

AGENDA

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2026

10.00 AM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, FENLAND HALL,
COUNTY ROAD, MARCH PE15 8NQ**

Committee Officer: Helen Moore

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- 1 Appointment of Chairman for the Remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26
To appoint a Chairman for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.
- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the Remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26
To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year of 2025/26.
- 4 Previous Minutes (Pages 3 - 12)
To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of 1 December 2025.
- 5 To report additional items for consideration which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified.
- 6 Members to declare any interests under the Local Code of Conduct in respect of any item to be discussed at the meeting.
- 7 Review of Fees and Charges 2026/27 (Pages 13 - 36)
To review the Council's Fees and Charges for 2026/27, in line with the Budget Strategy considered by Cabinet on 15 December 2025.
- 8 Revised General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2025/26, Draft General Fund Budget Estimates 2026/27 and Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31 and Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29 (Pages 37 - 62)

To consider and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet on the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy, Draft General Fund Budget 2026/27 and Draft Capital Programme 2026/29 for consultation.

9 Draft Business Plan 2026/27 (Pages 63 - 80)

To comment on the draft Business Plan for 2026/27.

10 Use of Waiver Provisions (Pages 81 - 84)

To provide notice of decisions taken without the need for notice to be given on the Forward Plan and/or for the call-in procedures to be applied.

11 Update on Previous Actions (Pages 85 - 86)

Members to receive an update on the previous meeting's Action Plan.

12 Future Work Programme (Pages 87 - 90)

To consider the Draft Work Programme for Overview & Scrutiny Panel 2025/26.

13 Items which the Chairman has under item 3 deemed urgent

Friday, 9 January 2026

Members: Councillor B Barber, Councillor G Booth, Councillor J Carney, Councillor L Foice-Beard, Councillor A Gowler, Councillor A Hay, Councillor P Hicks, Councillor D Roy and Councillor A Woppard (Vice-Chairman)



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2025 - 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M Davis (Chairman), Councillor B Barber, Councillor G Booth, Councillor L Foice-Beard, Councillor A Hay, Councillor P Hicks and Councillor A Woollard

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Carney, Councillor N Meekins and Councillor D Roy

GUESTS: Gavin Naylor (Anglian Water Regulator Flow Data Manager) and Grant Tuffs (Anglian Water Public Affairs Engagement Manager).

Officers in attendance: Carol Pilson (Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer), Amy Brown (Assistant Director), Anna Goodall (Assistant Director), Dan Horn (Assistant Director), Claire Wright (My Fenland Customer & Engagement Manager), David Wright (Policy and Communications Manager), Annabel Tighe (Head of Environmental Health and Compliance), Phil Hughes (Head of Leisure) and Helen Moore (Member Services and Governance Officer)

OSC25/23 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2025 were confirmed and signed.

OSC26/23 UPDATE FROM ANGLIAN WATER

Members received a presentation giving an overview of Anglian Waters (AW) work and development by representatives of Anglian Water, Grant Tuffs and Gavin Naylor.

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

- Councillor Woollard asked which places in Fenland have the biggest problem with storm overflow and when will the problems be fixed? Gavin Naylor responded the storm overflows happen across Aws network because there are combined flows, with the highest number of spills AW see is at sewage treatment works, because they are draining the whole catchment area and a high volume of water collect there, with these areas being in Chatteris, Manea and March. Grant Tuffs added that in some problem areas like Barkers Lane in March some of the issues are due to bad connections and old pipework which are being investigated.
- Councillor Hay asked would AW expect the spills in the second part of the year, which tends to be colder and wetter, to be a higher number and if so, have AW got a more up to date figure to share? Gavin Naylor responded that AW do hold figures up to the end of October and verify the data on a monthly basis with the number of spills showing as 125 on the presentation and because of the dry weather there has not been any more spills since the summer and if this does happen it is treated with the upmost importance with an investigation and root cause.
- Councillor Barber made the point regarding overflows and road flooding, specifically in Leverington, there seems to be some confusion over the responsibility of AW and highways, and asked if they could explain the difference? Gavin Naylor confirmed that there are combined systems in place that take on surface and foul sewage, and highways do have their own drains with their own separate systems which they are responsible for maintaining. Grant Tuffs added that with highways the misconnections mentioned, could be a surface water highways misconnection into the AW foul system, which makes this a multi-

agency approach dealing with flooding. He continued AW work with highways to disconnect those wrong connections of surface water into AW's network which then exacerbates the flood issue which is where working with councils, parishes and the Environment Agency come into play to put plans in place to avoid other floods elsewhere. Gavin Naylor confirmed that an internal team has been set up to deal with these issues as they arrive.

- Councillor Mrs Davis stated that AW are planning on spending £1 billion fixing overflow problems, and that AW are planning to reduce spills by 17% by 2030 but would like to know what that relates to in real data, and is this realistic? Gavin Naylor responded the data used is held over several years in terms of overflows and the number of spills so the base line figures used make those assessments. He continued in terms of the funding, there are several storm overflows and sewage work that are part of the business plan, which have been identified through investigations and there is every confidence that this target will be achieved. Gavin Naylor continued the areas which are the worst offenders will be prioritised for the funding, with the plans in place and AW is convinced that this will be achieved, which is part of the business plan. He added that part of the solution will include screen fittings to the overflows to stop the un-flushables. storage tanks will be replaced and additional ones installed for the more nature-based solutions and there will also be plans to install additional treatment capacity which will give an additional environmental benefit.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked how much of FDC's sewer system is worn out and how is this affecting the problems people are seeing? Grant Tuffs responded there are over 70,000 kilometres of sewers in AW's region, which has an aging infrastructure with much of it being Victorian, and there is a big maintenance plan in place to repair and improve that network over time and since becoming a private company there has not been the investment in the past that AW would have liked to have seen, as a result of this bills are going up so more can be invested into the repairs of the older systems sooner including investment on both sides of clean water and waste water. He added that there are teams on the ground responding to issues as they are reported, 50,000 monitors have been installed across the whole of the AW region helping monitoring in real time the performance of the networks, and providing data which allow the team to be proactive in terms of responding to issues and also giving an indication to where the trouble spots are so a plan can be formulated and a fix can happen or a prevention plan can be added.
- Councillor Booth stated that it has been pointed out in the media that AW were using no flow results to pass the fact that there was no pollution, has this practice been stopped or is it still happening? Gavin Naylor responded the programme that was talked about on the media was in regard of the regular monitoring of the treatment works and to monitor the quality of the treated water that goes out which works on a batch system, and it was a sample of this that was missed which was reported but has been rescheduled for a different time. Councillor Booth asked if this practice has now been stopped because he believed it was suggested it was going to be stopped in the new water bill? Grant Tuffs responded that in the process of treating sewage AW need time and what AW are working on is monitoring the flow properly and Environmental Health have access to the sites and do monitor and inspect the sites regularly. He extended an invitation to the committee to visit the water treatment centres to see how the process works.
- Councillor Booth stated he would like to understand why the system is not scheduled better so samples do not get missed. Gavin Naylor responded that part of the reason is the way the sampling system is operated and designed.
- Councillor Foice-Beard asked how AW were advertising and educating customers on the new 'Just Bin It' campaign and by what routes? Grant Tuffs responded that bin lorries have had posters put on them, education sessions have been held at schools and colleges, plus adverts on radio and on social media, but stated any further help and support from the Council would be greatly received. Gavin Naylor added that there have been some in person events held too in town centres and supermarkets to raise awareness with the focus being to target the hot spots and the worst areas from the data AW hold. Councillor Foice-Beard complimented them on the in-person activities as she feels this is important and stated that if there has not been an in-person activity in the Fenland area lately, she would

recommend one. Grant Tuffs stated he would take this up with head office and arrange some dates.

- Councillor Hicks asked, when talking earlier about most of the overflow water is rainwater, most if not all, and what is the percentage of the other parts and figures? Grant Tuffs confirmed that 95% is rainwater. Gavin Naylor added that a lot of sewage works have storm tanks, and these store the first flush of rainfall and the first flush of contaminants, which is then returned to the treatment centre after the rainfall stops.
- Councillor Hicks asked how many contaminant parts per million is in the drinking water and what is the national accepted average for the public to drink safe water? Gavin Naylor stated that the tests for the drinking water is of a very high standard and all levels of contaminants are taken out, with AW being the cleanest water in Europe.
- Councillor Foice-Beard asked is there much communication between AW and companies or manufacturers around the 'Just Bin It' campaign as there are a lot of adverts encouraging the public to use flushable wipes and as consumers they will do as they are told. Grant Tuffs agreed that just because it says flushable on the packet does not mean that it does not cause the water company issues as these sit in the sewers and cause problems hence this is why the campaign is called 'Just Bin It', AW are not telling consumers to not buy wipes etc but just not to flush them down the toilet and the water companies are working with manufacturers to make some changes.
- Councillor Booth stated that a few years ago in partnership with Anglia College there was an open day which he attended and was very well attended, would there be any chance of this happening again in the future? Grant Tuffs stated that this is something he will take away and feedback.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked if AW do not get all the funding they want from OFWAT, which FDC projects would be pushed back or cancelled first? Grant Tuffs replied that they could not answer this question as they did not know what the outcome will be, but all the funding received is on a priority basis and ultimately what is in the business plan AW would want to deliver in the five years stated if possible.
- Councillor Booth stated that he asked a question last year concerning villages south and west of Wisbech where some work had been carried out and it was discovered that there were more pipes that needed work, and questioned whether this work is included within that five-year plan? Grant Tuffs replied there is a map with information on all the pipes that are going to be replaced over the next five-year period which equates to 61,8696 metres of pipes being replaced, with 13 million pounds worth of investment on those water mains replacement over the next five years.
- Councillor Barber asked what concerns have residents raised and what are they going to change to reflect that? Grant Tuffs stated that the consultation remains open until the 10 December, but from the questions asked and concerns shown so far it is items like construction materials being moved onto site and from this AW are looking to bring some of the aggregates in via rail, the visitor centres has been another discussion point where one was originally planned but there are now two planned after customer feedback.
- Councillor Mrs Davis stated in terms of Stonea and Manea and moving construction materials along the fen roads, which are not in the best condition, has AW been in talks with Highways at Cambridgeshire County Council, because some of the roads used will need to be drastically improved. Grant Tuffs responded that before any work is carried out AW do work with Highways to carry out a highways survey to help assess the condition of the roads before starting anything and agree to put the roads back as they are now or make improvements as the project moves on.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked how will AW ensure that the reservoir benefits the environment and does not just replace what they will damage during construction? Grant Tuffs answered that biodiversity net gain is very much a feature of the reservoir and AW have to improve the environment that they are affecting which is a statutory part of the DCO process to ensure the environment is left in a better position than before AW arrived. He continued the reservoir will include wetlands, walks, visitors' amenities and public access points but will also be protecting the environment.

- Councillor Foice-Beard asked where will the contractors working for the reservoir be housed, and is there any indication of numbers and how this increase in population will impact local services such as doctors surgeries and hospitals? Grant Tuffs replied that AW will be looking at local supply chains once the plans reach the design and delivery stage, as of yet there are no numbers to share regarding construction workers, but AW will be looking at temporary accommodation in the local area and different ways of travelling to and from the accommodation with maybe a shared bus service etc. Councillor Foice-Beard asked if AW will be keeping in contact with the local authorities as the project progresses? Grant Tuffs answered that the community liaison team will be working with local community groups and there will be lots of public drop-in days and information sessions to keep the public up-to date on all stages of the project.
- Councillor Mrs Davis stated that many members of the community are worried that their water bills will be going up to pay for the reservoir, and asked how AW are planning on protecting people who are already struggling to pay their bills? Grant Tuffs responded that all AW customers will be paying for the reservoir and not just the residents in Fenland. He continued that AW have many schemes in place to help people if they are struggling to pay the bills. Gavin Naylor added if anyone is struggling to pay their bill, they can ring in and talk to the contact centre and they will be able to help. Councillor Mrs Davis suggested that a flyer goes out to rural villages to let residents know that there is a help line for them to call as not everyone is on social media. Grant Tuffs stated that from April onwards there is a campaign reminding residents of the water bill rises and the help line number will be with this information.
- Councillor Barber asked about the Barton Road situation in Wisbech as this is an ongoing issue Grant Tuffs replied there is regular weekly updated information on AW's website including video footage specifically about Barton Road with extra information being shared with MP Steve Barclay and local councillors. Councillor Barber asked if councillors could get updated via email. Grant Tuffs replies that AW are encouraging people to self- serve and use the website to keep up-dated with what is going on as this is a long project and will not be finished until March 2026

Members noted the information provided.

OSC27/23 LGO & 3C'S UPDATE

Members considered the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) and the Council Corporate 3Cs Annual Review Complaints, presented by Councillor Tierney.

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

- Councillor Woppard stated that, with refuse and recycling, whilst there is a very comprehensive breakdown, 12 of the complaints come under the category of other, what is this? Councillor Tierney responded that these complaints do not fall within existing categories and some of these relate to staff complaints so to protect the names of the staff it is logged under other.
- Councillor Mrs Davis stated that there were 27 complaints in planning development, and asked what specific improvement process is being considered to reduce dissatisfaction around decisions? She made the point off those complaints, 5 related to a single application, asking what, if any, procedural lessons have been identified from that case Councillor Mrs Davis referred to staffing with there being 17 related complaints, but it is not clear if this is a cluster of staff related complaints in particular teams, and if there is a need for targeted management intervention? Councillor Tierney responded that with the nature of planning one party is going to be happy with the decision made and the other side is not going to be happy, and one of the most common complaints, is that people are not happy with the planning decisions, but this does not fall within the Council's remit, the Planning Committee make their decisions and occasionally people get upset with the choices made.

He continued any complaint is looked at and if procedurally it was wrong then it is dealt with, but he did not feel there needs to be a plan to improve the procedure in place as this is the nature of planning decisions. Councillor Tierney stated, in regard to staffing complaints he did not feel there was any pattern developing in the complaints, over the years, it is investigated and if there is a pattern developing then it means that it is not just usual business and there may be something going wrong but there has not been a pattern like this emerging.

