	76.52	74.64	77	75.94
	Year to date target		50	52.5	55	57.5	60	62.5	65	67.5	70	72.5	75	80
In year % of Council Tax collected	96.7%	96.77%	10.98%	20.97%	29.12%	38.33%	47.28%	56.35%	65.61%	74.68%	83.67%	92.46%	94.81%	96.77%
	Actual		11.32%	20.47%	29.59%	38.62%	47.49%	56.55%	65.56%	74.55%	83.50%	92.08%	94.53%	96.70%
Council Tax net collection fund receipts	£57,913,023	£61,172,317	6,029,407	11,827,457	17,551,558	23,351,957	28,996,455	34,743,756	40,628,173	46,358,929	52,062,693	57,665,755	59,223,951	61,172,317
	Actual		6,005,097	11,902,228	17,701,899	23,454,913	29,189,712	34,963,410	40,731,570	46,464,653	52,134,820	57,649,604	59,273,753	61,692,720
In year % of NNDR collected	97.51%	97.25%	8.54%	16.71%	23.46%	32.73%	42.44%	51.95%	61.40%	70.84%	80.28%	89.72%	94.03%	97.25%
	Actual		9.54%	18.04%	25.10%	34.43%	43.85%	52.47%	62.15%	72.39%	79.94%	88.89%	93.13%	96.04%
NNDR net collection fund receipts	£16,182,693	£18,341,776	1,878,122	3,726,213	5,252,660	7,349,233	9,546,756	11,697,906	13,834,339	15,970,279	18,106,158	20,241,142	21,214,706	21,998,313
	Actual £		1,785,160	3,598,192	5,750,467	7,885,927	10,134,228	12,027,514	14,357,236	16,502,110	18,696,649	20,829,359	21,868,748	22,579,308
Number of visits to the FDC website (sessions)	969,144	825,000	73,665	144,880	211,275	278,550	345,591	419,286	489,478	554,634	623,622	711,109	786,542	848,949
Number of working days lost to sickness absence per FTE	5.3 days	6 days	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0

Performance Indicator	Baseline (20/21)	Target (21/22)	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Actual		0.4	0.75	1.4	1.85	2.49	3.21	3.75	4.7	4.96	5.63	6.5	6.7
% of staff that feel proud to work for FDC	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Key PI Description Target 21/22 Cumulative  
 Target  
 Cumulative  
 Performance  
 Variance

## **Motion submitted by Councillor Hoy regarding Government consultation on two measures in the private rented sector**

The Government are consulting on two measures in the private rented sector:

- Change to Energy Performance Certificate. All properties that are let out currently have to meet minimum energy standards. This was recently tightened resulting in additional costs to landlords. Now the Government are suggesting that this may be changing yet again, meaning that properties rated (C) and below will not be allowed to be let out. Not only is this adding an excessive additional financial burden of many thousands of pounds, it is also not always possible to achieve, particularly in the older houses within the District
- end of Section 21 - FDC are aware that the Government are planning to stop landlords from serving Section 21 notices which allows them to gain control of their property with 2 months' notice without giving any reason. This will mean that landlords effectively give over all rights to their property as they will only get possession back in very limited circumstances

Fenland District Council recognises that Landlords provide a much-needed service in the District and if it becomes financially unviable for them to provide this service they may exit the District. If the supply of private rental properties decreases this may lead to an increase in homelessness.

Furthermore, the council recognises that rents are already high in the District, particularly in the Wisbech area, and any reduction in supply will ultimately increase rents even further.

Whilst we recognise the need for robust regulations to prohibit rogue landlords, we feel that these measures are a step too far and harm good landlords who are providing a valuable service.

This council resolves to: -

- Write to DHLUC expressing our concerns and ask them to reconsider the changes to EPC

- Write to DHLUC expressing our concerns and asks them to reconsider the changes to section 21

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## **Motion submitted by Councillor Boden regarding Air Quality Monitoring in Whittlesey**

Residents within Whittlesey have been reporting an increasing number of cases of poor air quality in recent months.

Within Fenland there is a disproportionately large number of potentially significant sources of Industrial air pollution in Whittlesey. Key among those sources are, and will be, the Forterra Brickworks and activities within Saxon Pit, but there are others as well.

Sites where there is a significant recognised risk of harmful air pollution are heavily regulated by the Environment Agency as well as often being subject to planning conditions imposed by either Cambridgeshire County Council or by Fenland District Council.

There has for many years been comprehensive monitoring at the brickworks site, and enhanced air quality monitoring equipment will soon be installed at or near to Saxon Pit as a result of development there which has recently been approved by Cambridgeshire County Council.

There is concern within Whittlesey as to the effects of current and future industrial activity on air quality in the town.

Fenland District Council has for many years monitored air quality in Whittlesey, currently including monitoring of levels of nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

It is important that the residents of Whittlesey have confidence that air quality is appropriately monitored and effectively reported so that action may be taken if it is ever necessary.

Full Council therefore resolves:

1. to support in principle the siting within Whittlesey of monitoring equipment measuring particulate matter, particularly PM2.5
2. That Officers be requested to present a Report to the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet outlining:
  - a. the capital and revenue costs and preferred location(s) for such additional monitoring equipment
  - b. how FDC may facilitate online up-to-date public reporting of monitored air quality in Whittlesey (including, where possible, from third party monitoring equipment), recognising that whilst some monitoring data may be available real-time, other data (such as that from diffusion tubes) is necessarily only available historically.

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## **Motion submitted by Councillor Tierney concerning The Council's Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Policy**

1. The Earth's climate has always been changing. It is a natural process. Sometimes, natural events have caused the worldwide climate to change dramatically in a very short period of time.
2. There is reasonably strong evidence to say that the Earth's climate continues to change, but that at least some of that change is attributable to human activity.
3. All other things being equal, there is a strong scientific argument to suggest that rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere might increase global temperatures.
4. Excluding water vapour (which is the most prevalent naturally occurring greenhouse gas in our atmosphere) the most significant greenhouse gases affecting climate are Nitrous Oxide, Methane and Carbon Dioxide.
5. Over the last million years alone, polar ice samples demonstrate that concentrations of these greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere have, naturally and without any human cause, varied widely.
6. Nitrous Oxide has an atmospheric warming effect more than ten times as powerful as methane, whereas methane has itself over twenty times as powerful an atmospheric warming effect as Carbon Dioxide.
7. Nevertheless, when measuring both greenhouse gas emissions and the atmospheric warming effect, it is standard to do so in terms of the equivalent Carbon Dioxide effect of these other greenhouse gases (measurements are given by mass in "Carbon Dioxide equivalents" - CO<sub>2</sub>e).
8. The UK Government has committed to a net zero carbon (equivalent) emissions target by 2050.
9. The UK has cut its Carbon emissions by almost half over the past 30 years. The UK's share of global carbon emissions has already fallen to approximately 1% of world total emissions - the exact figure depends on exactly what you measure and how you measure it.
10. Regardless of that measurement issue, it is indisputable that, in the light of ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions from China, India and many other smaller economies around the world, efforts in the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will be insignificant and immaterial on a global scale given the increases expected in greenhouse gas emissions from other countries.
11. Even if we were to reduce that UK 1% share to 0%, it would make no discernable difference to global temperatures, particularly considering that emerging economies in Africa, India and China are going to be increasing their carbon emissions each year by more than our entire total.
12. The excessively rapid reduction in net UK carbon emissions to zero, argued for by some, could be seen as futile, virtue-signalling gesture politics which there is a good chance might lead to economic ruin for countless families, and ultimately for the country as a whole.