- Councillor Mrs Davis commented that in the report it states a 3.11% increase in complaints with a reduction in compliments but further down it points out that this is not down to any particular trend and she would like to understand whether there has been more complaints in certain categories such as refuse and recycling were up and, was this to do with the increase in charges? Councillor Tierney responded that the 3% might sound a lot but over the year that equates to 6 complaints across every department which means there is one complaint every other month which shows that it was much the same as last year with no trends having been identified over that time, he did not feel it was something to be worried about as the Council has a good record at responding to complaints. Councillor Mrs Davis asked if the public felt inclined to make complaints because they are paying a bit more money? Councillor Tierney did not feel that the numbers stack up because there has been a reduction in complaints within that department and stressed that the bin collections that the Council charge for are the lowest in the region and there has been a lot of work put in place to keep those prices down and deliver an excellent service.
- Councillor Mrs Davis stated as far as the complaints process goes, the complaint process will move to a 2-stage system next year, and asked how will this relate to efficiency and improving customer experience? Councillor Tierney replied that the staff are embracing the changes that the Ombudsman recommends and is the system many other Councils use, FDC have gone from a three step process to a two-step process, the first step of this change will be looking at the complaints in much more detail before deciding how to deal with it and who to send it to. He continued this process has proved to be much quicker and more efficient and has shaved the response time down by 10 days which people seem to be happy with. Councillor Booth added that in a previous job role that firm operated a two-stage complaint process and he feels that a three-stage process puts up too many barriers and frustrates the customers and agreed the two-step process should be welcomed as this will offer a better streamlined process and deal with complaints in a more reactive way.
- Councillor Booth made the point in regard to the planning complaints that there have been a number of appeals that have gone against the Planning Committee, are those considered because he can recall two which have gone against the fact that Planning Committee have not come up with full reasons why and that is why the Inspector has granted the appeal, asking how does this factor into the root cause analysis? Councillor Tierney stated that this was outside of his portfolio and falls into the planning portfolio, but it was his understanding that it is the job of the Planning Committee to do their best to look at the situation and listen to all the advice given, and then to come up with what they think is the right solution, but sometimes it will not be supported by an Inspector when it gets to an appeal but he felt that it is still a valid democratic process and members should not be afraid to make decisions that might go against the Council and cost the Council some money, it is more important for the committee to come to the right decision in their minds based on the evidence as they see it. Councillor Booth suggested that if the decisions made does go to an appeal this needs to be factored into the Council's higher-level analysis and that is where he feels the changes need to be made and additional training required to help councillors put forward a stronger case if they are going to refuse an application and improving the situation over a wider picture. Councillor Mrs Davis suggested in Councillor Law's absence that the question be put to her for her to respond.
- Councillor Barber stated that she thought Overview and Scrutiny was to actually scrutinise what is happening and sometimes all that is discussed are the bad things and the good things get overlooked and she commended the 219 compliments received in a time when people find it easier to complain, which she feels this is a very good result and congratulated

the team.

Members noted the information provided.

OSC28/23 PROGRESS OF CORPORATE PRIORITY - COMMUNITIES

Members considered the progress of the Communities Corporate Priority, with Councillor Hoy giving a verbal presentation covering homelessness and the issues surrounding this.

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

- Councillor Mrs Davis stated, in relation to supporting vulnerable residents, what risks have been identified around the transition to the crisis resilience fund and how will the allocation meet local needs? Councillor Hoy responded this is difficult to judge as there is never a clear picture of what problems are coming in to deal with and she can only speculate what some of those problems might be or expect so things are managed as they come in case by case, with members, partners, and officers all working well together to communicate the problem coming down the line, what can be done about it and keeping the channels open.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked how the Council deal with the lost contacts and how does the Council know that they are safely accommodated? Councillor Hoy stated that when contact is lost it is very difficult to know whether that person is safe or not or even if they have stayed in the District but outreach workers can go out to see people plus the other workforces in the Council are asked to keep an eye out and if a rough sleeper is called in by a refuse man etc, outreach will go along and help identify that person and offer them help or keep revisiting sites. She continued that rough sleepers are known to move around so this can prove challenging and this is where the Council work with partner agencies to do the same and refer, with it being important to remember that there are a few charities that are out there helping rough sleepers but these people never get referred to the right authorities and she would urge them to encourage as many referrals as possible so people get the right help. Councillor Mrs Davis stated that some people on the streets do not always want the help, and she is aware of several cases in Fenland. Councillor Hoy explained there is a fine line between the fundamental human right to live how you choose as long as they are not affecting other people's human rights, however how much of that anger and resistance is because of past trauma and history, and there is also that balance of how much can you give somebody because yes some people do have complex pasts and they need a lot of help but at the same time how long do you spend on an individual who is not engaging as this needs to be a two way process.
- Councillor Foice-Beard noted that there will be a leaflet distributed to the homeless and asked if there is a date for the launch and if this will be available digitally as a link and will it be in different languages to help. Councillor Hoy stated that the leaflet will be going digital and in other languages. Dan Horn added that the leaflet is being rolled out this week.
- Councillor Barber stated that it was good to see Bed and Breakfast figures have improved, and asked what factors have driven reductions and is the progress sustainable? Councillor Hoy responded that she hopes it is sustainable but the risks are those pressures that are not seen, for instance a person becomes homeless there is a legal duty to house them and if the accommodation is not available they have to go into a B&B and with the changes in the renters reform this could have the potential to lead to a large increase. She continued that the Council are trying to put the mitigations in place, so this does not get pushed onto the taxpayer but there is a fine balance. Councillor Hoy added that Cabinet made a decision to spend one million pounds on purchasing some flats, nine flats have been purchased across the District with the tenth still going through, but the only issue with this is if Fenland District Council or Clarion own the building to house people they will need the full amount of housing benefit subsidy from the Government, whereas if it is someone who is not a registered provider, like a charity or Bed & Breakfast for example, the Council do not get the full rate back so it is a direct cost to the authorities and that is why with the flats the Council

would get the full money back because FDC are the legal owners of them. She continued also with some of the charities the Council place homeless people with they are being asked to register as a homeless provider ASAP, which would take the Council cost down and she was happy to report that the team are almost in a place where things are getting signed and the Council should receive the subsidy back. Councillor Barber asked, once people have moved into the flats that the Council have bought is this their permanent accommodation? Councillor Hoy confirmed that this would not be their permanent accommodation, but the resident would go onto a housing register, where their banding will be assessed then they will stay there until a permanent house is found. She added this is not the best solution, but it is better than leaving a person in a B&B long term because the length of time could be the same, but it is less of a cost to the Council.

- Councillor Booth asked for clarification on page 35 of the report where it talks about 61 properties being available to the Council stating there are 33 units owned by the district council and there is a 7-unit hostel, questioning whether that hostel is not owned by the district council or does the Council just have the use of it? Councillor Hoy confirmed that the hostel is owned by the Council. Councillor Booth pointed out that means there are 40 units and asked if this is a route the Council are going to carry on with to bring even more savings to the Council, and would it help even more with the situation regarding homelessness? Councillor Hoy agreed there are lots of opportunities including the Government Local Authority Housing Fund which allows the Council to purchase properties and the Council have used that very successfully. She stated that the only small caveat to this opportunity is that the Council is slower and less cost effective in terms of maintenance than a private individual would be and the other risk factor is that the Council are not building any new properties, the 20 flats bought are now 20 less homes for someone else to own or rent privately so it has not helped the net profits. Councillor Booth stated that Fenland are getting 500 units each year through planning applications, so the situation is improving just very slowly Councillor Hoy responded that the Government keep saying there is a housing crisis and a shortage of houses nationwide, and population obviously does increase every year with birth rates and immigration.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked how the Council is fairing with affordable homes coming online? Dan Horn responded that there is an improved pipeline from working with Housing Associations, this has created a significant move forward year on year with rural exception sites ring fenced for families which will free up flats for single people and move them out of the B&B situation Councillor Booth commented on the rural exception houses in Parson Drove which has been very successful for the people living there especially with their local connections to remain in the area and they are now looking to build more houses in this area. Dan Horn stated that it has been a great help working with the Parish Councils to remind those local people that if they need help to register with Home Link so local people can apply for local properties in their area.
- Councillor Barber stated that 104 homes have been investigated, is this just the tenants who can ask for a home to be investigated or can a member of the public do that, and would they be taken any notice of? Councillor Christy stated that reports come from all kinds of different sources, anybody can report a problem, sometimes members get contacted by tenants to raise concerns as well as the emergency services and trading standards. He added that the Housing Enforcement Policy on the website explains all the relevant information along with information on fines and debts which can be put in place if landlords are struggling to pay their debts or are having debts written off, maybe due to a business loss etc, but this is the last resort when all other avenues have been exhausted.
- Councillor Woppard stated that there have been various interventions with CCTV, Policing etc, are there any specific outcomes that have been achieved by these interventions particularly effecting March or anywhere else in Fenland? Councillor Wallwork responded that, funding was given to youth groups in Fenland to help with the anti- social behaviour and they have just received another year's funding. She continued that through this group young adults were made aware of knife crime etc and encouraged to join youth groups like kickboxing and other local sports, the team also worked with youth clubs and outreach

groups to tackle the most hardest to reach young people who were not engaging in any other organised groups and happily this has worked and the project will continue through next year with the funding granted.

- Councillor Barber asked if the CCTV team are now fully staffed after their recent advertising for recruits? Councillor Wallwork responded that all shifts have been covered.
- Councillor Hay asked when CCTV goes down are the relevant Town Councils and Parish Councils informed? Councillor Wallwork stated when any CCTV goes down and it is a small camera it is fixed as soon as possible but, in some cases, when permission is needed some cases can take longer.
- Councillor Barber asked if the recent cost of living event that happened in Whittlesey is going to be repeated in any of the other towns? Councillor Boden responded that the cost of living events will be taking place across the other Fenland towns, these are run in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council, and the next one is likely to be in January at Wisbech but as these dates get firmed up advertising will take place nearer the time.
- Councillor Booth asked if any CCTV's will be deployed to rural areas? Councillor Wallwork responded that this can happen, but the advice would come from the Police about needs in the area unless this is something the community needs on a day-to-day basis it would not be something that would normally happen, if the Police contact CCTV they do have the ability to put the cameras in place but if it is not getting reported the resources cannot be put in place. Councillor Booth suggested that this is an area that needs to be tapped into now there are more Police in the area to work on using the mobile CCTVs to crack down on rural crimes. Dan Horn added that there is the ability to go out to rural areas but there can be a cost involved on a temporary or more permanent basis, but there is a scheme where villages can part fund the cost of a CCTV camera in their area.
- Councillor Hicks asked what the state of the cameras are in Fenland and how many need replacing? Councillor Wallwork stated the CCTV system in place is pristine with excellent picture quality and openly invited anyone from the O&S Panel to come and visit the CCTV room for themselves to experience what the team can see and the quality of service.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked how will Active Fenland maintain the attendance levels despite the reduced funding they have had? Councillor Wallwork responded that realistically Active Fenland will not because there is not going to be the funding anymore and those staff members will be going over to the new provider that is running events. She continued that, FDC will still hold a 20 hour post so certain elements will still be delivered like the tea dance and the ramblers, but realistically the attendance will not be the same because FDC do not have the funding and the staff to deliver the projects.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked what actions are being taken to address learning to swim? Councillor Wallwork stated that there are posters all over the venues and it is advertised on social media, the lessons do take place and seem popular.
- Councillor Woppard stated on page 7 of the report regarding housing back into use there are two tables, and they refer to LTP 6-11 months and LTP 12 months asking what does this mean? Councillor Christy responded that LTP stands for Long Term Empty which is over 6 months and LTP stand for Long Term Empty Premium which is over one year.
- Councillor Foice-Beard asked which areas within communities are most at risk of performance deterioration in 2026 Councillor Hoy responded that she felt all homelessness due to demand and does feel this could get worse due to the level and scale of changes being made by the Government.

Members noted the information provided.

OSC29/23 USE OF THE WAIVER PROVISION

Councillor Mrs Davis provided details of the one decision that she had waived the need for notice to be given on the Forward Plan and for call-in procedures.

Members noted the waiver permitted by the Chairman since the date of the last meeting

OSC30/23 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Councillor Mrs Davis stated there was nothing further to report.

OSC31/23 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Booth suggested changing the agenda for the January item and stated that the fees and charges should be before the draft budget and the draft business plan.

Councillor Booth added that in the March meeting there is a visit scheduled for the road safety partnership update, and asked if this is Vision Zero and will there be someone from Vision Zero in attendance because they are the lead in this area.

12.00 pm Chairman

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Agenda Item No:	7
Committee:	Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Date:	19 January 2026
Report Title:	Review of Fees and Charges 2026/27



1 Purpose / Summary

To review the Council's Fees and Charges for 2026/27, in line with the Budget Strategy considered by Cabinet on 15 December 2025.

2 Key issues

- At a separate agenda item, the draft Budget report for 2026/27 highlights the significant financial challenges the Council faces over the medium term and the scale of savings required.
- The current and forecast economic climate dictates that the Council's charges have to remain sympathetic to local people's ability to pay, whilst at the same time maximising income to the Council.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation at September 2025 was 3.8% and currently stands at 3.2% (November 2025), increasing slightly over the last twelve months from a rate of 2.6% (November 2024). As many of the Council's contractual arrangements use the September CPI for increases, this has been reflected, where appropriate in the proposals for increases in 2026/27.
- The Council is experiencing significant inflationary pressures relating to staff costs, energy and fuel costs, contract costs and supplies which are increasing at a higher rate than the prevailing CPI rate. Consequently, the majority of charges where we have discretion to amend are proposed to increase by between 2% - 10% depending on the type of charge.
- The proposed fees and charges for 2026/27 are attached at Appendix A.
- The proposals would, at current usage levels, generate further income from fees and charges of an estimated £82,400. No increase in fees and charges (apart from Garden Waste charges) had been included in the draft budget report so this amount would reduce the current estimated shortfall for 2026/27.
- The estimated additional income assumes current usage/activity levels are maintained for 2026/27. Any reduction in the level of increases proposed or reduced usage/activity levels will reduce the estimated additional income.
- Consequently, alongside the proposed increases, the emphasis is also on maintaining or increasing usage/activity levels in order to maximise income.

3 Recommendations

- Members are asked to consider the proposals contained in this report and at Appendix A and to recommend to Cabinet the Fees and Charges to be included in the final budget proposals for 2026/27.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder, Finance
Report Originator(s)	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Contact Officer(s)	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Background Paper(s)	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and General Fund Budget 2026/27.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy and General Fund Budget 2026/27 considered by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 highlighted the significant challenges the Council faces over the medium term. Further details are contained in the draft budget report at a separate agenda item.
- 1.2 When reviewing the current level of fees and charges, officers have been mindful of the following principles:
 - (i) The current economic climate and the consequential impact on residents and businesses;
 - (ii) CPI Inflation at September 2025 was 3.8% and currently stands at 3.2% (November 2025), a slight increase over the last twelve months (2.6% in November 2024);
 - (iii) The need to remain competitive and maintain/increase activity levels;
 - (iv) Flexibility in the charging regime to encourage increased usage and to assist with meeting Corporate Priorities;
 - (v) The need to maximise income levels to assist with funding the Medium Term Financial Forecasts.
- 1.3 The Council is experiencing significant inflationary pressures relating to staff costs, energy and fuel costs, contract costs and supplies which are increasing at a higher rate than the prevailing CPI rate. Consequently, the majority of charges where we have discretion to amend are proposed to increase by between 2% - 10% depending on the type of charge.
- 1.4 The proposals would, at current usage levels, generate further income from fees and charges of an estimated £82,400. No increase in fees and charges (apart from Garden Waste charges) had been included in the draft budget report so this amount would reduce the current estimated shortfall for 2026/27.

2 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The proposed fees and charges for 2026/27, together with comparisons with current charges, percentage increase and financial impact are detailed at Appendix A.
- 2.2 Many of the fees and charges are non-vatable and are shown in Appendix A as either exempt(e), non-business(n) or zero-rated(z). All other charges are standard rated and shown inclusive of VAT, with the exception of the charges for South Fens Enterprise Centre, South Fens Business Centre, The Boathouse and Sutton Bridge Moorings, which are shown excluding VAT.
- 2.3 Some of the fees and charges are set centrally by government and other bodies and apply to all local authorities. These are included in Appendix A and cover the following:
 - Licensing Fees issued under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.
 - Electoral Registration.
 - Environmental Health – Process Authorisation Fees and Ship Sanitation Certificates.
 - Planning Fees – annual increases by CPI as determined by government.There is no discretion in the setting of these fees.
- 2.4 Planning Fees are determined by government and following significant increases with effect from 6 December 2023, (Major Development application fees increased by 35% and

by 25% for all other applications), from 1 April 2025, planning application fees will be subject to an annual indexation, capped at 10%.

- 2.5 Taking into account the principles detailed in 1.2 above, all Service Teams have assessed their charges for 2026/27 and their proposals are detailed in Appendix A.
- 2.6 Detailed service proposals are contained in the following sections together with some commentary explaining the rationale for the proposed charges for 2026/27. The following sections are in the same order as detailed in Appendix A.

3 GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

3.1 Wisbech Port – Statutory Harbour Dues (Wisbech & Sutton Bridge - Harbour & Light Dues, Conservancy Dues, Pilotage Dues and Additional Charges), Wharfage Dues (Wisbech only), Yacht Harbour (Wisbech only)

Statutory Dues

- Members will be aware that this Council is the Statutory Harbour Authority for the River Nene from Wisbech to the Bar Flat Buoy in The Wash. The Council is allowed to set charges to recover costs over a period of time, a principle re-iterated by the Department for Transport who have previously emphasised that there should not be any 'substantial or continuing subsidy from a local authority's general funds to its port'.
- These costs should be recovered from the charges levied on ships visiting Wisbech and Sutton Bridge using the Harbour Authority/Pilotage service. However, as a result of a continuing significant downturn in the number of ships visiting Port Sutton Bridge (and to a lesser extent Wisbech) over the past few years, the income received falls significantly short of the costs to provide this service.
- A review of the Port operations was undertaken during 2025/26 in order to identify sustainable options over the medium and long-term. This included a re-assessment of the costs of providing the service together with a charging policy which seeks to recover costs from the lower number of ships visiting the Port. Even with the reductions in costs and an increase in fees the deficit of the Port operations still remains high. Based on the projected out-turn for the Statutory Harbour service in 2025/26 the fees would need to be increased by 74% to cover the projected expenditure.
- A further report about the Port operations was taken to Cabinet in December 2025 which identified a plan of action which will be implemented in 2026.
- As an interim measure, pending the outcome of the review and to continue to reduce the deficit in operating these services, it is proposed to increase the Statutory Dues by 3.8% (September 2025 CPI).

Commercial Fees

- As with the Statutory Fees above, the income from Commercial Fees (mainly Wharfage Dues at Wisbech) falls significantly short of the costs of providing these services.
- These services will also form part of the current review of Port operations. Based on the limited number of ships visiting Wisbech, the fees for the commercial operation would need to increase substantially in order to recover costs.
- Pending the outcome of the review and to continue to reduce the deficit in operating this service, it is proposed to increase the Commercial Dues by 3.8% (September 2025 CPI).
- Additional charges at Wisbech Port are currently set at a level to recover costs and in order to keep pace with increased costs, these charges are proposed to increase by around 3.8%.

- Based on the estimated number of ships visiting Wisbech and Port Sutton Bridge in 2026/27, the proposed 3.8% increase in Statutory and Commercial Dues would generate around an additional £17,312 income. However, this is entirely dependent on achieving the estimated ship numbers visiting the Port. Consequently, this additional income is far from certain and should be treated with caution.

Yacht Harbour and Ancillary Charges

- As with the Statutory and Commercial Fees above, the income from mooring fees at the Yacht Harbour falls short of the costs of providing these services.
- It is important to note however that the moorings and ancillary services provided by the Council at the Yacht Harbour are discretionary services and do not have the same legislative requirements associated with the Statutory and Commercial operations at the Port. The principle of setting charges to cover costs (based on estimated occupancy levels) is however the same.
- Following the completion of the Sutton Bridge moorings, the Council has entered into an agreement with Lincolnshire County Council, who own the moorings, to manage them on their behalf. This includes the collection of berthing rates.

Mini-Factories, Venture Court, South Fens Enterprise Centre, South Fens Business Centre and The Boathouse

- Rents have been reviewed in light of current occupancy rates and market comparisons. Following the changes agreed for 2024/25 (which removed the maximum rent ranges and also the minimum rent charge at South Fens Business Centre) it is proposed to increase the minimum rent charges by around 15% for the Mini-Factories, by around 18% for the South Fens Enterprise Centre and by around 1.5% for The Boathouse, with the minimum rent charge at Venture Court remaining the same. These proposals are considered to be appropriate for the local market. Actual rents are negotiable above the minimum charge per square foot/metre.
- The proposed rents would apply to new tenants and following rent reviews for existing tenants. Consequently, any estimate of additional income generated from these changes should be treated with caution.
- There has been a significant impact on room hire income over the past few years resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. It is also proposed not to increase these for 2025/26 as these are set at a level to recover costs.

4 COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE & PLANNING SERVICES

4.1 Environment Charges

- Generally, charges set at the discretion of the Council have been increased by around CPI.
- Process Authorisation Fees and Ship Sanitation Certificates are increased annually in line with DEFRA and the Association of Port Health Authorities recommended charges which have yet to be received.

4.2 Cemeteries Service

- The Council provides a burial service in 6 cemeteries across the District, whilst maintaining another 15 closed cemeteries. FDC works hard to make sure that the cemeteries are well kept places to visit. In order to deliver what visitors to the cemeteries expect, we work together with our contractor, Tivoli Group, to ensure that high standards are maintained.
- There are a variety of percentage increases in fees proposed and this is to ensure the fees reflect the cost of providing (direct contractor costs are expected to increase) and investing in the service (new Bereavement software is being procured to manage the

service more effectively) and the limited size of the cemeteries themselves. The proposed fees remain comparable with neighbouring authorities.

4.3 Commercial and Chargeable Household Waste Services

- The commercial waste services are subject to competition from the private sector. However, the service continues to be subject to higher than CPI cost increases, particularly in relation to staff costs, waste disposal costs, recycling sorting and treatment costs and fleet costs. Consequently, all charges have increased with some by up to around 10%. The proposed charges are still considered to be competitive.
- The Bulky Household Waste collection charge has been rationalised in recent years to make the charges more transparent and easier to calculate for customers, thereby supporting the approach to reduce the appeal of illegal collection services. For 2025/26 the minimum fee is proposed to increase to £40.00 (for up to 5 items) with a proposed increase in each item above 5 to £8.00. This is to reflect the continued increases in service costs.
- With effect from April 2017, the Council has been operating a chargeable garden waste service. Full details of the scheme and charges are contained in various reports to Members throughout the last seven years. As the charges for 2026/27 have already been set (annual subscription if paid by direct debit increased to £49 and if paid by debit card/cash, to increase to £60), the estimated financial impact of the scheme has been included in the draft budget 2026/27.

4.4 Markets and Fairs

- It is proposed that charges increase by around CPI.

4.5 Leisure Services

- Members will be aware that from 4 December 2018 new management arrangements are in place at the Council's Leisure Centres. The setting of charges at the leisure centres (with a few minor exceptions) are now the responsibility of Freedom Leisure, the management contractor.

4.6 Travellers Sites

- The Council operates and manages 5 sites comprising 64 pitches, situated in Wisbech, Wisbech St. Mary, Murrow, Parson Drove and Chatteris, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council (who owns them). Site rents (including water charges) are proposed to increase by 5.3% in order to continue to cover costs and provide the necessary services and improvements to the sites. Any surpluses generated from these rents are re-invested in the sites in accordance with the management arrangements agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council.

4.7 Homeless Persons Accommodation

- The council is reviewing support requirements for residents at Creek Road hostel. The rationale is the creation of a new service that delivers an in-house support and management service to provide hands on support for clients who are homeless and residing within the 7 units at 372-374 Creek Road March. The work helps reduce the risk of repeat cycle of homelessness when the client is rehoused. A new post has been created to do this work.
- The additional support is to be funded by the introduction of a housing support management service charge which is shown within the separated out eligible service charge. At the same time service charges have been reviewed and are proposed to be increased to fully recover the costs of the additional services that tenants receive at the hostel. The rent is proposed to be increased to the local housing authority (LHA) rate in the Broad Rental Market Area.

- The charges now include for Rent, Eligible Service Charge (for reclaimable Housing Benefit Subsidy) and an Ineligible Service Charge (not reclaimable from Housing Benefit Subsidy). As a result of the above changes to the service, Rent and Service Charges have increased substantially.
- No increases in rents of the temporary accommodation properties (leased from Clarion) are being proposed as this would adversely affect the amount of housing benefit subsidy the Council would receive.
- As the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) properties are owned by the Council, Broad Rental Market Area rents are charged for these properties as there is no impact on housing benefit subsidy for those tenants in receipt of housing benefit. No rent increases are proposed for these properties in line with the government proposals to freeze Local Housing Allowance rates in 2025.
- Members will be aware that the Council is currently in the process of identifying further properties to purchase to help reduce the significant cost of providing temporary accommodation (eg. Bed & Breakfast) for homeless persons.

4.8 Planning Fees

- Planning Fees are determined by government and following significant increases with effect from 6 December 2023, (Major Development application fees increased by 35% and by 25% for all other applications), from 1 April 2026, planning application fees will be subject to an annual indexation, capped at 10%.
- Ancillary charges are proposed to increase by 3.8% (September CPI) but very limited income is generated from these.

4.9 Licensing

- Licensing Fees issued under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 are set by government and no increases are proposed for 2026/27.
- Following a review of officer time to complete tasks associated with Animal Welfare Licensing, the majority of fees for 2026/27 are proposed to increase above CPI but now better reflect the cost of providing this service.
- Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licences charges for 2026/27 are proposed to generally increase by CPI. The exception is for Vehicle Licences where it is proposed to align the new and renewal charges for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles. Overall, the proposed charges still do not recover the costs of providing the service.
- Should Cabinet at their meeting on 26 January 2026, recommend increasing the charges as detailed in Appendix A, it will be necessary to conduct a 28 day consultation on the proposed charges for 2026/27. Only when the consultation has successfully concluded can any changes be implemented.

5 RESOURCES & CUSTOMER SERVICES

5.1 Land Charges

- From September 2022, Full Residential or Commercial Searches as well as an LLC1 only search became the responsibility of HM Land Registry and consequently we no longer need to set a charge for these searches.
- This Council will continue to provide replies to CON 29 residential and commercial enquiries as well as additional questions. It is proposed that FDC's element of these charges are increased by between 2.4% - 3.8% for 2026/27 to better reflect the cost of providing this service.
- Some of the fees contain an element set by Cambridgeshire County Council and they have not provided any proposed increases for 2026/27 at the time of this report.

6 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

6.1 The proposals in sections 3.5 above and Appendix A would, at current usage levels, generate further net income from fees and charges of an estimated £82,400. No increase in fees and charges had been included in the draft budget report (apart from Garden Waste charges) so this amount would reduce the current estimated shortfall for 2026/27. The estimated additional income assumes current usage/activity levels are maintained for 2026/27. Any reduction in the level of increases proposed or reduced usage/activity levels will reduce the estimated additional income.

6.2 The total estimated fees and charges which will be included in the final budget report for 2026/27, will consider both the agreed level of fees together with the latest estimated usage/activity levels which may well be different than those assumed in the draft budget report.

2026/27 Fees and Charges - with effect from 1 April 2025

Service Group

Growth & Infrastructure
Communities, Environment, Leisure & Planning
Resources & Customer Services

Note :

The charges are inclusive of standard rate VAT (except for charges for South Fens Enterprise Centre, South Fens Business Centre and The Boathouse, which are shown excluding VAT) unless they are shown as:

- Exempt (e).
- Non-Business (n)
- Zero Rated (z).