13. The cost to the UK of transitioning from less than 1% of global carbon emissions to net zero has been estimated to be £1trillion - a cost which the country and most families will be totally unable to afford, especially pointless when the actions of other countries make such an effort utterly futile. It is quite possible to suggest that this is a conservative estimate and that the actual costs, both direct and indirect, may be much higher.

14. Especially given our geography in Fenland, and our natural susceptibility to fluvial and tidal flooding, it would therefore make much more sense for us to advocate that a significant part of the UK's expense and effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should be redirected towards committing resources to adapting to future anticipated changes in climate rather than our adopting an unrealistic and idealistic view that what we in the UK do in respect of emissions will have any significant impact on future global climate change.

15. It is wholly unrealistic to expect that every country in the world is going to adopt those same economically destructive measures that some in this country would have us adopt at breakneck speed.

16. The current energy price increases being experienced by consumers and businesses will be insignificant compared to those cost increases that will come if we rush headlong into a net zero carbon economy. We cannot ignore the potential ruinous consequences of excessively rapid Net Zero policy proposals and we owe it to the people of Fenland not to do so unthinkingly

17. Sooner or later, and we hope sooner, the truth of the above statements will become clearer to more decision-makers in the UK.

18. In the meantime, many measures are being, and will be, proposed to reduce carbon emissions, and the availability of grant funding to local authorities may be impacted by a failure to show progress in reducing carbon emissions.

19. Just because a measure is taken primarily to reduce carbon emissions doesn't mean that it is a worthless measure. Many so-called carbon-reduction measures involve reducing waste, particularly wasted energy, and such measures are good in themselves if they are cost-effective. A good example of such a positive action was the replacement of the Leisure Centres' boilers with much more efficient and less wasteful systems. We should support all such measures that are economically beneficial for Fenland people as well as being beneficial in the fight for a greener set of climate policies.

#### COUNCIL THEREFORE RESOLVES:

a. to promote measures which alleviate the anticipated effects in Fenland of future global climate change, that are affordable and financially viable, and which we believe have a good chance of achieving their proposed end results.

b. to commit to meeting all climate change targets which are legally required by the UK Government.

c. to measure accumulatively the CO<sub>2</sub>e emission reductions achieved by the Council's actions, both through FDC's own activities and through the funding of schemes directed by or channelled via FDC to third parties in the District, using 2018 as the base year.



Agenda Item No:	<b>11</b>	
Committee:	<b>Council</b>	
Date:	<b>11 July 2022</b>	
Report Title:	<b>Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Report 2021/22</b>	

## 1 Purpose / Summary

To Report to Full Council the commitment and effectiveness of the Audit and Risk Management Committee's work from April 2021 to March 2022.

**This report is subject to approval at Audit and Risk Management Committee on 4 July 2022.**

## 2 Key issues

- The Audit and Risk Management Committee considered its Annual Report at its meeting on 4 July 2022.
- The Annual Report details the scope and work of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.
- The Committee has completed a review of its effectiveness using a checklist compiled by CIPFA which was a recommendation made by the external assessment of Internal Audit.
- The Committee recommends the report be presented to Council.

## 3 Recommendations

**That full Council acknowledges the work of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and its compliance with CIPFA's annual checklist for 2021/22.**

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Forward Plan Reference</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Kim French, Chairman of Audit and Risk Management Committee
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Kathy Woodward – Internal Audit Manager
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Kathy Woodward – Internal Audit Manager
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Audit and Risk Management Committee agenda and minutes 2021/22  Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (CIPFA 2018)

Appendix: Annual report

**Report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee**

**April 2021 - March 2022**



## **1 What is corporate governance?**

- 1.1 Corporate Governance in Fenland District Council is an essential part of the Council's standards for transparent and informed management and decision-making. It provides assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the control environment, independent scrutiny of the Authority's financial and non-financial performance and to oversee the financial reporting process.

## **2 Responsibilities of the Committee**

- 2.1 Following the creation of the Audit and Risk Management Committee a review of the committee's rules, as listed in Part 2 (rule 10) of the constitution were updated in line with best practice guidance. The new terms of reference encompass all previous aspects of the role of the Corporate Governance Committee, whilst incorporating a new format and layout consistent with best practice guidance and also includes a statement of purpose.
- 2.2 The Committee's purpose identified in the terms of reference states:
- The purpose of our Audit and Risk Management Committee is to provide independent assurance to the members and other parties of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of Fenland District Council's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place. It also ensures the Council is managing the risk of ensuring services have the resources to deliver on the Council's statutory responsibilities and corporate priorities whilst recognising the Council's financial position.

## **3 Members commitment to corporate governance in 2021/22**

- 3.1 As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic a number of meetings of the committee were held virtually in line with national guidance.
- 3.2 The committee is committed to delivering governance oversight for the Council and meetings included development briefings, and items of topical interest, to maintain knowledge and awareness of the Council's Governance Framework. Examples were:
- the role of Corporate Governance, Officers and the annual work plan;
  - interpretation of Annual Financial Statements;
  - the role of internal audit in Local Government. Update report on audits completed is provided which includes the number of and theme of recommendations;
  - risk management;
  - reports on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act; and
  - reports from external audit;

- 3.3 During the course of the year Audit and Risk Management Committee members received continuous training to develop and enhance their understanding of specific themes relating to their role. The themes of these training session were:
- Introduction to the Audit and Risk Management Committee
  - Statement of Accounts
  - Risk management Training
  - External Auditor Appointment Process
- 3.4 Training for Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee is discussed at every meeting when reviewing the committee's Work Plan for the year. All members are invited to submit their ideas and suggestions for relevant topics for training or briefing sessions, that will continue to develop their skills or support identified gaps in knowledge.