Note : standard rate VAT applicable: from 04.01.11 20%

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
PORT OF WISBECH AUTHORITY (NENE PORTS) FEES & CHARGES				
1. Harbour and Light Dues				£4,400
a. To Wisbech - per G.T.	0.84 (z)	0.87 (z)	3.8%	
b. To Sutton Bridge - per G.T.	0.56 (z)	0.58 (z)	3.8%	
Oil Spill Prevention Charge - per ship per visit	31.48 (z)	32.68 (z)	3.8%	
2. Conservancy Dues				£3,490
a. To Wisbech - per G.T.	0.63 (z)	0.65 (z)	3.8%	
b. To Sutton Bridge - per G.T.	0.50 (z)	0.52 (z)	3.8%	
3. Wharfage Dues (Wisbech Only)				£2,682
(i) Steel & Iron products - per tonne	0.84 (z)	0.88 (z)	3.8%	
(ii) Timber (Deals, battens, boards etc) - per cu.m.	0.86 (z)	0.90 (z)	3.8%	
(iii) Timber (Plywood, hardboard etc) - per cu.m.	1.09 (z)	1.13 (z)	3.8%	
(iv) Grain, Animal Feeds - per tonne	0.80 (z)	0.83 (z)	3.8%	
(v) Fertilisers, Sand, Salt - per tonne	0.97 (z)	1.01 (z)	3.8%	
(vi) Aggregates - per tonne	0.97 (z)	1.01 (z)	3.8%	
(vii) Bricks - per tonne	0.84 (z)	0.88 (z)	3.8%	
(viii) Scrap Metal - per tonne	1.35 (z)	1.40 (z)	3.8%	
(ix) RDF Bales - per tonne	1.22 (z)	1.27 (z)	3.8%	
(x) ISPS Charge - per ship per visit	56.71 (z)	58.86 (z)	3.8%	
4. Mandatory Waste Fee (Wisbech only)				
Contribution towards disposal of ships' waste and garbage disposal, in accordance with MARPOL regulations - per ship per visit	121.00	125.60	3.8%	
5. Pilotage and Boarding & Landing Dues				£6,740
a For a vessel to Wisbech - total for inward and outward - per G.T.				
(i) 1000 or below (Minimum - Lump Sum)	1,254.56 (z)	1,302.23 (z)	3.8%	
(ii) exceeding 1000	1.26 (z)	1.30 (z)	3.8%	
b For a vessel to Sutton Bridge - total for inward and outward - per G.T.				
(i) 1000 or below (Minimum - Lump Sum)	941.77 (z)	977.55 (z)	3.8%	
(ii) exceeding 1000	0.94 (z)	0.98 (z)	3.8%	
Additional Charges (excluding any charges imposed by terminal operators or agents in respect of attendance at ships by boatmen / ropemen or other personnel)				£2,000
c Detention If a pilot is detained on board or taken to another port as a result of extreme weather or other unavoidable causes: a charge per hour of up to a maximum of The ship will also be liable for any public transportation costs of the pilot's return to port of boarding and subsistence charges during this time.	180.70 (z) 2,710.00 (z)	187.57 (z) 2,812.98 (z)	3.8% 3.8%	
d 'Dead Ship' For <i>force Majeure</i> pilotage of a vessel without the use of main engine/s, the compulsory pilotage rate is as per 4(a) and 4(b) plus 100%.				
e Harbour Services Vessel movements in harbour area including mooring and unmooring and moving berth, Draft Surveys, a flat rate charge of	180.70 (z)	187.57 (z)	3.8%	
f Attendance For pilotage subsequently not required for a tide or failure to make ETA/ETD or vessel does not arrive as advised, a flat rate of For inward passage cancelled following attendance, a further flat rate charge for boarding service of 1 hour pilot boat at per hour	180.70 (z) 505.75 (z)	187.57 (z) 524.97 (z)	3.8% 3.8%	
g Pilot Exemption Certificate Application (Processing fee) For a Master of any vessel over 20m working in the harbour jurisdiction without a pilot must apply for a PEC, subject to approval from the Harbour	388.50	403.26	3.8%	
h Pilot Exemption Fee 25% of Full Pilotage (per day)				
i Dredging/Bed Levelling (Charge per Hour) Minimum of 3 hours, plus mobilisation (see below) Tariff rates for Dredging/Bed Levelling apply only within the port areas of Wisbech and Sutton Bridge. Others by negotiation.	545.25	565.97	3.8%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
j Towing (Charge per Hour) Minimum of 2 hours within the confines of the harbour areas, plus mobilisation/cancellation time (see below) Minimum of 4 hours for a stern tow from seaward to Sutton Bridge, plus mobilisation time (see below)	545.25 (z)	565.97 (z)	3.8%	
	545.25 (z)	565.97 (z)	3.8%	
k Mobilisation/Cancellation fee Time (Charge per Hour) Charge for passage to place towing vessel on station, with a Minimum of 1 hour. No charge will apply if cancelled 4 hrs before HW	236.10 (z)	245.07 (z)	3.8%	
l Surveying Per day or part thereof, hire of equipment Per hour, for processing results Cancellation fee of 40% of completed works	235.90 127.10	244.86 131.93	3.8% 3.8%	
m Harbour vessel's workboat hire (Charge per hour) Per hour, Minimum 4 hours, small boat hire Orca WB1 Per hour, minimum 4 hours, small workboat hire Nene Surveyor Per hour, minimum 4 hours, pilot boat hire Nene Pilot, Fenland Pilot Per hour, minimum 4 hours, Fenlander Tug	348.35 392.50 505.75 545.25	361.59 407.42 524.97 565.97	3.8% 3.8% 3.8% 3.8%	
Charges for i and l above, if during weekends or between 18:00 and 06:00 on any week day shall be +50% Tariff rates for surveying apply only within the port areas of Wisbech and Sutton Bridge. Others by negotiation.				
n Marine Works Application Processing Fee (minimum)	346.15	359.30	3.8%	
o Duty Officer Call Out Charge Out of hours (per hour) - 1600 - 0800	127.10	131.93	3.8%	
p Marine Works Superintendence - per hour (minimum 1 hour)	127.10	131.93	3.8%	
q Pilot Ordering All Pilots must be ordered 12 hours before HW, a late notice charge will be applied for each pilot ordered after this time Pilots ordered between 12 - 4 hours before HW, a late notice charge No Pilots to be ordered after 4 hours before HW	479.70	497.93	3.8%	
r Harbour Master Superintendance - per hour (minimum 1 hour)	167.10	173.45	3.8%	
s Local Notice to Mariners A charge will apply where the Harbour Authority has to raise a Local Notice to Mariners (LNTM) on behalf of third parties, of	226.85	235.47	3.8%	
Small Commercial Vessels - Non Resident.				
<u>Mooring on Authority's Pontoons at Sutton Bridge or Wisbech</u>				
Per metre LOA per 24 hours or part thereof	8.10	8.41	3.8%	
Per metre per 7 days	35.10	36.43	3.8%	
Small Commercial Vessels - Resident/Non Resident				
Harbour & Light Dues & Conservancy Charge per vessel per visit.	29.45 (z)	30.57 (z)	3.8%	
Fuel Transfer Charge or Permission to fuel from tanker or across Authority's property.				
Per vessel per bunker and subject to 24 hours notice and Harbour Master's permission.	55.05	57.14	3.8%	
NB for purposes of this tariff addendum, Small Commercial Vessels are deemed those certified under the MCA Small Commercial Code of Practice and/or 24 metres LOA or below.				
Commercial Vessels - Lay By Wisbech Commercial Quay				
For all commercial vessels other than defined small commercial vessels, a charge per gross tonne shall apply per entry as follows.	1.15	1.19	3.8%	
An entry shall permit a maximum stay of four days after which further layby berthing dues become payable. Minimum 4 days.				
Harbour & Light Dues, Pilotage, Conservancy, ship's waste, oil spill and ISPS charges as per tariff.				
Wisbech ship berths are NAABSA berths and vessels are subject to being required to move on demand. If dead ship, berthing conditions are strictly by prior agreement with the Harbour Master.				
VAT payable where applicable. All charges fall due on demand and before departure unless account facilities have been applied for and approved in advance.				

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
6. Wisbech Yacht Harbour (All Rates include VAT at standard rate)				
a (i) Pontoon Berths - Contract (Long Term) Berthing Rates				
Standard Term - (Vessel LOA greater than 6.0m)				
Per annum	Rate/metre £	Rate/metre £		
Per annum outside or inside hammer-head berths	194.50	194.50	0.0%	
Per annum on commercial linear berths	215.00	215.00	0.0%	
'Budget' or 'Day Boat' (vessels between 3.6m and 6.0m LOA) rates are subject to a 15% discount on the actual rates but do not qualify for winter discounts.	215.00	215.00	0.0%	
Port of Wisbech Authority Annual Licence	21.00 (z)	22.00 (z)	4.8%	£80
Note				
- Rates apply afloat or for storage ashore but exclude boat lift charges.				
- For vessels arriving mid-term, charges are pro-rata.				
- Rates above apply given payment in full at point of invoice.				
Payment can be staggered but:-				
Two payments	plus 5%			
Four payments	plus 9%			
Twelve payments	plus 13%			
(ii) Sutton Bridge Moorings	charges shown net of VAT			
(Rates exclude VAT at standard rate)	(25/26 Year 3 of CPI + 5%)			
Pontoon Berths - Berthing Rates per annum	188.00	188.00	0.0%	
b Pontoon Berths - Non-Contract (Visitor) Berthing Rates (Including Port of Wisbech Authority licence contribution)				
Daily - per 24 hours (minimum charge £17.00)	Rate/metre £	Rate/metre £		
Weekly (7 days)	2.75	2.75	0.0%	
Monthly (28 days)	13.75	13.75	0.0%	
April - October	35.50	35.50	0.0%	
Special Events	POA	POA		
Tenders (up to 3.5m LOA) - per month	45.50	45.50	0.0%	
Short Stay Berth (Subject to availability) Max 2 hrs, not overnight	No charge	No charge		
Sail Training Vessels	Less 20%	Less 20%		
Club Rallies of over 2 Boats per visit	Less 20%	Less 20%		
Narrow Boats over 11m LOA	Less 20%	Less 20%		
Weather-bound craft maximum of one week	Less 20%	Less 20%		
Winter Storage Afloat				
November to March per month	30.00	30.00	0.0%	
Full five months	117.00	117.00	0.0%	
Conditions of Use				
This tariff should be read in conjunction with the Wisbech Yacht Harbour Terms and Conditions of Use and the Berthing Licence.				
1 All contracts are subject to availability and all fees payable in advance.				
2 Cancelled contracts will attract a cancellation fee of 15% of the total contract value.				
3 An administration fee of 10% may be applied to all non-contract charges which are invoiced against any vessel which leaves the Yacht Harbour before settlement of an account.				
4 Berthing charges include Port of Wisbech harbour dues, portable water for filling tanks and access to Yacht Harbour facilities. NB Visiting craft are not guaranteed an alongside berth and depending on availability may be required to raft up.				
5 Multi-hulled vessels may be subject to a surcharge of 1.5 times actual rate.				
6 Commercial vessels, (those not designed and/or used for leisure purposes), may be subject to a surcharge of actual costs as a result of charges levied by Local or Statutory authorities.				
7 LOA, (length overall), is the maximum length of any vessel and includes overhangs (push pits, pull pits, bowsprits, davits, etc)				£990
Administration charge for visiting vessels leaving without paying dues in full	39.75	41.00	3.1%	
Administration charge for each debtor account referred for collection	146.00	151.00	3.4%	
Administration charge for change in billing method after berthing application is accepted or extension to contract period or agreed period in Crab Marsh Boat Yard per month between 1st April and 31st March	39.75	41.00	3.1%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
c Ancillary Charges All yard services apply from 08:30 to 16:30 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays. Otherwise charges are plus 100%. Any emergency weekend lifting plus 100%				
(i) Boat lifting - Up to 15m LOA or 20 tonnes				
Lift Out To yard, including shoring up using boat cradle/stands. Per metre Minimum Charge Yard charge applies for non-contract rate at Non-Contract (Visitor) Berthing Rates	23.50 158.25	24.50 165.00	4.3% 4.3%	
Relaunch/Lift onto Trailer Per metre. Minimum Charge	23.50 158.25	24.50 165.00	4.3% 4.3%	
(ii) Vessels over 15m LOA and /or 20 tonnes to 55 tonnes plus 30%.				
Lift Out To yard, including shoring up using boat cradle/stands. Per metre Marine Service waiting charge per hour per person	32.75 51.50	34.00 60.00	3.8% 16.5%	
Relaunch/Lift onto Trailer Per metre.	32.75	34.00	3.8%	
Yard charge applies for non-contract rate at Non-Contract (Visitor) Berthing Rates				
(iii) Lift out Hold in Slings (subject to availability). Per metre, per 30 minutes Return to water	11.75	12.25	4.3%	
Hire of Yacht harbour Cradles (subject to availability) per annum / pro rata per cradle	136.00	140.00	2.9%	
Hire of electric pressure washer (subject to availability). Per use.	43.50	43.50	0.0%	
Hire of petrol pressure washer (subject to availability). Per day. Plus Fuel.	93.00	93.00	0.0%	
Hire of petrol pressure washer (subject to availability). Per week. Plus Fuel.	186.00	186.00	0.0%	
(iv) Boom Crane Lifting. Max 3 tonnes.				
Engine lift , per engine, per hour or part.	94.50	94.50	0.0%	
Comercial Engine Lift	POA	POA		
Small boat lift . Per metre each way.	20.00	20.00	0.0%	
Minimum charge each way.	65.00	70.00	7.7%	
(v) Other Services				
Marine Services Labour (min 2 hours) For any additional work per hour, including the following:- Cleaning boat yard if left untidy. Boat movement by yard staff (plus Harbour vessel's workboat hire) Mast stepping/unstepping. Pressure wash by yard.	60.00	60.00	0.0%	
Mast Storage . Per mast up to 12m vessel LOA. Single payment . Over 12m vessel LOA. Single payment.	67.75 94.75	70.00 98.00	3.3% 3.4%	
Boat Trailer or Cradle Storage (subject to availability of space). p/a	96.50	100.00	3.6%	
Miscellaneous Storage Ancillary per sq mtr, per annum, subject to availability and permission	53.75	56.00	4.2%	
Marina pump out . Per use, subject to availability.	20.00	20.00	0.0%	
Non boatyard temporary hard standing . Subject to availability. Charges as per non contract berthing rates.				
Hire of forklift and operator . Up to 2.8 tonne lifts. First half hour or part. Per additional hour	94.50 60.00	98.00 60.00	3.7% 0.0%	
Electricity By prepaid card from Harbour Office RFID Electric Card refundable (New charge) Gate Access Card - Yacht Harbour	0.00 18.00	20.00 18.00	New 0.0%	
Tradesmen's Licence . Annual working permit. Tradesmen to work in boatyard, yacht harbour or slipway. Subject to insurance and Harbour Master's approval.	149.50	150.00	0.3%	
Crab Marsh Work Shop Premium under cover boat storage - (short term per month)	199.00	199.00	0.0%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
7. Sewage Disposal				
Properties not connected to mains sewer				
Private dwellings				
Service charge (per annum)				
Standing charge (per annum)				
Charges to Clarion as per the Transfer Agreement				
March Sanitation Point				
Boat Pump-Out tokens	16.50	16.50	0.0%	
Sanitation Point Keys	6.30	6.30	0.0%	
8. Mini Factories				
Rents negotiable within:				
Bolness Road/New Drove/Prospect Way/Longhill				
a. the minimum - per square foot and;	7.50 (e)	8.00 (e)	6.7%	
* b. the maximum - per square foot	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
c. the minimum - per square metre and;	80.73 (e)	86.11 (e)	6.7%	
* d. the maximum - per square metre	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
Venture Court				
a. the minimum - per square foot and;	7.20 (e)	8.00 (e)	11.1%	
* b. the maximum - per square foot	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
c. the minimum - per square metre and;	77.50 (e)	86.11 (e)	11.1%	
* d. the maximum - per square metre	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
South Fens Enterprise Centre	charges shown net of VAT			
a. the minimum - per square foot and;	8.50	8.75	2.9%	
* b. the maximum - per square foot	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
c. the minimum - per square metre and;	91.49	94.18	2.9%	
* d. the maximum - per square metre	<i>No upper limit wef 01.04.24</i>			
It should be noted that VAT is applicable on rental income at Venture House, Venture Court & South Fens Enterprise Park				
Includes charges for acceptable trade refuse collection and disposal, insurance, water rates (where applicable), and site maintenance.				
* to be applied when market forces dictate				
9. South Fens Business Centre, Chatteris	charges shown net of VAT			
a. the minimum - per square foot and;		No upper or lower limit with effect from 01.04.24		
* b. the maximum - per square foot				
c. the minimum - per square metre and;		No upper or lower limit with effect from 01.04.24		
* d. the maximum - per square metre				
e. Catering				
Tea and coffee per head	1.50	1.50	0.0%	
Orange Juice per jug	3.60	3.60	0.0%	
** f. Weekday room charges (Mon-Fri 8.30-1700)				
<i>External rate - per hour</i>				
Beech	44.00	44.00	0.0%	
Oak/Apple	27.20	27.20	0.0%	
Small Meeting rooms (first hr free)	17.35	17.35	0.0%	
Large Meeting rooms (first hr free)	22.00	22.00	0.0%	
<i>External rate - per half day (Mon-Fri 8.30-12.30 or 13.00-1700)</i>				
Beech	104.15	104.15	0.0%	
Oak/Apple	76.35	76.35	0.0%	
Small Meeting rooms (first hr free)	39.35	39.35	0.0%	
Large Meeting rooms (first hr free)	53.25	53.25	0.0%	
<i>External rate - per full day</i>				
Beech	185.15	185.15	0.0%	
Oak/Apple	134.20	134.20	0.0%	
Small Meeting rooms (first hr free)	61.95	61.95	0.0%	
Large Meeting rooms (first hr free)	88.00	88.00	0.0%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
** g. Evenings/Weekend room charges <i>External rate - per hour</i> Beech Oak/Apple <i>External rate - per half day</i> Beech Oak/Apple <i>External rate - per full day</i> Beech Oak/Apple	81.00 68.25 215.25 162.00 446.70 366.85	81.00 68.25 215.25 162.00 446.70 366.85	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
* to be applied when market forces dictate ** Business Premises Tenant rates at 75% of External Rate (ie. 25% discount)				
10. The Boathouse, Wisbech charges shown net of VAT				
a. the minimum - per square foot and; * b. the maximum (suites GF1 to FF38) - per square foot * c. the maximum (suites FF39 & FF40) - per square foot	20.00 <i>No upper limit effective from 01.04.24</i>	22.00	10.0%	
d. the minimum - per square metre and; * e. the maximum - per square metre * f. the maximum (suites FF39 & FF40) - per square metre	215.28 <i>No upper limit effective from 01.04.24</i>	236.81	10.0%	
g. Catering Tea and coffee per head Orange Juice per jug	1.50 3.60	1.50 3.60	0.0% 0.0%	
** h. Weekday room charges (Mon-Fri 8.30-1700) <i>External rate - per hour</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2 The Gallery Meeting rooms	44.00 27.20 24.90 17.35	44.00 27.20 24.90 17.35	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
<i>External rate - per half day (Mon-Fri 8.30-12.30 or 13.00-1700)</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2 The Gallery Meeting rooms	104.15 76.35 69.35 39.35	104.15 76.35 69.35 39.35	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
<i>External rate - per full day</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2 The Gallery Meeting rooms	185.15 134.20 122.65 61.95	185.15 134.20 122.65 61.95	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
** i. Evenings/Weekend room charges <i>External rate - per hour</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2 <i>External rate - per half day</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2 <i>External rate - per full day</i> Richard Young Large Lambton/Young 1 or 2	81.00 68.25 215.25 162.00 446.70 366.85	81.00 68.25 215.25 162.00 446.70 366.85	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
* to be applied when market forces dictate ** Business Premises Tenant rates at 75% of External Rate (ie. 25% discount)				

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
1. Licences and Certificates				
a. Unfit Food Certificates (i) - per hour inclusive of travelling expenses (ii) - minimum charge	102.00 (n) 54.00 (n)	106.00 (n) 56.00 (n)	3.9% 3.7%	
b. Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FTRS) Re-scoring food businesses upon request (fee set to recover cost)	140.00	145.00	3.6%	
c. Export Certificates per hour inclusive of travel	102.00 (n)	106.00 (n)	3.9%	
d. Acupuncture/Cosmetic piercing/Electrolysis/Semi-permanent skin colouring (i) - Licence fee (ii) - renewal/transfer/variation	192.00 (n) 54.00 (n)	200.00 (n) 56.00 (n)	4.2% 3.7%	
e. Detained Food - Recovery of commercial storage costs and officer time	12.50 (n)	13.00 (n)	4.0%	
f. Copy licence or certificate				
2. Stray Dogs				
Return of Stray Dog plus kennelling fee plus administration fee	- includes statutory fee of £25.00 - per day or part thereof - per dog	84.00 (n) 25.50 (n) 18.50	87.00 (n) 26.50 (n) 19.00	3.6% 3.9% 2.7%
3. Training Courses				
a. FDC Refresher, COSHH; Risk Assessment; Manual Handling b. FDC regulatory business support pack (hourly rate - coaching plus travel) c. Safer Food Better Business Training Pack	or price on application or price on application	47.50 (e) 102.00 (e) 30.00 (e)	49.00 (e) 106.00 (e) 31.00 (e)	3.2% 3.9% 3.3%
4. Process Authorisation Fees	Set by DEFRA			
a. Application fees				
Standard		1,650.00 (n)	1,650.00 (n)	0.0%
Additional fee for operating without a permit		1,188.00 (n)	1,188.00 (n)	0.0%
Petrol Vapour Recovery I, Small Waste Oil Burner and Dry Cleaners Reduced Fee Activities		155.00 (n)	155.00 (n)	0.0%
Petrol Vapour Recovery I and II combined		257.00 (n)	257.00 (n)	0.0%
Other Reduced Fee Activities		362.00 (n)	362.00 (n)	0.0%
Reduced fee activities: Additional fee for operating without a permit		71.00 (n)	71.00 (n)	0.0%
Standard Mobile Plant for the 1st & 2nd applications		1,650.00 (n)	1,650.00 (n)	0.0%
for the 3rd to 7th applications		985.00 (n)	985.00 (n)	0.0%
for the 8th and subsequent applications		498.00 (n)	498.00 (n)	0.0%
Where an application for any of the above is for a combined Part B and waste application, add an extra £297 to the above amounts				
b. Annual Subsistence Charge				
Standard Process (Low)		£772 (+£104)* (n)	£772 (+£104)* (n)	0.0%
Standard process Medium		£1161 (+156)* (n)	£1161 (+156)* (n)	0.0%
Standard process High		£1747 (+207)* (n)	£1747 (+207)* (n)	0.0%
Reduced fee activities Low/Med/High		£79 / £158 / £237 (n)	£79 / £158 / £237 (n)	0.0%
PVR I & II combined		£113 / £226 / £341 (n)	£113 / £226 / £341 (n)	0.0%
Other Reduced Fee Activities Low/Med/High		£228 / £365 / £548 (n)	£228 / £365 / £548 (n)	0.0%
Standard Mobile Plant 1st & 2nd permits Low/Med/High		£626 / £1034 / £1551 (n)	£626 / £1034 / £1551 (n)	0.0%
for the 3rd to 7th permits Low/Med/High		£385 / £617 / £924 (n)	£385 / £617 / £924 (n)	0.0%
8th and subsequent permits Low/Med/High		£198 / £314 / £473 (n)	£198 / £314 / £473 (n)	0.0%
Late payment Fee		£52 (n)	£52 (n)	0.0%
* the additional amounts in brackets must be charged where a permit is for a combined Part B and waste installation				
Where a Part B installation is subject to reporting under the E-PRTR Regulation, add an extra £99 to the above amounts				
c. Transfer and Surrender				
Standard process transfer		169.00 (n)	169.00 (n)	0.0%
Standard process partial transfer		497.00 (n)	497.00 (n)	0.0%
New operator at low risk reduced fee activity (extra one-off subsistence charge - see Art 15(2) of charging s		78.00 (n)	78.00 (n)	0.0%
Surrender: all Part B activities		0.00 (n)	0.00 (n)	0.0%
Reduced fee activities: transfer		0.00 (n)	0.00 (n)	0.0%
Reduced fee activities: partial transfer		53.00 (n)	53.00 (n)	0.0%
Transfer authorising a reduced fee		47.00	47.00	0.0%
d. Temporary transfer for mobiles				
First transfer		53.00 (n)	53.00 (n)	0.0%
Repeat following enforcement or warning		53.00 (n)	53.00 (n)	0.0%
e. Substantial change				
Standard process		1,050.00 (n)	1,050.00 (n)	0.0%
Standard process where the substantial change results in a new PPC activity		1,650.00 (n)	1,650.00 (n)	0.0%
Reduced fee activities		102.00 (n)	102.00 (n)	0.0%
5. Food Premises				
Copy register entries:	Subject to charging policy under Freedom Of Information Act			
6. Ship Sanitation Certificates	Set by Association of Port Health Authorities			
Per Vessel (Gross Tonnage)				
Up to 1,000		125.00 (n)	125.00 (n)	0.0% *
1,001 - 3,000		170.00 (n)	170.00 (n)	0.0% *
3,001 - 10,000		250.00 (n)	250.00 (n)	0.0% *
10,001 - 20,000		325.00 (n)	325.00 (n)	0.0% *
20,001 - 30,000		415.00 (n)	415.00 (n)	0.0% *
Over 30,000		480.00 (n)	480.00 (n)	0.0% *
Vessel capacity between 50 & 1,000 persons		480.00 (n)	480.00 (n)	0.0% *
Vessel capacity over 1,000 persons		820.00 (n)	820.00 (n)	0.0% *
Extensions		95.00 (n)	95.00 (n)	0.0% *
* Increases as per the Association of Port Health Authorities Recommended Charges.				
7. Private Water Supply Regulations 2009	Currently set in line with guidance.			
a. Risk Assessment (each assessment)	- recover costs	max £500 (n)	max £500 (n)	0.0%
b. Sampling (each visit)	- recover costs	max £100 (n)	max £100 (n)	0.0%
c. Investigation (each investigation)	- recover costs	max £100 (n)	max £100 (n)	0.0%
d. Granting an authorisation (each authorisation)	- recover costs	max £100 (n)	max £100 (n)	0.0%
e. Analysing a sample taken under Regulation 10	- recover costs	max £25 (n)	max £25 (n)	0.0%
taken during check monitoring	- recover costs	max £100 (n)	max £100 (n)	0.0%
taken during audit monitoring	- recover costs	max £500 (n)	max £500 (n)	0.0%
8. Contaminated Land Enquiries	Contaminated land enquiries for information beyond the scope of Environmental Information Regulations - minimum 2 hrs officer time	200.00 (n)	206.00 (n)	3.0%

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
9. Burial Grounds				£12,300
For the purpose of the Cemetery Fees, a 'Resident' is defined as a person who at the time of death was a resident of the Fenland District OR a former resident who left the Fenland District within two years prior to the date of death to live in a residential nursing or care home.				
The fee for the interment and purchase of the Exclusive Right of Burial will at all times be based upon the residency of the deceased.				
a. Interment Fee for Residents (Including Memorial Safety Inspection Fee)				
Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holiday)				
(i) a still-born or child up to 12 years (Childrens Section)	0.00 (n)	0.00 (n)		
(ii) any person (Lawn Area)	1,495.00 (n)	1,570.00 (n)	5.0%	
(iii) any person (Traditional Area)	1,600.00 (n)	1,670.00 (n)	4.4%	
(iv) for the interment of single casket of cremated remains	480.00 (n)	505.00 (n)	5.2%	
(v) for the interment of additional cremated remains at the same time as (iii) to (v) above	100.00 (n)	105.00 (n)	5.0%	
b. Interment Fee for Non-Resident				
100% added to fees set out in a.				
c. Exclusive Rights of Burial in an Earthen Grave for Residents				
6 ft. x 3 ft. Childrens Plot	120.00 (n)	125.00 (n)	4.2%	
9 ft. x 4 ft. Adult Plot (Lawn Area)	1,225.00 (n)	1,275.00 (n)	4.1%	
9 ft. x 4 ft. Adult Plot (Traditional Area)	1,495.00 (n)	1,555.00 (n)	4.0%	
Cremated remains, size 2ft x 2ft	495.00 (n)	515.00 (n)	4.0%	
Note 1(a) : If ground conditions allow; two standard coffins may be placed in a single grave space				
Note 1(b) : If ground conditions do not allow two standard coffins to be placed in a single grave space				
then a second grave space will be required at the above rate				
Note 2 : American style caskets require one grave space per casket				
d. Exclusive Rights of Burial in an Earthen Grave for Non Residents				
100% added to fees set out in c.				
e. Premium Plots - Exclusive Rights of Burial in an Earthen Grave for Residents				
100% added to fees set out in c.				
f. Premium Plots - Exclusive Rights of Burial in an Earthen Grave for Non-Residents				
100% added to fees set out in e.				
g. Transfer of Ownership of Exclusive Rights				
Transfer of Ownership (Interment of ER Holder)	60.00 (n)	65.00 (n)	8.3%	
Transfer of Ownership	110.00 (n)	115.00 (n)	4.5%	
h. Choosing Plot for Exclusive Rights of Burial				
Visiting cemetery with cemetery staff to choose plot	100.00	100.00	0.0%	
i. Exhumation of Coffin - minimum charge				
j. Exhumation of Cremated remains - minimum charge				
k. Monuments, Gravestones, Tablets and Monumental Inscription				
For the right to erect or place on a grave or vault, in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted:				
Additional added Inscription	130.00 (n)	130.00 (n)	0.0%	
Single Memorial headstone not exceeding 3 ft. in height - Child Section	200.00 (n)	200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Single Memorial headstone not exceeding 3 ft. in height on single plinth - Adult Lawn Section	300.00 (n)	315.00 (n)	5.0%	
Single Memorial headstone not exceeding 3 ft. in height on double plinth - Adult Lawn Section	450.00 (n)	470.00 (n)	4.4%	
Double Memorial headstone not exceeding 3 ft. in height on double plinth - Adult Lawn Section	500.00 (n)	525.00 (n)	5.0%	
Kerb Set &/or Flatstone Child Plot 6 ft x 3 ft (Traditional Area)	170.00 (n)	170.00 (n)	0.0%	
Kerb Set &/or Flatstone Adults Plot (Single Traditional Area)	495.00 (n)	520.00 (n)	5.1%	
Kerb Set &/or Flatstone Adult Plot (Double Traditional Area)	1,000.00 (n)	1,050.00 (n)	5.0%	
Single Vase - Not exceeding 10" in diameter and 8" in height	125.00 (n)	130.00 (n)	4.0%	
Single Tablet - 18" x 18" with or without Vase on any single grave or cremation plot	315.00 (n)	330.00 (n)	4.8%	
Double Tablet - 42" x 18" with or without Vase on any double grave or cremation plot	405.00 (n)	425.00 (n)	4.9%	
Note A vase without any inscription requires no exclusive rights				
l. Burial Information				
Interment information & historical records - up to 5 names/graves	75.00 (n)	80.00 (n)	6.7%	
Interment information & historical records (accompanied) - up to 2 hrs	100.00 (n)	105.00 (n)	5.0%	
m. Cemetery Keys				
Provision of cemetery gate keys	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Refunds for cemetery gate keys will be provided on production <u>and</u> original receipt.				
n. Short Notice Fee				
Interment arrangements required with less than 2 working days	250.00 (n)	260.00 (n)	4.0%	
o. Public Health Funerals		Reasonable cost recovery		
10. Commercial and Chargeable Household Waste (Standard Prices Per Collection)*				£18,950
a. General Waste (Commercial)				
Sacks - per sack or equivalent for 25 to 99 sacks (min 25)	2.60 (n)	2.80 (n)	7.7%	
per sack or equivalent for 100 or more sacks in a single transaction	2.45 (n)	2.60 (n)	6.1%	
Wheeled Bins - 240 litre 20kgs maximum contents weight**	8.50 (n)	8.75 (n)	2.9%	
360 litre 30kgs maximum contents weight**	9.30 (n)	9.55 (n)	2.7%	
660 litre 55kgs maximum contents weight**	13.20 (n)	13.55 (n)	2.7%	
1,100 litre 90kgs maximum contents weight**	18.30 (n)	18.80 (n)	2.7%	
b. Mixed Dry Recycling (Commercial)				
Sacks - (Purple) per sack or equivalent for 25 to 99 sacks (min 25)	2.20 (n)	2.40 (n)	9.1%	
per sack or equivalent for 100 or more sacks in a single transaction	2.00 (n)	2.20 (n)	10.0%	
Wheeled Bins - 240 litre	5.00 (n)	5.25 (n)	5.0%	
360 litre	6.15 (n)	6.40 (n)	4.1%	
660 litre	8.25 (n)	8.60 (n)	4.2%	
1,100 litre	11.00 (n)	11.50 (n)	4.5%	
Note: only 240 litre and 660 litre used for glass bottles				