#### 4 Work programme and outcomes

4.1 The Committee considered the matters in the table below as part of its work programme for 2021/22

Programme	Outcome
Annual Governance Statement 2020/21	<p>The Authority has a statutory duty to publish a statement as to the level of effectiveness its governance and internal control framework.</p> <p>The Audit and Risk Management Committee was able to consider the sources of assurance and approve the content of the Statement prior to its publication with the Financial Accounts.</p> <p>The statement included an action plan which was reviewed during the year to ensure that governance and control framework weaknesses were addressed.</p> <p>This has helped the Council to proactively identify and manage governance and control risks that could affect Corporate Priorities. Examples include changes in legislation, finance and Government policy.</p>
Accounting Policies	<p>The Committee considered the accounting policies for use in producing the 2020/21 accounts. This helped ensure that the Council demonstrated compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the approach proposed to meet the revised Accounts and Audit regulations 2015. This included managing a revised timetable for preparation, approval and publication of financial performance information in response to the external auditors requirements.</p>
Statement of Accounts	<p>The Committee were able to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, assisting the Council in achieving its publication deadline.</p>

Programme	Outcome
Internal Audit work programme	<p>The Audit and Risk Management Committee received reports, from the Internal Audit Manager, for review of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk based annual plan and strategy,</li> <li>• Performance Outturn 2020/21,</li> <li>• Internal Audit Manager’s opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s control environment, and</li> <li>• Progress updates on delivery of the annual plan</li> <li>• The impact of Covid-19 on delivery of the Internal Audit Plan and Annual Audit Opinion</li> </ul> <p>These reports demonstrate that the Council has arrangements in place to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, to maintain an adequate and effective internal audit and system of Internal Control.</p>
Review of effectiveness of Internal Audit	<p>The Committee received assurances from the Corporate Director &amp; Chief Finance Officer, following a review of Internal Audit effectiveness for 2020/21</p> <p>.</p> <p>This confirmed that the Internal Audit Team is effective and follows professional quality standards such as the CIPFA “Local Government Application Note” for "Public Sector Internal Audit Standards" and the CIPFA “Statement on the role of the Head of Internal Audit”.</p>
Risk Management Framework	<p>The Committee received regular updates on the Corporate Risk Register, discussed emerging risks, and completed an annual review of the Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>This provided assurance that significant risks are identified and managed for the Council.</p> <p>In addition, Members requested additional items to be considered which led to some changes to the risk register which have been implemented.</p>
Treasury Management	<p>The Committee received reports throughout the year on the Treasury Management Strategy, Capital Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Annual Investment Strategy and financial performance.</p> <p>This provided assurance that the Council's assets are managed in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.</p>

Programme	Outcome
<p>External Audit Assurance</p>	<p>The Committee received reports from the Audit Commission's appointed auditor, Ernst and Young. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual work plan;</li> <li>• Annual report to those charged with governance (ISA 260) summarising the work of the external audits completed;</li> <li>• Annual Audit and Inspection letter</li> </ul> <p>The reports affirmed continued maintenance of high financial management and control standards.</p> <p>The Annual Audit letter explained that in all significant respects the Council made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and an unqualified value for money conclusion was given.</p> <p>The Committee also received updates on the future arrangements for appointing the Council's External Auditors</p>

**APPENDIX 1**

**Fenland District Council  
Audit and Risk Management Committee Self-Assessment Exercise**

**For the year 2021-22**

No	Issue	Y	P	N	Evidence/ Comment	Action Required
<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND GOVERNANCE</b>						
1	Does the authority have a dedicated audit committee?	Y			Referred to as the Audit and Risk Management Committee	
2	Does the audit committee report directly to full council? (applicable to local government only)	Y				
3	Do the terms of reference clearly set out the purpose of the committee in accordance with CIPFA's Position Statement?	Y			The Audit and Risk Management Committee was newly formed in December 2020 and has a Terms of reference that follow CIPFA's guidance on Audit Committees	A review will be undertaken in 2022 following the update of CIPFA's Position Statement in June 2022
4	Is the role and purpose of the audit committee understood and accepted across the authority?	Y			The committee's Terms of Reference are documented on the council's website where officers and members can access relevant documentation. The revised Terms of Reference were agreed at Full Council.	
5	Does the audit committee provide support to the authority in meeting the requirements of good governance?	Y			The committee supports the authority by following the Nolan Principles adopted by the authority and ensuring to the best of their ability that the corporate plan and strategic goals of the authority are adhered to.	
6	Are the arrangements to hold the committee to account for its performance operating satisfactorily?	Y			The Audit and Risk Management Committee report to Council and provide an annual report to Council. Throughout the year other members of the Council may request to attend meetings.	
<b>FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE</b>						
7	Do the committee's terms of reference explicitly address all the core areas identified in CIPFA's Position Statement?	Y			The Committee's Terms of Reference were updated in 2019/20 and now cover all areas identified in CIPFA's Position Statement	
	good governance	Y				



	assurance framework, including partnerships and collaboration arrangements	Y				
	internal audit	Y				
	external audit	Y				
	financial reporting	Y				
	risk management	Y				
	value for money or best value	Y				
	counter fraud and corruption	Y				
	supporting the ethical framework	Y				
8	Is an annual evaluation undertaken to assess whether the committee is fulfilling its terms of reference and that adequate consideration has been given to all core areas?	Y			The Audit and Risk Management Committee completes an annual report, which encompasses this review. The committee also considers as part of its annual work the Annual Governance Statement and Risk Register. The committee regularly receives reports from Internal Audit, External Audit and reviews the financial statements.	
9	Has the audit committee considered the wider areas identified in CIPFA's Position Statement and whether it would be appropriate for the committee to undertake them?	Y			The committee reviews treasury management reports and has oversight of the annual report.	
10	Where coverage of core areas has been found to be limited, are plans in place to address this?	Y			A review of the Terms of Reference has been completed.	
11	Has the committee maintained its advisory role by not taking on any decision-making powers that are not in line with its core purpose?		P		The Audit and Risk Management Committee has a sub-committee with delegated decision-making powers for staffing arrangements and policies. There are measure in place for membership of the sub-committee to avoid where possible a conflict of interest.	

**MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT**


12	<p>Has an effective audit committee structure and composition of the committee been selected?</p> <p>This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• separation from the executive</li> <li>• an appropriate mix of knowledge and skills among the membership</li> <li>• a size of committee that is not unwieldy</li> <li>• consideration has been given to the inclusion of at least one independent member (where it is not already a mandatory requirement)</li> </ul>	Y			<p>The current committee is separate from the executive, the current membership has an appropriate mix of knowledge and skills, and the size is not unwieldy. The mix of members from each political party is in line with current policies.</p> <p>The Committee gave due consideration to appointing and independent member and requested that the item be included on the Committee's action plan to review the need and requirement on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Consider whether an independent member should be included on the committee. A report will be presented to ARMC in July 2022.</p>
13	<p>Have independent members appointed to the committee been recruited in an open and transparent way and approved by the full council or the PCC and chief constable as appropriate for the organisation?</p>				<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>See 12 above</p>
14	<p>Does the chair of the committee have appropriate knowledge and skills?</p>	Y			<p>The current chair of the committee has the appropriate subject knowledge for the position. Members of the committee are given opportunity to freely discuss matters with fellow members of the committee. Officers attending the meetings are always available for advice to the chair if required.</p> <p>Training is given to all members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to ensure appropriate skills are up to date and relevant.</p>	
15	<p>Are arrangements in place to support the committee with briefings and training?</p>	Y			<p>Training for members of the committee is given to members on specific subjects (mainly technical areas – AGS, Statement of Accounts etc) prior to the official meetings taking place when requested.</p>	
16	<p>Has the membership of the committee been assessed against the core knowledge and skills framework and found to be satisfactory?</p>	Y			<p>The committee membership is formed from members with financial backgrounds, historical knowledge of the authority, knowledge from other authorities resulting in a varied mix of experience and knowledge.</p> <p>A formal assessment has not taken place, but could be considered.</p>	<p>An assessment of current members against the core knowledge and skills framework is underway</p>

17	Does the committee have good working relations with key people and organisations, including external audit, internal audit and the CFO?	Y			All meetings are attended by a mixture of officers, including the Corporate Director / S151 officer, external audit, Chief Accountant, Head of Governance and Internal Audit Manager	
18	Is adequate secretariat and administrative support to the committee provided?	Y			Relevant officers attend meeting to facilitate secretarial and administrative support to the committee.	

#### EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMITTEE

19	Has the committee obtained feedback on its performance from those interacting with the committee or relying on its work?	Y			The Chairman of the Audit Committee presents an annual report to the Council and receives feedback from the executive.	
20	Are meetings effective with a good level of discussion and engagement from all the members?	Y			All members are encouraged to be involved fully at all meetings. Relevant officers are invited to attend meetings to provide greater detail to help discussions and engagement.	
21	Does the committee engage with a wide range of leaders and managers, including discussion of audit findings, risks and action plans with the responsible officers?	Y			The committee engages with the relevant responsible officers when discussing risks and action plans. Examples of this are the AGS, Corporate Risk Register, Treasury Reports and RIPA policies.	
22	Does the committee make recommendations for the improvement of governance, risk and control and are these acted on?	Y			All reports presented to the committee for approval are discussed and actions minuted on suggested improvements. These actions are reviewed by the officers to ensure they are followed up on and discussed at the following meeting.	
23	Has the committee evaluated whether and how it is adding value to the organisation?		P		No formal evaluation has taken place, but the annual audit committee effectiveness report considers this to some degree.	Consider whether the committee is adding value using the information provided in CIPFA 2018 guidance.
24	Does the committee have an action plan to improve any areas of weakness?	Y			An action plan for the Committee was introduced this year to monitor actions and is included as part of the workplan	Continue to monitor the action plan and how it adds value to the organisation.

25	Does the committee publish an annual report to account for its performance and explain its work?	Y			Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Report.	
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Agenda Item No:	12	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	11 July 2022	
Report Title:	Treasury Management Annual Review 2021/22	

## Cover sheet:

### 1 Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the overall financial and operational performance of the Council's treasury management activity for 2021/22.


### 2 Key issues

- In accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy approved in February 2022, Cabinet receives an annual review of its' treasury management activities after the financial year-end.
- The Treasury Management Annual Review 2021/22 as presented to Audit and Risk Management Committee on 4 July 2022 is attached. This report has also been presented to Cabinet on 11 July 2022.
- The report highlights all the key activities carried out within the Treasury Management function during 2021/22. All activities have been conducted in accordance with the approved strategy and policies.

### 3 Recommendations

- It is recommended that members note the report.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	CLlr Chris Boden, Leader & Portfolio Holder, Finance
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22

Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Audit and Risk Management Committee	
Date:	4 July 2022	
Report Title:	Treasury Management Annual Review 2021/22	

## Cover sheet:

### 4 Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to consider the overall financial and operational performance of the Council's treasury management activity for 2021/22.

### 5 Key issues

- Outstanding loans and finance lease liabilities of £7,905,799 and temporary investments of £31,850,000 as of 31 March 2022.
- The Council invested £4M, split equally, into the Federated Hermes and Patrizia Hanover, Property Unit Trusts, in late March 2022. No distributions were paid in 2021/22 due to the timing of the investments
- No new borrowing was undertaken and the authorised limit was not breached during 2021/22.
- The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- Amount received from external investments totalled £52,375 (compared with an estimate of £40,000).
- Overall interest rate achieved from investments 0.1349% (7 day backward looking SONIA un-compounded rate for 2021/22 0.1355%).

### 6 Recommendations

- It is recommended that members note the report.
- It is recommended that Cabinet receive the Treasury Management Annual Report.

<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader & Portfolio Holder, Finance
<b>Report Originator(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy 2021/22

## Report:

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council is required through 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 2021/22. This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
- 1.2 During 2021/22 the minimum reporting requirements were that Council should receive the following reports:
- an annual Treasury Strategy in advance of the year (Council 23/02/2021);
  - a mid-year treasury update report (Council 08/12/2021);
  - an Annual Review following the end of the year, describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).
- 1.3 The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.
- 1.4 The 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 Audit and Risk Management Committee before they were reported to Council.

### **2 The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing**

- 2.1 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.

	<b>2020/21 Actual £000</b>	<b>2021/22 Revised Estimate £000</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £000</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>	<b>6,678</b>	<b>12,816</b>	<b>11,583</b>
Financed In Year	2,775	10,804	9,936
<b>Unfinanced capital expenditure</b>	<b>3,903</b>	<b>2,012</b>	<b>1,647</b>

### 3 The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

- 3.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the capital financing requirement (CFR).
- 3.2 **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 plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2022/23) and next two financial years.
- 3.3 In February 2020 Council allocated £25m in the capital programme to enable the Council to take forward projects linked to its Commercial and Investment Strategy (CIS). At the 31.3.2022 £4.024m has been spent on two acquisitions approved by the Investment Board in accordance with the CIS. This impacts on the Capital Financing Requirement as explained in the table below. Currently both acquisitions have been funded from internal borrowing, i.e. no specific external borrowing to fund the investments has been undertaken, but the Council retains the flexibility to externalise the associated borrowing if it is deemed appropriate to do so.
- 3.4 The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR (See Appendix A).