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
c. General Waste from Charity Shops and Schools***				
Tags - (Green) per tag or equivalent (min 100 including equivalent number of black sacks)	1.80 (n)	1.90 (n)	5.6%	
Wheeled Bins 240 litre 20kgs maximum contents weight**	5.90 (n)	6.20 (n)	5.1%	
360 litre 30kgs maximum contents weight**	6.30 (n)	6.60 (n)	4.8%	
660 litre 55kgs maximum contents weight**	8.90 (n)	9.30 (n)	4.5%	
1,100 litre 90kgs maximum contents weight**	12.20 (n)	12.80 (n)	4.9%	
d. Mixed Dry Recycling from Charity Shops and Schools***				
Wheeled Bins 660 or 1100 litre (customer choice)	5.95 (n)	6.25 (n)	5.0%	
e. General Waste (Excess Weight/Side Waste Charge) per part or whole 5kg over 'maximum contents weight'	1.30 (n)	1.40 (n)	7.7%	
f. Clinical Waste from domestic households****				
Sacks/Sharps Boxes - per collection visit charge (note : collection service only, sacks and/or sharps boxes are not pr	12.00 (n)	12.45 (n)	3.7%	
g. Chargeable Garden Waste Service				
Wheeled Bin***** - 240 litre Annual Subscription Fee if paid by Annual Direct Debit in advance	47.00 (n)	49.00 (n)	4.3%	
Wheeled Bin***** - 240 litre Annual Subscription Fee if paid by Card or Cash	59.00 (n)	60.00 (n)	1.7%	
h. Supplies				
Clear or Black Sacks - box of 200	25.00 (n)	26.00 (n)	4.0%	
Food Waste Sacks (5 It Kitchen Caddy) Roll of Sacks (Delivery Charge)	0.00	2.00 (n)	New	
Food Waste Sacks Large Commercial (includes delivery) - Clear (150 per pack)	21.00 (n)	22.00 (n)	4.8%	
i. Commercial Food Waste Collections				
Food Waste Caddy 23lt - Each on weekly collection	0.00	3.50 (n)	New	
Two Wheeled Bins - Each 120-240 litres collected	7.30 (n)	7.50 (n)	2.7%	
j. Food Waste from Charity Shops and Schools***				
Food Waste Caddy 23lt - Each on weekly collection	0.00	3.00 (n)	New	
Two Wheeled Bins - Each 120-240 litres collected	5.35 (n)	5.50 (n)	2.8%	
k. Monthly rental of wheeled bins (applies only to low frequency collections; < 1/wk)	5.20 (n)	5.40 (n)	3.8%	
l. Charge for return to any failed collection at customer request	0.00	3.50 (n)	New	
m. Charge for physical copy of waste related documents, waste duty of care or contract*	0.00	2.50 (n)	New	
* Introductory offers, multiple service and low weight reductions may be applied by Head of Service ** Bins exceeding this weight will be charged additional weight charge as per (e.) *** Applies to businesses and organisations recognised within the Council's Chargeable Household Waste Policy **** Fee waived where it will cause financial hardship at discretion of Director ***** Includes sack service where provided due to collection restrictions				
11. Bulky Household Waste				£7,790
Transportation of up to a maximum of 5 items per visit including fridges (minimum charge) (i) Each household item above 5 items including fridges Corporate Director has discretion to waive charge in cases of severe hardship	37.50 (n) 7.50 (n)	40.00 (n) 8.00 (n)	6.7% 6.7%	
12. Domestic Bin Provision				£525
Provision of New, Additional and Replacement 240Ltr Bi Green, Brown or Blue				
a. Supply of one unit 240 litre	36.00 (n)	38.00 (n)	5.6%	
b. Supply 2 x 240lt wheeled bins on same delivery	60.00 (n)	62.00 (n)	3.3%	
c. Supply 3 x 240lt wheeled bins on same delivery (including to individual new or renovated property)	82.00 (n)	84.00 (n)	2.4%	
d. Supply 1 x 600lt or 1100lt domestic wheeled bin to new multiple occupancy property	245.00 (n)	250.00 (n)	2.0%	
e. Supply 1 x Food Waste External 23 Lt Caddy	0.00	5.00 (n)	New	
f. Supply 1 x Food Waste Kitchen 5lt Caddy	0.00	5.00 (n)	New	
g. Food Waste Sacks (5 It Kitchen Caddy) Roll of Sacks (Delivery Charge)	0.00	2.00 (n)	New	
* includes the provision of a free 23lt External Food Waste Caddy and 5lt Kitchen Caddy plus sacks				
13. Graffiti Removal Service				
Domestic Premises and Charities				
a. Graffiti treatment or removal first occasion per annum (cost of materials)	18.00	18.50	2.8%	
b. Graffiti treatment or removal subsequent occasions (cost of materials & labour)	70.00	72.00	2.9%	
Commercial Premises				
c. Graffiti treatment or removal (per hour)	70.00	72.00	2.9%	
14. Public Conveniences				
a. Toilet entrance fee (where facilities allow for charging)	0.20 (n)	0.20 (n)	0.0%	
15. Public Litter Bin Install (Parish or Town Councils Only in Approved Locations)				
a. Standard Plastic Litter Bin (Mixed Use) - including install	0.00	410.00	New	
b. Standard Dog Waste Only Bin on Post - including install	0.00	410.00	New	
16. Markets				£850
Licensees - Full Charge				
a. March (per 3m x 3m space)	14.00 (e)	14.50 (e)	3.6%	
b. Chatteris (per 3m x 3m space)	14.00 (e)	14.50 (e)	3.6%	
c. Whittlesey (per 3m x 3m space)	10.80 (e)	11.20 (e)	3.7%	
Discount given for bankers order payments	6.50%	6.50%		
Casual Traders				
Additional seasonal premium will be added to all casual fees (Seasonal Premium 1 Sept to 31 December)	1.20 (e)	1.25 (e)	4.2%	
a. March (per 3m x 3m space)	19.00 (e)	19.75 (e)	3.9%	
b. Chatteris (per 3m x 3m space)	19.00 (e)	19.75 (e)	3.9%	
c. Whittlesey (per 3m x 3m space)	15.80 (e)	16.40 (e)	3.8%	
Markets - Non Market Days				
Trading on Chatteris Market Place on Non - Market Days (Tuesdays only)				
- Licensees (per 3m x 3m space)	11.00 (e)	11.40 (e)	3.6%	
- Casual (per 3m x 3m space)	15.50 (e)	16.00 (e)	3.2%	
Note:- For all markets extra space is sold pro-rata to the above charges				

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
Charity Stall at March on Saturdays (no stall provided on other days or markets)	free	free		
17. Fairs				£623
a. Chatteris - Summer	670 (e)	690 (e)	3.0%	
b. March - Statute	3,000 (e)	3,100 (e)	3.3%	
	1,480 (e)	1,530 (e)	3.4%	
c. Whittlesey - Summer	470 (e)	485 (e)	3.2%	
	470 (e)	485 (e)	3.2%	
	470 (e)	485 (e)	3.2%	
d. Wisbech - Statute	4,300 (e)	4,450 (e)	3.5%	
	9,200 (e)	9,400 (e)	2.2%	
18. "Four Seasons Events"				
Charges for the events in Wisbech, Whittlesey, Chatteris & March are to be agreed in consultation with the partners				
19. Hire Permits for Events on FDC Licensed Premises				
a. Events for each full single day, with up to 499 people attending at any one time, with or without a licensable activity. weekdays & saturdays	90.00	90.00	0.0%	
	150.00	150.00	0.0%	
b. Events for each full single day, with 500 & 4,999 people attending at any one time, with or without a licensable activity. weekdays & saturdays	255.00	255.00	0.0%	
	310.00	310.00	0.0%	
c. Events for each full single day, with over 5,000 people attending at any one time, with or without a licensable activity. weekdays & saturdays	on application	on application		
	sundays & bank holidays	on application		
d. Any Commercial Events	on application	on application		
20. Travellers Sites				£17,200
- in consultation with Cambs CC				
a. Newbridge Lane, Wisbech - per pitch per week	52 wks 99.55 (e)	52 wks 104.85 (e)	5.3%	
b. Turf Fen, Murrow - per pitch per week	99.55 (e)	104.85 (e)	5.3%	
c. Seadyke Bank, Murrow - per pitch per week	99.55 (e)	104.85 (e)	5.3%	
d. Fenland Way, Chatteris - per pitch per week	99.55 (e)	104.85 (e)	5.3%	
e. Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary - per pitch per week	99.55 (e)	104.85 (e)	5.3%	
2025/26 Breakdown : Rent £89.55; Water £10 (direct recharge) per week				
2026/27 Breakdown : Rent £93.85; Water £11 (direct recharge) per week				
21. Homeless Persons				
Creek Road, Hostel	52 wks	52 wks		
Units 1 & 2 Daily Rent	12.44 (n)	12.44 (n)	0.0%	
Units 1 & 2 Daily Eligible Service Charge	12.19 (n)	12.19 (n)	0.0%	
Units 1 & 2 Daily Ineligible Service Charge	1.99 (n)	1.99 (n)	0.0%	
Units 3,4,5 & 6 Daily Rent	12.44 (n)	12.44 (n)	0.0%	
Units 3,4,5 & 6 Daily Eligible Service Charge	8.23 (n)	8.23 (n)	0.0%	
Units 3,4,5 & 6 Daily Ineligible Service Charge	1.14 (n)	1.14 (n)	0.0%	
Unit 7 Daily Rent	20.74 (n)	20.74 (n)	0.0%	
Unit 7 Daily Eligible Service Charge	16.28 (n)	16.28 (n)	0.0%	
Unit 7 Daily Ineligible Service Charge	6.42 (n)	6.42 (n)	0.0%	
Temporary Accommodation				
44 Russell Avenue March	241.64 (n)	241.64 (n)	0.0%	
Leased from Clarion				
77 West Street, Chatteris	121.45 (n)	121.45 (n)	0.0%	
58 Burcroft Road, Wisbech	116.90 (n)	116.90 (n)	0.0%	
32 Magazine Close, Wisbech	127.80 (n)	127.80 (n)	0.0%	
2, Hawthorne Avenue, Wisbech	123.95 (n)	123.95 (n)	0.0%	
15 Victoria Place, Wisbech	105.40 (n)	105.40 (n)	0.0%	
3 West Street, Wisbech	113.80 (n)	113.80 (n)	0.0%	
19 Duke Street, Wisbech	105.40 (n)	105.40 (n)	0.0%	
26 Burnsfield Estate, Chatteris	123.95 (n)	123.95 (n)	0.0%	
51 Peyton Avenue, March	123.95 (n)	123.95 (n)	0.0%	
130 Badgeney Road, March	103.84 (n)	103.84 (n)	0.0%	
165 Badgeney Road, March	123.58 (n)	123.58 (n)	0.0%	
8 Doddington Road, Benwick	123.58 (n)	123.58 (n)	0.0%	
12 Chapel Gardens, Benwick	103.84 (n)	103.84 (n)	0.0%	
24 Acacia Avenue, Wisbech	103.84 (n)	103.84 (n)	0.0%	
6 Albert Court, Wisbech	103.84 (n)	103.84 (n)	0.0%	
LAHF Properties and 1 Bed Flats				
1 Bed Property (Peterborough area)	132.33 (n)	132.33 (n)	0.0%	
2 Bed Property (Peterborough area)	161.10 (n)	161.10 (n)	0.0%	
3 Bed Property (Peterborough area)	186.41 (n)	186.41 (n)	0.0%	
4 + Bed Property (Peterborough area)	241.64 (n)	241.64 (n)	0.0%	
1 Bed Property (Wisbech area)	126.17 (n)	126.17 (n)	0.0%	
2 Bed Property (Wisbech area)	149.59 (n)	149.59 (n)	0.0%	
3 Bed Property (Wisbech area)	178.36 (n)	178.36 (n)	0.0%	
	+ Estate Charge Where Applicable	+ Estate Charge Where Applicable		