	<b>31 March 2021 Actual £000</b>	<b>31 March 2022 Revised Estimate £000</b>	<b>31 March 2022 Actual £000</b>
CFR opening balance	2,274	6,177	6,177
Capital expenditure – Capital Programme	553	1,682	1,322
Capital expenditure – Commercial and Investment Strategy	3,699	330	325
Less Minimum Revenue Provision	(349)	(368)	(366)
<b>CFR Closing balance</b>	<b>6,177</b>	<b>7,821</b>	<b>7,458</b>
of which: Capital Programme	2,478	3,802	3,444
Commercial and Investment Strategy	3,699	4,019	4,014
<b>Gross Debt (see table at 4.1 below)</b>	<b>8,043</b>	<b>8,236</b>	<b>7,906</b>

- 3.5 The CFR includes finance leases. A finance lease is a commercial arrangement between the Council and a lessor (finance company), where in consideration for a series of payments the Council has the right to use an asset (e.g. refuse vehicle) for the lease duration (typically 7 years). The annual lease payment is made up of a capital and interest repayment.
- 3.6 Although legally the Council doesn't own the asset during the lease duration, International Accounting Standards require that the Council capitalise the asset and liability on its balance sheet, much like a loan. Whilst this increases the CFR, the nature of the finance lease agreement doesn't require the Council to separately borrow to fund the asset.
- 3.7 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.



- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 Neither the authorised limit nor operational boundary were breached during 2021/22.

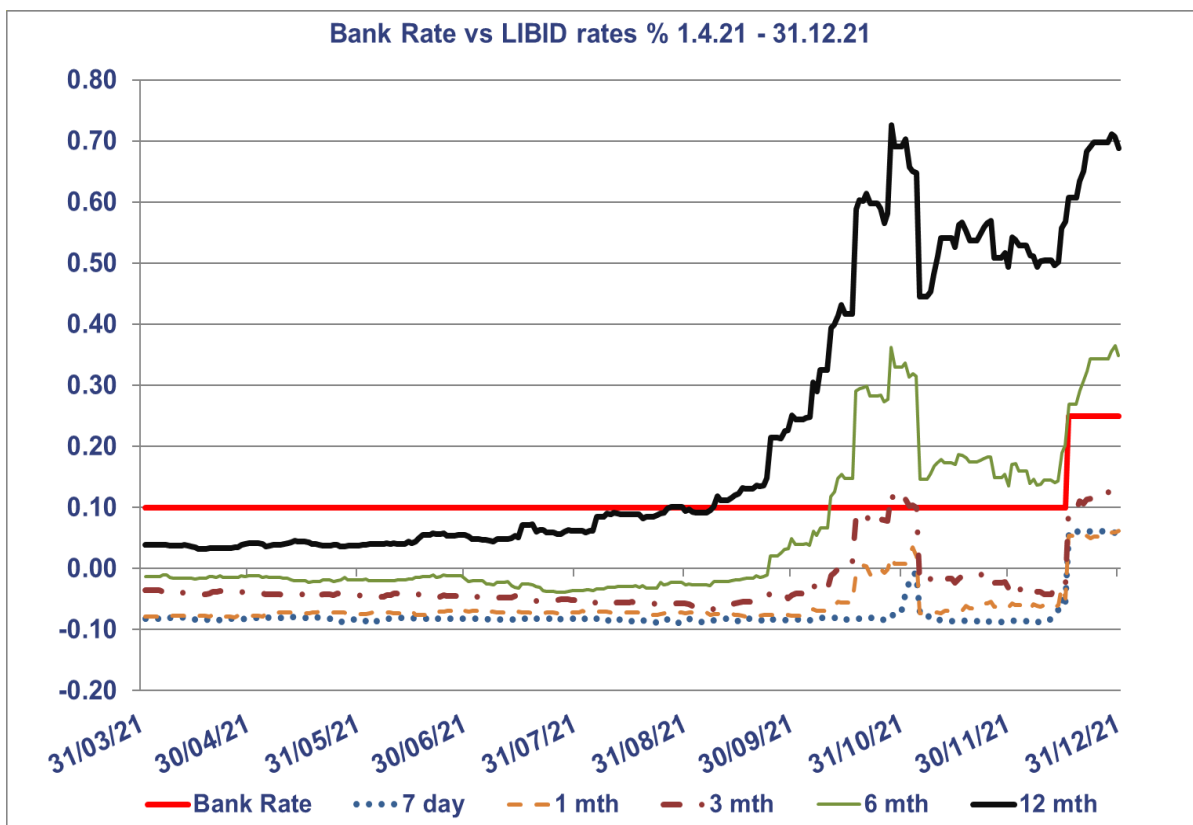
#### 4 Overall Treasury Position as at 31 March 2022

- 4.1 At the beginning and end of 2021/22, the Council's treasury position was as follows.

	<b>31 March 2022 Principal £000</b>	Rate / Return	Average Life years	<b>31 March 2021 Principal £000</b>	Rate / Return	Average Life years
Fixed rate funding						
• PWLB	<b>4,500</b>	7.29%	8.40 yrs	<b>4,500</b>	7.29%	9.40 yrs
• Market	<b>3,300</b>	4.70%	31.96 yrs	<b>3,300</b>	4.70%	32.96 yrs
• Finance Leases	<b>106</b>	3.59%	1.14 yrs	<b>243</b>	3.71%	1.56 yrs
Total debt	<b>7,906</b>			<b>8,043</b>		
Investments						
• Banks/Building Societies	<b>(31,850)</b>	0.13%		<b>(24,000)</b>	0.25%	
• Property Funds	<b>(4,066)</b>	N/A		<b>0</b>		
Total Investments	<b>(35,916)</b>			<b>(24,000)</b>		
Net debt /(Investments)	<b>(28,010)</b>			<b>(15,957)</b>		

- 4.2 In line with the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy approved by Council on 23 February 2021, the Council invested £4M, split equally, into the Federated Hermes and Patrizia Hanover, Property Unit Trusts, in late March 2022. No distributions were paid in 2021/22 due to the timing of the investments.
- 4.3 All other investments held at 31 March 2022 are fixed term or callable deposits due for repayment within the next twelve months.