Description of Charge		2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
22. CCTV	Viewing Footage - per hour subject to a minimum charge of External Harddrives - to be supplied to FDC per CD per DVD per Video print	63.80 127.35 4.90 11.35 1.70	63.80 127.35 4.90 11.35 1.70	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
23. Development Services					
a. Building Control Fees - The Council part of the CNC Building Control Partnership. Fees are set by CNC consistent across all authorities in the partnership.			See our website or contact the Planning Team for details.		
b. Planning Fees - these are currently statutory fees. Planning fees will increase annually on 1st April by CPI from the preceding September. For April 2025 this will be 1.7%.			See our website or contact the Planning Team for details.		
c. Planning - Pre-application enquiry fees. These fees were increased from 1st November 2024.					
d. Planning - Administration Fee for return of invalid applications	Major applications Minor applications	63.00 26.00	65.39 26.99	3.8% 3.8%	
e. Planning - Charge per schedule on a Section 106/Unilateral Agreement where FDC is the identified responsible body		520.00	539.76	3.8%	
f. Process applications to Custom and Self Build Housing Register		37.00	38.41	3.8%	
g. Section 106 Agreements for Self-Build Applications		150.00	150.00	0.0%	
h. Provision of Documents and Information					
(i) Local Plan (Full)		53.00	55.01	3.8%	
Local Plan (Interim Statement)		18.00	18.68	3.8%	
Town Extract		9.00	9.34	3.8%	
Village Extract		9.00	9.34	3.8%	
(ii) Copy of Planning Decision Notice (per A4 sheet)		0.50	0.52	3.8%	
(iii) Conservation Area Appraisals		17.50	18.17	3.8%	
(iv) Development Briefs		17.50	18.17	3.8%	
(v) Supplementary Planning Guidance, examples are Shop Fronts, Signs and Adverts		17.50	18.17	3.8%	
(vi) 6 x map extracts, planning/building regulation applications		17.50	18.17	3.8%	
(vii) Full Plan CD for Planning		45.00	46.71	3.8%	
i. Other Documents and Plans (Copies and Fax)					
(i) Search fee per 5 minutes					
A4		0.50	0.52	3.8%	
A3		0.50	0.52	3.8%	
(ii) Plan prints					
A0		1.60	1.66	3.7%	
A1		0.90	0.93	3.8%	
(iii) Plan negatives - per copy					
A0		44.00	45.67	3.8%	
A1		22.00	22.84	3.8%	
j. Invoicing Charge		13.50	14.01	3.8%	
k. Provision of Planning and Engineering Information					
Decision notices & completion certificate					
(i) Building Regulations reference number provided		17.40	18.06	3.8%	
(ii) Building Regulations reference number NOT provided		79.00	82.00	3.8%	
Letter of Comfort		52.00	53.98	3.8%	
l. Completion of Questionnaires/Surveys for Commercial Bodies		52.00	53.98	3.8%	
m. Recovery of officer time in relation to the carrying out of Statutory functions for Enforcement action and works commissioned by the Council and the monitoring pursuant to the Building Act 1984		hourly rate x time	hourly rate x time		
24. Licensing					
a. Part 5 Gambling Act 2005					
Small Society - Initial Registration		40.00 (n)	40.00 (n)	0.0%	
Small Society - Annual Renewal		20.00 (n)	20.00 (n)	0.0%	
b. Gambling Act 2005 - Permits and Registrations					
New Application					
Gaming Machines notification for up to 2 machines		50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines		150.00 (n)	150.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Gambling Permit		200.00 (n)	200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit		200.00 (n)	200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Prize Gaming Permit		300.00 (n)	300.00 (n)	0.0%	
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre		300.00 (n)	300.00 (n)	0.0%	
Annual Fee					
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines		50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Gambling Permit		50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit		50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Renewal Application					
Club Gambling Permit		200.00 (n)	200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit		200.00 (n)	200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Prize Gaming Permit		300.00 (n)	300.00 (n)	0.0%	
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre		300.00 (n)	300.00 (n)	0.0%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
Transitional Application				
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Gambling Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Prize Gaming Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Variation Application				
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Gambling Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Variation Application				
Transfer Application	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Fast track for gaming or gaming machine				
Club Gambling Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Change of Name				
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Prize Gaming Permit	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Copy of Permit				
Gaming Machines initial fee for more than 2 machines	15.00 (n)	15.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Gambling Permit	15.00 (n)	15.00 (n)	0.0%	
Club Machine Permit	15.00 (n)	15.00 (n)	0.0%	
Prize Gaming Permit	15.00 (n)	15.00 (n)	0.0%	
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre	15.00 (n)	15.00 (n)	0.0%	
c. Gambling Act 2005				
Application fee in respect of provisional statement premises				
Bingo premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Application fee in respect of other premises				
Bingo premises licence	3,500.00 (n)	3,500.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	2,000.00 (n)	2,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	2,500.00 (n)	2,500.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	2,000.00 (n)	2,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	3,000.00 (n)	3,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Annual fee				
Bingo premises licence	1,000.00 (n)	1,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	1,000.00 (n)	1,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	750.00 (n)	750.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	750.00 (n)	750.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	600.00 (n)	600.00 (n)	0.0%	
Copy of Licence				
Bingo premises licence	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	25.00 (n)	25.00 (n)	0.0%	
Notification of Change				
Bingo premises licence	50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	50.00 (n)	50.00 (n)	0.0%	
Application to vary licence				
Bingo premises licence	1,750.00 (n)	1,750.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	1,000.00 (n)	1,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	1,250.00 (n)	1,250.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	1,000.00 (n)	1,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	1,500.00 (n)	1,500.00 (n)	0.0%	
Application to transfer a licence				
Bingo premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Application for reinstatement of a licence				
Bingo premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	950.00 (n)	950.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	1,200.00 (n)	1,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Application for provisional statement				
Bingo premises licence	3,500.00 (n)	3,500.00 (n)	0.0%	
Adult gaming centre premises licence	2,000.00 (n)	2,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (track) licence	2,500.00 (n)	2,500.00 (n)	0.0%	
Family entertainment centre premises licence	2,000.00 (n)	2,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
Betting premises (other) licence	3,000.00 (n)	3,000.00 (n)	0.0%	
d. Sex Establishments				
Initial Application and Annual Renewal				
Variations to existing licences (10% of application/renewal fee)	3,200.00 (n)	3,200.00 (n)	0.0%	
Transfer of existing licence to another person (10% of fee)	320.00 (n)	320.00 (n)	0.0%	
Holders of an existing licence (50% initial fee) for a second licence	320.00 (n)	320.00 (n)	0.0%	
e. Scrap Metal Licence				
Site Licence	411.00 (n)	427.00 (n)	3.9%	
Collectors Licence	128.00 (n)	133.00 (n)	3.9%	
Scrap Metal - variation of a site licence	25.00 (n)	26.00 (n)	4.0%	
Scrap Metal - to make changes to persons involved in a licence	25.00 (n)	26.00 (n)	4.0%	
f. Hypnotism Act Licence	Based on cost recovery of officer time	80.00 (n)	84.00 (n)	5.0%

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
25. Animal Licencing Fees are set on a cost recovery basis.				£720
a. Application fee	83.00 (n)	86.00 (n)	3.6%	
b. Pre Application Advice (per Hour)	53.60 (n)	56.00 (n)	4.5%	
c. Inspection Fee or Re-rating Inspection Fee				
Hiring Out Horses	181.00 (n)	188.00 (n)	3.9%	
Animal Boarding Establishments				
Up to 10 Animals	103.00 (n)	107.00 (n)	3.9%	
11-30 Animals	129.00 (n)	134.00 (n)	3.9%	
31-60 Animals	155.00 (n)	161.00 (n)	3.9%	
61-99 Animals	181.00 (n)	188.00 (n)	3.9%	
100+ Animals	206.00 (n)	214.00 (n)	3.9%	
Dog Breeders	130.00 (n)	135.00 (n)	3.8%	
d. Licence Fee 1 Year	230.00 (n)	239.00 (n)	3.9%	
Licence Fee 2 Years	250.00 (n)	260.00 (n)	4.0%	
Licence Fee 3 Years	280.00 (n)	291.00 (n)	3.9%	
e. Selling Animals as Pets				
Application fee	83.00 (n)	86.00 (n)	3.6%	
Inspection Fee or Rerating Inspection Fee	130.00 (n)	135.00 (n)	3.8%	
Licence Fee 1,2 or 3 years (for selling of animals as pets only)	230.00 (n)	239.00 (n)	3.9%	
f. Exhibiting Animals Application	83.00 (n)	86.00 (n)	3.6%	
Exhibiting Animals Licence Fee 3 Years	280.00 (n)	291.00 (n)	3.9%	
g. Dangerous Wild Animals Act	£386 + vet fees (n)	£401 + vet fees (n)	3.7%	
h. Primate	0.00	£401 + vet fees	New	
i. Combines DWA & Primate	0.00	£601 + vet fees	New	
j. Zoos - New Application (plus additional charge for DEFRA/Nominated Inspectors)	496.00 (n)	515.00 (n)	3.8%	
Zoos - Renewal Application (plus additional charge for DEFRA/Nominated Inspectors)	496.00 (n)	515.00 (n)	3.8%	
Zoos- Special Inspection (plus additional charge for DEFRA/Nominated Inspectors)	393.00 (n)	408.00 (n)	3.8%	
Zoos - Periodic Inspection (plus additional charge for DEFRA/Nominated Inspectors)	496.00 (n)	515.00 (n)	3.8%	
k. Copy of Licence (including change of details not requiring an inspection)	13.30 (n)	14.00 (n)	5.3%	
Note.				
Where there is more than one licensable activity carried out at the Premises/Establishment then only one Application Fee shall apply for all the licensable activities and the full Inspection Fee and Licence Fee shall apply for each activity.				
Upon submission of your application please include the Application fee and Inspection fee, the Licence fee will be payable after the officer has been and inspected your premises				
26. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licences				
Drivers Licence				
a. Hackney Carriage Licence (new)	123.00 (n)	128.00 (n)	4.1%	
b. Hackney Carriage 3 year Licence (new)	253.00 (n)	263.00 (n)	4.0%	
c. Hackney Carriage Licence (renewal)	97.00 (n)	101.00 (n)	4.1%	
d. Hackney Carriage 3 year Licence (renewal)	227.00 (n)	236.00 (n)	4.0%	
e. Private Hire Licence (new)	123.00 (n)	128.00 (n)	4.1%	
f. Private Hire 3 year Licence (new)	253.00 (n)	263.00 (n)	4.0%	
g. Private Hire Licence (renewal)	97.00 (n)	101.00 (n)	4.1%	
h. Private Hire 3 year Licence (renewal)	227.00 (n)	236.00 (n)	4.0%	
i. Safeguarding/Disability Awareness Training	80.00 (n)	83.00 (n)	3.8%	
j. Driver Knowledge tests	65.00 (n)	67.00 (n)	3.1%	
Vehicle Licence				
a. Hackney Carriage Licence (new)	159.00 (n)	165.00 (n)	3.8%	
b. Hackney Carriage Licence (renewals)	159.00 (n)	165.00 (n)	3.8%	
c. Private Hire Licence (new)	141.00 (n)	146.00 (n)	3.5%	
d. Private Hire Licence (renewals)	141.00 (n)	146.00 (n)	3.5%	
e. transfer of plate to another vehicle	47.00 (n)	49.00 (n)	4.3%	
Private Hire Operators				
a. Initial issue / renewal (up to 3 cars)	92.00 (n)	95.00 (n)	3.3%	
b. 5 year Initial issue / renewal (up to 3 cars)	271.00 (n)	281.00 (n)	3.7%	
c. Initial issue / annual renewal (up to 10 cars)	165.00 (n)	171.00 (n)	3.6%	
d. 5 year Initial issue / annual renewal (up to 10 cars)	432.00 (n)	448.00 (n)	3.7%	
e. Initial issue / annual renewal (up to 20 cars)	234.00 (n)	243.00 (n)	3.8%	
f. 5 year Initial issue / annual renewal (up to 20 cars)	588.00 (n)	610.00 (n)	3.7%	
g. Initial issue / annual renewal (20 + cars)	318.00 (n)	330.00 (n)	3.8%	
h. 5 year Initial issue / annual renewal (20 + cars)	760.00 (n)	789.00 (n)	3.8%	
Others				
a. new / broken / lost vehicle plate	47.00 (n)	49.00 (n)	4.3%	
b. damaged/lost driver's I.D. card	35.00 (n)	36.00 (n)	2.9%	
c. Notification of changes (i.e. address etc.)	11.20 (n)	12.00 (n)	7.1%	
27. Licensing Act 2003				
a. Premises Licences & Club Certificates - Initial Fee				
Band A	100.00 (n)	100.00 (n)	0.0%	
Band B	190.00 (n)	190.00 (n)	0.0%	
Band C	315.00 (n)	315.00 (n)	0.0%	
Band D	450.00 (n)	450.00 (n)	0.0%	
Band E	635.00 (n)	635.00 (n)	0.0%	

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
b Premises Licences Variation Fee Band A Band B Band C Band D Band E	100.00 (n) 190.00 (n) 315.00 (n) 450.00 (n) 635.00 (n)	100.00 (n) 190.00 (n) 315.00 (n) 450.00 (n) 635.00 (n)	0.0%	
c Premises Licences & Club Certificate - Annual anniversary fee Band A Band B Band C Band D Band E	70.00 (n) 180.00 (n) 295.00 (n) 320.00 (n) 350.00 (n)	70.00 (n) 180.00 (n) 295.00 (n) 320.00 (n) 350.00 (n)	0.0%	
d. Theft/loss etc of Club Certificate or Summary	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
e. Notification of Change of name or alteration of rules of Club	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
f. Change of relevant registered address of Club	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
g. Application to vary Community premises licence to include alternative licence condition	23.00 (n)	23.00 (n)	0.0%	
h Personal Licences	37.00 (n)	37.00 (n)	0.0%	
i Theft/Loss etc of Personal Licence	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
j Temporary Event Notice	21.00 (n)	21.00 (n)	0.0%	
k Theft/Loss etc of Temporary Event Notice	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
l Transfers	23.00 (n)	23.00 (n)	0.0%	
m Notification of Interest	21.00 (n)	21.00 (n)	0.0%	
n Notification of Change of Licensee's details	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
o Application for Copy of Licence	10.50 (n)	10.50 (n)	0.0%	
p Provisional Statement	315.00 (n)	315.00 (n)	0.0%	
q Interim Authority Notice	23.00 (n)	23.00 (n)	0.0%	
r Minor Variation	89.00 (n)	89.00 (n)	0.0%	
s Variation of DPS	23.00 (n)	23.00 (n)	0.0%	
t Pre Application Advice - Check and submit service (Approx 1 hour officer time)	43.00 (n)	43.00 (n)	0.0%	
u Pre Application Advice - Consultation with RA's and submit	150.00 (n)	150.00 (n)	0.0%	
28. Street Trading				
New Application fee: £50 non-refundable initial consultation fee (not required if location has been previously consented); Daily Street Trading Consent, all week days, including bank holidays: £12.00 per day (06:00hrs - 22:00hrs); Annual Street Trading Consent, all days of the year, including all bank holidays: £542.50 per year	50.00 (n) 12.00 (n) 542.50 (n)	52.00 (n) 13.00 (n) 564.00 (n)	4.0% 8.3% 4.0%	
*£50.72 Monthly rate per pitch (Standing Order x 10 payments - Monthly charges include a 6.5% discount if paid by Standing Order FOR THE WHOLE YEAR (payable over 10 months 1 April - 1 January). If a licence is cancelled before the full year is completed, the discount will be cancelled and full fees will be payable for the period of the licence. There is no discount given for any cash or cheque payments made.				
29. Pavement				
Fee A - Up to maximum of 3 tables and/or 12 chairs New Licence for Up to 2 Years Renewal Licence up to 2 years	350.00 (n) 250.00 (n)	350.00 (n) 250.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
Fee B - Over 3 tables and/or 12 chairs New Licence for Up to 2 Years Renewal Licence up to 2 years	390.00 (n) 290.00 (n)	390.00 (n) 290.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
30. Private Sector Housing Charges				
a Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO*) New Application Fee - Per Property b Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO*) Renewal Licence - Per Property c Charge for Service of Housing Act 2004 Notices - Per Notice d House Compliance Inspection (available on request) - Per Hour e Immigration House Inspection - Per Hour	750.00 (n) 660.00 (n) 260.00 (n) 65.00 78.00	750.00 (n) 660.00 (n) 260.00 (n) 65.00 78.00	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
* HMO is a property which is occupied by five or more persons, forming two or more households, who share one basic amenity (as defined by s.254 of the Housing Act 2004)				

Description of Charge	2025/26 Charge £	Proposed 2026/27 Charge £	% Increase	Estimated Additional Income £
1. Land Charges				
a. LLC1 Only		HM Land Registry	N/A	£3,000 b - k
b. CON29R Residential Of which: FDC element CCC element	175.20 109.20 66.00	179.35 113.35 66.00 *	2.4% 3.8% 0.0%	
c. CON29R Commercial Of which: FDC element CCC element	288.00 222.00 66.00	296.44 230.44 66.00 *	2.9% 3.8% 0.0%	
d. CON29O Enquiries (16, 21) Of which: CCC element	16.80 16.80	16.80 * 16.80 *	0.0% 0.0%	
e. CON29O Enquiries (22) Of which: CCC element	33.60 33.60	33.60 * 33.60 *	0.0% 0.0%	
f. Highways Additional Questions Of which: CCC element	16.80 16.80	16.80 * 16.80 *	0.0% 0.0%	
g. CON29O Enquiries - additional	18.00	18.68	3.8%	
h. Solicitors Own Questions	22.20	23.04	3.8%	
i. Extra Parcel of Land -each	22.20	23.04	3.8%	
j. Property History Search (Extra)	37.20	38.61	3.8%	
k. CON29 information not on Public Registers can now be requested. More information is available from the Local Land Charges Team				
* Fees as per Cambridgeshire County Council approved charges.				
2. Electoral Registration				
a. Sales of the full electoral register (i) Data format - basic charge Data format - plus amount /1,000 entries	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
(ii) Printed format - basic charge Printed format - plus amount /1,000 entries	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
b. Sales of the edited electoral register (i) Data format - basic charge Data format - plus amount /1,000 entries	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
(ii) Printed format - basic charge Printed format - plus amount /1,000 entries	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
c. Sales of the overseas electoral register (i) Data format - basic charge Data format - plus amount /1,000 entries	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
(ii) Printed format - basic charge Printed format - plus amount /1,000 entries	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
d. Monthly notices of alterations of register (i) Data format - basic charge Data format - plus amount /1,000 entries	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	20.00 (n) 1.50 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
(ii) Printed format - basic charge Printed format - plus amount /1,000 entries	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	10.00 (n) 5.00 (n)	0.0% 0.0%	
e. Copying of candidates' expenses documents - per page	0.20 (n)	0.20 (n)	0.0%	
3. Democratic Services				
a. Council Summons/Planning Agendas/Cabinet Agendas	14.00	14.00	0.0%	
4. Fenland Hall, March				
a. Room Hire - per morning or afternoon session (i) Council Chamber (ii) Other Rooms (iii) Supplement for use - after 6.30pm - on Saturdays and Sundays - tea/coffee (minimum charge) - tea/coffee (per head)	109.00 (e) 48.00 (e) 48.00 (e) 109.00 (e) 16.00 3.00 13.00	109.00 (e) 48.00 (e) 48.00 (e) 109.00 (e) 16.00 3.00 13.00	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	
(iv) Hourly Rate for Meeting Room Hire				
In respect of Parish Councils, Association of Local Councils, and approved charities, free of charge, but supplementary charges apply as appropriate				



Agenda Item No:	8
Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Date:	19 January 2026
Report Title:	Revised General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2025/26; Draft General Fund Budget Estimates 2026/27 and Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2026/27 to 2030/31; Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29

1 Purpose / Summary

To consider and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet on:-

- the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy, Draft General Fund Budget 2026/27 and Draft Capital Programme 2026/29 for consultation.