## 5 The Strategy for 2021/22



### Investment Strategy

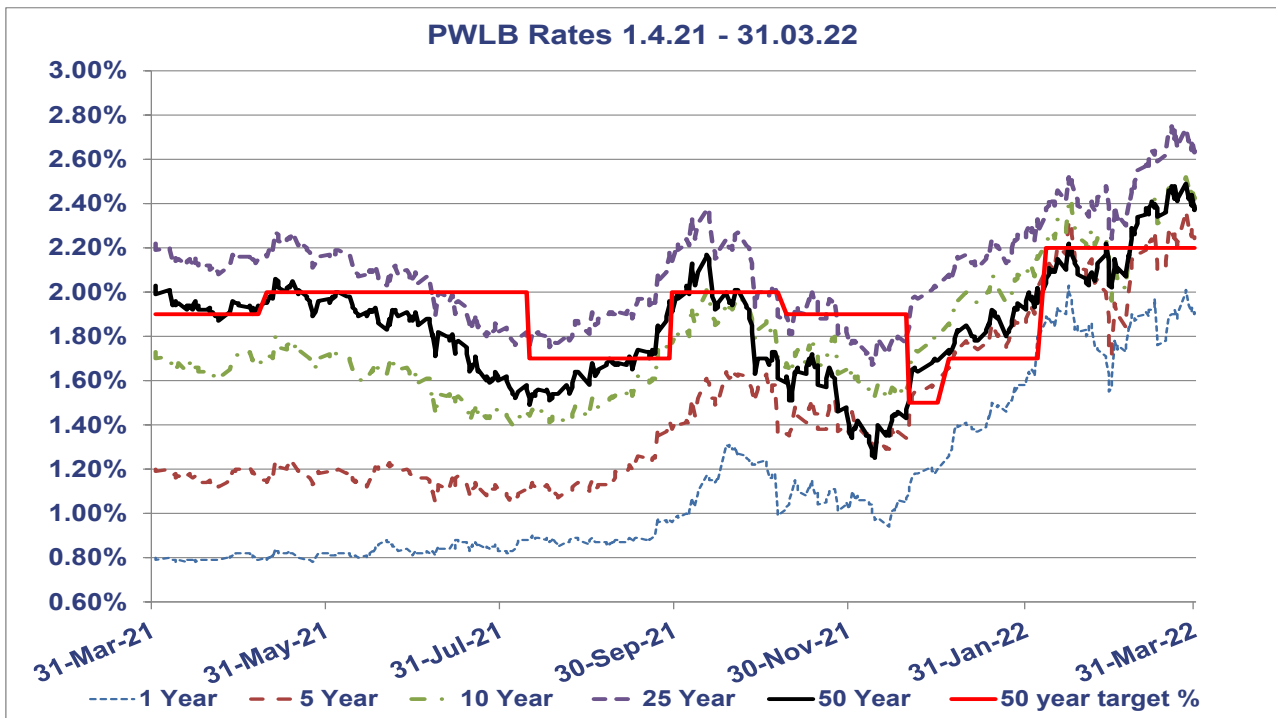
- 5.1 Investment returns remained close to zero for much of 2021/22. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer necessitated.
- 5.2 The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the various lockdowns/negative impact on their cashflow. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 9% in April).
- 5.3 While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.
- 5.4 Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown above and below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of

reducing the counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

## Borrowing Strategy

- 5.5 The Council was ‘over borrowed’ during 2021/22 the Council’s gross debt exceeded its CFR, as has been the case since 2007 when the Council decided not to repay £7.8m of PWLB debt, following the Council’s stock transfer.
- 5.6 Therefore, as opposed to taking on additional loan debt to fund capital expenditure in 2021/22, the Council followed a strategy of using cash, supporting the Council’s reserves, balances and cash flow as an interim measure. The strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and to reduce counterparty risk on placing investments.
- 5.7 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.
- 5.8 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Chief Finance Officer therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based on managing interest rate risk, if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper rise in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.
- 5.9 Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2021/22 and the two subsequent financial years until the turn of the year, when inflation concerns increased significantly. Internal, variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing until well in to the second half of 2021/22. Financial estimates were based on the interest rate forecasts in the table below.

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



- 5.10 PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M.Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields
- 5.11 Gilt yields fell sharply from the spring of 2021 through to September and then spiked back up before falling again through December. However, by January sentiment had well and truly changed, as markets became focussed on the embedded nature of inflation, spurred on by a broader opening of economies post the pandemic, and rising commodity and food prices resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- 5.12 At the close of the day on 31 March 2022, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 1.11% – 1.45% while the 10-year and 25-year yields were at 1.63% and 1.84%.
- 5.13 There is likely to be a further rise in short dated gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as Bank Rate is forecast to continue to increase throughout 2022. Medium to long dated yields are driven primarily by inflation concerns and the Bank of England has said it wouldn't decide to sell down its gilt holdings, whereby the Bank's £895bn stock of gilt and corporate bonds will be sold back into the market over several years, until after its August MPC meeting. The impact this policy will have on the market pricing of gilts, while issuance is markedly increasing, is an unknown at the time of writing.

**6 Borrowing Outturn**

- 6.1 No long term or temporary borrowing was taken during 2021/22. The approach during the year was to use cash balances to finance new capital expenditure, so as to run down cash balances that were earning low investment returns and to minimise counterparty risk incurred on investments. Additionally, it is important to note that Council had abnormally high cash balances due to the receipt of significant funds from government in respect of both schemes to support businesses to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic and funding received in advance to enable the Council to deliver grant-funded schemes included in its capital programme.
- 6.2 The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

- 6.3 No rescheduling was completed during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates and the penalty position which can arise from early repayment of debt, made rescheduling unviable.

## **7 Investment Outturn**

- 7.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by Council on 23 February 2021. 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 and bank share prices etc).
- 7.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 7.3 The Council maintained an average balance of £32.183m of internally managed funds. The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.1349% (£52,375). The comparable performance indicator is the average 7-day backward looking SONIA rate, which was 0.1355%.
- 7.4 In line with the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy approved by Council on 23 February 2021. Officers, in conjunction with Link Group, its external treasury advisors, carried out a detailed, financial and qualitative review into a number of property funds, before selecting the Federated Hermes and Patrizia Hanover, Property Unit Trusts, in late March 2022. £4m was invested, split equally, between these two funds. No distributions were paid in 2021/22 due to the timing of the investments.
- 7.5 Updates on the performance of these funds will be provided to the Audit and Risk Management Committee as part of future reporting. It is important to note investment in property funds is a long-term investment so the value of the Council's underlying investment may increase and decrease over the period the Council maintains its investment. The benefit to the Council of investing in property funds is that it will receive a quarterly cash distribution reflecting rental income collected by the fund manager from tenants and the potential for capital growth should the value of the Council's holding exceed the amount the Council originally invested.

## **8 Prudential and Treasury Indicators**

During 2021/22 the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements.

## Appendix A - Prudential Indicators

Prudential Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Actual £000	Revised Estimate £000	Actual £000
<b>1 Capital Expenditure (including Commercial and Investment Strategy)</b>	6,678	12,816	<b>11,583</b>
<b>2 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream (borrowing costs – investment income)</b>	7.03%	8.27%	<b>8.13%</b>
<b>3 Gross Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement</b>			
Gross Debt	8,043	8,236	<b>7,906</b>
CFR	6,177	7,821	<b>7,458</b>
<hr/>			
Treasury Management Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Actual £000	Revised Estimate £000	Actual £000
<b>4 Authorised Limit for External Debt</b>			
Borrowing	17,000	17,000	<b>17,000</b>
Other Long-Term Liabilities	1,000	1,000	<b>1,000</b>
Commercial Activities	25,000	21,302	<b>21,302</b>
Total	43,000	39,302	<b>39,302</b>
<b>5 Operational Boundary for External debt</b>			
Borrowing	12,000	12,000	<b>12,000</b>
Other Long-Term Liabilities	1,000	1,000	<b>1,000</b>
Commercial Activities	25,000	21,302	<b>21,302</b>
Total	38,000	34,302	<b>34,302</b>
<b>6 Actual External debt (as at 31 March)</b>			
Borrowing	7,800	8,130	<b>7,800</b>
Other Long-Term Liabilities	243	106	<b>106</b>
Total	8,043	8,236	<b>7,906</b>

<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	13	
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>11 July 2022</b>	
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>24 High Street, Wisbech - Contract Award</b>	

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of this item comprise exempt information which is not for publication by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## Purpose / Summary

- 1 To provide Council with an update on progress related to the 24 High Street Project and for Council to consider increasing funding within the capital programme to fund the project and to instruct officers to enter into a construction contract for 24 High Street Wisbech.

## 2 Reasons for Exemption

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of this Report are not for publication in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that they contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties and legal advice in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. The public interest test has been applied to the information contained within this exempt report and it is considered that the need to retain the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

## 3 Progress to Develop the Gap at 24 High Street

- 3.1 The project to redevelop 24 High Street continues, with pre-contract archaeological assessment work now completed whilst the Council carries out due diligence work with a preferred bidder following a procurement process.
- 3.2 The results of the procurement exercise carried out using a framework agreement for the construction of 24 High Street reflects the construction market at present. Costs continue to rise, with material costs, particularly steel, not held for any significant period of time. Whilst the Council has selected a preferred bidder, the bid value was caveated with several terms. The commercially sensitive detail regarding the procurement exercise and financing options are as set out in exempt Schedules 1 and 3. Further, the Council has employed a firm of quantity surveyors to assess the preferred supplier's bid to ensure that Members can be presented with a clear expectation of costs that construction of 24 High Street may incur the Council. The report may be found in Schedule 2.

- 3.3 The Council has been in contact with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in regard to increasing the potential grant available for 24 High Street. Currently the grant available for the 24 High Street construction project is £238,000. When this was determined several years ago this was 35% of the expected construction costs. It now represents a significantly smaller proportion of construction costs than 35%.
- 3.4 Council officers have discussed the necessity to increase the grant value and have been advised by HLF that until some certainty regarding work at 11-12 High Street is available no change in grant funding will be possible. Since the private developer pulled out of the 11-12 High Street Project, the Council has sought interest from several other developers with little success. Another firm is currently assessing the site for development and whilst this work is ongoing the Council has commissioned a further piece of work to finalise options should the third-party firm not take development forwards. It is anticipated that a further paper will be brought to Cabinet in August to consider the future of 11-12 High Street. This may then inform flexibility regarding the grant to 24 High Street – with any change dependent on HLF.
- 3.5 It is important to recognise that 24 High Street is a regeneration project and forms an integral part of the Wisbech High Street NLHF scheme. Wisbech has a wealth of heritage assets but unfortunately, due to a combination of factors many historic buildings in the town have suffered, particularly on the High Street. A number remain ‘at risk’ or ‘vulnerable’ and there are gap sites following demolition including at 24 and 11-12 High Street. This was the basis of the grant funding award by NLHF. Residential and commercial properties values are low within the town centre in part as a result of the multitude of deprivation and infrastructure challenges that Wisbech faces. Without market intervention through public sector subsidy there is very little prospect of vacant High Street sites being developed and brought back into use to benefit the local economy. Development of 24 High Street is not viable without public sector subsidy. The return on investment for a commercial developer – the cost of construction set against the resultant capital value and rental income stream that can be achieved – is likely to be negative in both the short and medium term. A much longer return period coupled with identifiable socio-economic outcomes has to be considered to demonstrate best value for that public sector subsidy (this is considered further later in this report). There are tangible benefits to delivering the 24 High Street scheme including:
- the physical regeneration of the site itself
  - avoiding the holding costs of a site which includes structural support of adjacent buildings and ensuring the long-term protection of those adjacent heritage assets which have exposed walls following demolition
  - improving the attractiveness of the High Street for local residents and visitors to the town, thereby helping to drive footfall and support local businesses
  - protecting and enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area
  - delivering new apartments in a sustainable location



- stimulating further investment in the town as the town centre is Wisbech's 'shop window'
- the use of available NLHF grant to help subsidise the scheme

#### 4 Recommendations

4.1 That Council notes the current position in relation to the Council's redevelopment plans for 24 High Street, Wisbech and on the recommendation of Cabinet:

4.2 Considers the information in Schedules 1 and 2 regarding the preferred bidder's submission and:

- Notes the anticipated total value of redeveloping 24 High Street capped in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Crown Commercial Services Government Construction Framework RM6088;
- Approves the options available for funding the redevelopment of 24 High Street based on the value anticipated by the preferred bidder and as set out in Schedule 3 and delegates to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader, authority to identify and utilise the most appropriate combination of funding having regard to the Council's wider budgetary duties and obligations; and
- Subject to the above, approves the negotiation and entry into a contract with the preferred bidder in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Procurement and the legal advice and due diligence requirements set out in Schedule 1 seeking at all times to ensure that the Council maintains its best value obligations.

Wards Affected	Medworth Ward	
Forward Plan Reference	KEY21APR22/01	
Portfolio Holders	Cllr Chris Seaton Cllr Ian Benney Cllr Chris Boden	Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance
Report Originator	Phil Hughes Acting Assistant Director	
Contact Officers	Paul Medd Matt Wright Peter Catchpole Amy Brown	Chief Executive High Streets Project manager Corporate Director and S151 Officer Monitoring Officer and Chief Legal Officer

Background Papers	<p>Quantity Surveyor's report regarding preferred bidders bid contained within Exempt Schedule 2</p> <p>20 February 2020 Cabinet Report</p> <p>1 July 2021 Cabinet Report</p> <p>2022 Cabinet reports</p> <p>Planning documentation- application reference F/YR21/0680/FDC</p>
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## **5 Capital Programme Project Update – 24 Wisbech High Street**

- 5.1 Since the previous Cabinet update regarding the Wisbech High Street Programme, there has been positive progress relating to 24 Wisbech High Street.
- 5.2 The preferred bidder has been notified of their status and a quantity surveyor has assessed the bid documentation and caveats contained therein. Details of this work and a report from the quantity surveyors is included in Schedules 1 and 2.
- 5.3 Party wall investigations continue through our private sector partners. Currently we are not aware of any risk to the project programme as a result of this work.
- 5.4 Officers are engaged with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to align the funding agreement. This will allow the funds to be allocated from the external funding body in readiness for delivery of the project and subject to entry into a standard grant funding agreement.

## **6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The procurement has been carried out in accordance with Fenland District Council's Code of Procurement which allows the use of Government Buying Contracts. The Council has used the Crown Commercial Services Government Construction Framework RM6088.
- 6.2 Whilst ordinarily the executive has delegated authority to approve entry into contractual arrangements, as one of the options for funding the redevelopment requires the use of funds which are not provided for within the capital programme, Full Council would ultimately be required to determine whether or not the current funding allocated to this project should be increased. In particular, the Council's Constitution prescribes that only Full Council will be responsible for "*making decisions about any matter in the discharge of an executive function which is covered by the policy framework or the budget where the decision maker is minded to make it in a manner which would be contrary to policy framework or contrary to/or not wholly in accordance with the budget*" (Article 4) and "*the Cabinet, committee of the Cabinet, individual members of the Cabinet and any officers or joint arrangements discharging executive functions may only take decisions which are in line with the budget and policy framework. If any of these bodies or persons wishes to make a decision which is contrary to the policy framework, or contrary to or not wholly*

*in accordance with the budget approved by full Council, then that decision may only be taken by the Full Council (Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, paragraph 3).*

- 6.3 In view of the deadline for publishing the Agenda for the Council meeting on 11 July 2022, it has not been possible to include information about the tender assessment process within this report due to information that remains outstanding from a third-party assessment of the preferred bidder's submission. It is essential that the accuracy of the financial information and financial impact of caveats contained within bid documents submitted by the preferred bidder are accurately assessed to allow an informed decision to be taken. Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 permit an exception to the requirement for reports to be published 5 clear days in advance of a meeting in circumstances where the information is not available at the time of publication. Additional information will therefore be published and circulated to Council Members as soon as possible after those processes have concluded in order to facilitate a timely decision in relation to a decision regarding the Council's preferred bidder.

- 6.4 The Council also has a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This applies to all functions of the Council, including activities related to regeneration. Members will need to consider the implications of this duty when weighing up the benefits of proceeding with the scheme as outlined in paragraph 3.5 against the costs of proceeding and any associated financial risks. The Council and members also a fiduciary duty to taxpayers in considering any significant expenditure. In effect this also requires members to carefully consider the benefits and costs of the proposed scheme. A decision will be lawful so long as it takes into account all relevant factors and is reasonable in all the circumstances.

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The Council has allocated a capital budget of £1.35M to this project which includes a £238k contribution from the NLHF. This sum falls significantly short of the expected estimated total value of the preferred bidders bid. Due to the value of the increase, the authority of Full Council is required to increase the sum set aside in the Council's capital programme for this project. For the project to proceed Cabinet's recommendation to Full Council should seek an increase in the project's authorised capital programme cost to that detailed in Exempt Schedule 3, paragraph 6.
- 7.2 Details of the cost of financing the project are included in Exempt Schedule 3, paragraph 7 together with information regarding the net income which the Council anticipates it would receive on an annual basis after work on the building has been completed.
- 7.3 As noted above officers are continuing to negotiate with representatives from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to obtain the optimal amount of grant funding to support delivery of the project. However, at this stage there is no guarantee that the NLHF contribution will exceed £238k.

- 7.4 It should be noted that this project is a regeneration one and not part of the Commercial and Investment Strategy as the investment criteria contained within the Strategy would not be met.

## **8 Alternative Options Considered**

- 8.1 It is important to recognise that 24 High Street is a regeneration scheme rather than a commercial investment proposal and that it is intended to support the wider Wisbech High Street NLHF grant funded project. The site is owned by the Council and forms a gap in a primary retail street in the heart of the town. It is considered that there are two potential alternative options to that recommended in this report.

### **8.2 Option 1 – To not proceed with the award of a construction contract and to review the situation in 12 months’ time**

As set out earlier in this report, there is cost volatility in the construction sector. Materials and labour costs remain high and many contractors have full order books following delays to construction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. There could be some levelling off or cost reduction over time but equally the rising cost of inflation together with ongoing raw materials supply issues could see costs rise further rather than decrease. Delaying the project for 12 months could also risk loss of the NLHF funding contribution unless a time extension to the scheme can be agreed. This is a significant risk given that the scheme has already been extended beyond its original 3 years.

### **8.3 Option 2 – To dispose of the site to a third-party developer**

As set out above, this is a regeneration and not a commercial investment proposal and is intended to deliver transformational change to Wisbech through the NLHF scheme. It is not unusual for projects of this nature to face a ‘conservation deficit’ meaning that they require grant funding to bridge an identified financial viability gap. The Council can take a longer-term view about the cost of investment and the return on that investment, unlike a private sector developer who would need to achieve a developer profit and a shorter-term commercial return on investment, particular where a scheme is subject to development finance. It is considered highly unlikely that a sale to a third-party developer could be achieved in these circumstances.

## **9.0 Schedules**

- 9.1 Schedule 1 – Procurement Update, Legal Advice and Due Diligence Implications.
- 9.2 Schedule 2 – Summary of Quantity Surveyor Assessment.
- 9.3 Schedule 3 – Overview of Financing Options and Implications.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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