2 Key issues

- The draft budget proposals for 2026/27 as considered for consultation by Cabinet on 15 December 2025 are detailed in the attached report.
- The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27 has been announced (on 17 December 2025) along with clarification of the Autumn Statement 2025 announcements. Detailed below are the main points of the provisional finance settlement and how they directly impact on this Council.
- This settlement has resulted in more redistribution of funding within the sector than any other for at least the last 25 years. Funding distribution was last updated in 2013/14 (with damping frozen within funding allocations), and since then there has been an updated 4-year settlement (from 2016/17) and a series of one-year settlements. The potential for redistribution would have been enormous, even if the only changes had been to update key datasets and council tax levels.
- Added to that, there has been a full baseline reset (for the first time since the BRRS was introduced in 2013/14), major changes to all the Relative Needs Formulas (RNFs), and the simplification of many grants into either the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) or into one of four Consolidated Grants. The distribution of resources between authorities will be very different by 2028/29 than it is now.
- However, it is very disappointing that the 17th December 2025 was the first time that local authorities have seen formal funding allocations from MHCLG. It had been intended that the provisional settlement would have been published in early December or even late November. A late Autumn Budget, and no doubt the scale of change in the settlement, has led to delay.
- This is a 3-year settlement, which gives certainty to authorities in the second and third year of the settlement. Each of these latter two years will still be subject to an annual settlement process, but any changes will be upwards, with the 3-year settlement.
- The presentation of the funding for local government within the settlement has changed considerably. The baseline and quantum of funding is much higher, with a large number of rolled-in grants. Business rates income has also now been rolled

into the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) and is included within Core Spending Power (CSP). The scope for funding is also much wider, including CSP and Consolidated Grants.

- There have been no material changes in funding distribution compared to the Policy Statement. The key decisions in the Policy Statement were using the 2022-based population projections, the 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), removing remoteness from most RNF, and continuing Recovery Grant rather than rolling it into SFA. Business rates income rolled into SFA included business rates pilots and pools (to the benefit of shire district councils in particular although Fenland has not benefited from this as they are not in a Pool). No changes have been made to these decisions in the provisional settlement.
- Shire district councils will only receive an increase of +3.3%, largely because they lose significantly from the business rates baseline reset. Decisions by ministers have tended to favour authorities with social care responsibilities at the expense of district councils.
- Overall, the change in the distribution of resources reflects the government's objective, which is broadly to redistribute resources towards more-deprived authorities, many of whom have had the largest cuts in funding since 2010. This has largely been achieved by applying full council tax equalisation and 100% business rates baseline reset.
- Many shire district councils are also at or close to the funding floor (95% protection). The impact on these authorities is distorted because their 2025-26 baseline have been hugely increased by the roll-in of business rate income.
- These are the key elements within the overall funding settlement:
- **Council Tax**
 - The settlement assumes that council tax will rise with the maximum uplift in Band D, and that taxbase will grow in line with the 4-year increase in taxbase. Maximum increases are 4.99% for upper-tier authorities, the higher of 2.99% or £5 for shire district councils, £5 for fire authorities and £15 for police and crime commissioners. Taxbase growth is based on the change between the 2021-22 and 2025-26 CTR1s. The Council Tax requirement in the Settlement is assumed at £8.6m but the amount in the Council's draft budget is £8.2m, a difference of £0.4m.
 - Council tax funds a very large share of the increase in CSP over the next 3 years (74% in overall terms). In county areas, the proportion of CSP increase financed from council tax rises to 107% in county unitaries and 92% in county councils.
 - This analysis of settlement shows that the increase in CSP in the 3-year settlement is very reliant on councils applying the maximum increase in Band D and delivering the assumed taxbase growth. Council tax is becoming an increasingly important share of local government's funding settlement, and the growth of resources within it. It also means that when council tax is (periodically) equalised it will have a very redistributive effect on funding.
 - Of course the settlement in some types of authority (particularly in county areas) will be much more reliant on Band D increases than in other parts of the country. In these areas, resources will fall in cash terms over the next 3 years unless Band D increases at or close to the maximum. However, there will still be pressure on councils across the country to increase Band D by the maximum.
 - Separately, there appears to have been higher increases in taxbase than were expected and this appears to be because the taxbase includes the increase as a

result of the second-home premium. (Note: second homes premium is not included in the Resources Deduction.)

- The Resources Deduction assesses the amount of council tax that each authority is able to collect. It is then deducted from an authority's Needs Assessment to calculate the Settlement Funding Assessment. This deduction equalises council tax, and ministers will continue to apply full (100%) council tax equalisation. Calculations are based on an authority's share of the national taxbase not the authority's own council tax income.
- **Core Spending Power**
 - The CSP for the Council has increased by 2% (including the Council Tax requirement of £8.6m which is assumed and not what the draft budget includes) in 2026/27 and increase by 5.3% in 2027/28 and 4.3% in 2028/29.
 - SFA now includes £13.2bn in rolled-in grants from within the current CSP settlement, plus other rolled in grants, and the rolled-in amounts from the BRRS.
- **Rolled-in Grants.**
 - Grants worth £13.2bn from the current CSP roll into SFA, as above. In addition there are further grants from outside the current settlement that are rolling into SFA. These are:
 - New Homes Bonus
 - Employers' National Insurance Grant
 - Funding Floor
 - Recovery Grant - £0.4m
 - Temporary Accommodation element of Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) - £0.9m.
- **Consolidated Grants.**
 - Four new consolidated grant streams have been created to simplify funding from a range of different sources. Some grants from within the current CSP will be included:
 - Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant – £0.9m
 - Crisis and Resilience Fund - £0.2m
 - By bringing together these grants into consolidated streams within the settlement, the Council will have to think about how to present these grants in their budget-setting process ,as these grants are currently treated as service grants rather than corporate resources
- **Business Rates Retention System (BRRS).**
 - Business rates income worth £18.770bn is rolled into SFA in 2026-27. The calculator with these amounts was released as part of the Policy Statement. BRRS income includes BFL (which is funded from retained rates), all cap compensation payments (including indexation of the baseline and above-baseline amounts), pooling and pilot gains, and retained business rates income above-baseline.
 - The baselines within the BRRS have been updated to take account of the new Fair Funding Allocations (FFA) and the reset Business Rates Baselines (BRB):

- **Baseline Funding Level (BFL).** Each authority has an updated BFL that takes account of the BFL quantum (£16.2bn) and its FFA. This ensures a consistent relationship between an authority's FFA and its BFL.
- **Revenue Support Grant (RSG).** This is calculated by deducting BFL from an authority's FFA. In 2026-27, an authority's LA Better Care Grant (BCG) is also deducted.
- **Business Rates Baseline (BRB).** New baselines have been issued that will take account of the 2026 Revaluation and the baseline reset. There will be a retrospective adjustment to the 2026-27 BRB to reflect updated gross rates values. The new BRBs are set using the new rateable values, from which an estimated gross rate figure is calculated. From this, an allowance for appeals and bad debts is deducted, together with estimated income from enterprise zones and renewable energy. (Note that there will be section 31 grant payments for all business rates reliefs from 2026-27.)

Until the NNDR1 return is completed however, the above Business Rates figures should be treated with extreme caution.

- **Extended Producer Responsibility payments (pEPR)** – the Council has been notified that its pEPR payment for 2026/27 is **£1,572,347.86**. Again we need to understand any cost implications relating to this allocation. The payment for 2026/27 is not guaranteed and future years payments will be more volatile as they will be based on actual figures rather than calculated estimates.
- A summary of the estimated impact of the provisional settlement is detailed in the table below. Subject to any additional costs being incurred, the additional funding would increase the estimated shortfall in 2026/27 from £1,972,022 to £2,615,056.
- **However, until the final confirmation of the business rates income, following completion of the NNDR1 return in mid-January 2026, this should be treated with caution.** The business rates income will undoubtably change for the final budget report.
- The Fairer Funding Review and Business Rates Reset has materially impacted the Council's provisional settlement for 2026/27 which we still have to incorporate into the final budget report the impact of various risks highlighted in paragraph 6.14 of the attached draft budget.
- The final allocations for 2026/27 may also change following the consultation period and the publication of the Final Settlement in late January/early February 2026.
- **It is also important to reiterate that there remains an underlying structural deficit over the medium term for the Council to address.**
- The changes resulting from the Fair Funding Review and reset of the Business Rates Retention system has proved to be a significant risk to FDC from 2026/27 onwards. FDC previously retained considerable business rates income (around £1.4m) above its Baseline Funding Level (determined in the Settlement) and for Renewable Energy (around £1.6m) which have now been 'rolled up' into the Business Rates Reset.
- The attached report has not been updated with any of the above announcements. The final budget report to Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2026 will incorporate the above together with any further announcements.

	APPENDIX A	APPENDIX A	
FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL			
Summary of Revenue Estimates	<i>Cabinet</i> 15.12.25	<i>Settlement</i> 17.12.25	
	Draft Estimate 2026/27	Draft Estimate 2026/27	
	£	£	
Service Summary			
Growth & Infrastructure	945,949	945,949	
Communities, Environment, Leisure & Planning	6,270,552	6,270,552	
Resources & Customer Services	10,622,598	10,622,598	
ERS NI Contributions - Government Grant	0	0	
Vacancy Factor (1.5%)	0	0	
Transformation & Service Review Programme savings	-372,000	-372,000	
NET COST OF GENERAL FUND SERVICES	17,467,099	17,467,099	
Corporate Items			
Internal Drainage Board Levies	2,354,740	2,354,740	
Internal Drainage Board Levies Grant	-520,000	-520,000	
Contributions to/ (from) Earmarked Reserves	0	0	
RTB/VAT Sharing Income	-50,000	-50,000	
Financing Charges - <i>Interest on External Borrowings</i>	1,655,480	1,655,480	
Financing Charges - <i>MRP current Capital Programme</i>	945,666	945,666	
Investment Income and Property Funds Income	-210,000	-210,000	
Property Funds Costs	0	0	
New Homes Bonus	0	0	
Recovery Grant	-435,149	-435,149	
Extended Producer Responsibility Payment -pEPR	-1,572,348	-1,572,348	
Corporate Items	2,168,389	2,168,389	
Net Expenditure	19,635,488	19,635,488	
Contribution to/from(-) Budget Equalisation Reserve	0	0	
NET EXPENDITURE after use of balances	19,635,488	19,635,488	
Core Funding			
Revenue Support Grant	-1,588,597	-3,845,000	
Homelessness Prevention Grant (Now part of RSG)	0	354,000	In the base budget
Consolidated Grants			
Prevention and Relief element of HPG	0	0	In the base budget
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	0	0	In the base budget
Rough Sleeping Prevention & Recovery Grant	0	0	In the base budget
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant	0	0	In the base budget
Discretionary Housing Payments	0	0	In the base budget
Domestic Abuse Accommodation Support	0	0	In the base budget
	-1,588,597	-3,491,000	-1,109,000
Business Rates - Income due in Year - Now BLF			
Business Rates Funding	-12,095,352	-14,953,214	
Tariff Payment to Government	7,682,874	11,214,000	
Renewable Energy Rates Retained	-1,597,705	-1,597,705	
Cost of Collection	0	0	In the base budget
Business Rates Pool - FDC Share of Benefit	0	0	
Business Rates S31 Grants due in year	-2,598,064	0	
Business Rates Levy due in year	698,331	0	
Business Rates Levy Account Surplus allocation	0	0	
	-7,909,916	-5,336,919	
Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	45,692	0	
Council Tax Collection Fund Deficit(+)/Surplus(-)	-18,133	0	
Council Tax	-8,192,513	-8,192,513	
Core Funding, Business Rates and Council Tax Funding	-17,663,466	-17,020,432	643,035
Surplus(-)/Shortfall(+)	1,972,022	2,615,056	643,035

3 Recommendations

- It is recommended that Members consider and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet on:
 - (i) the draft budget proposals for 2026/27 outlined in this report;
 - (ii) the updated capital programme.

Wards Affected	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder, Finance
Report Originator(s)	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Background Paper(s)	Provisional Finance Settlement 2026/27 – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). Autumn Statement 2025 (HM Treasury) Medium Term Financial Strategy working papers. Government announcements since February 2025.

Agenda Item No:		
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	15 December 2025	
Report Title:	Revised General Fund Budget and Capital Programme 2025/26; Draft General Fund Budget Estimates 2026/27 and Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2026/27 to 2030/31; Capital Programme 2026/27 to 2028/29	

Cover sheet:

4 Purpose / Summary

To consider and approve:

- the revised General Fund Budget and Capital Programme for 2025/26;
- the Draft General Fund Budget Estimates 2026/27 and the Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2030/31 for consultation;
- Capital Programme 2026/27 – 2028/29.

5 Key issues

- The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announcement is expected week commencing 15 December 2025. **Consequently, until the details of the Finance Settlement have been received, the figures detailed in this report should be treated as being provisional.**
- In accordance with the decision of Council at their meeting of 17 July 2023 (Minute C8/23), the cash amount of Council Tax raised has been kept at the current level for 2026/27 and over the MTFS period.
- Council Tax Referendum limits for 2026/27 will remain unchanged from 2025/26 and set at an increase of 3% or £5 whichever is the higher.
- Current forecasts for 2026/27 show a shortfall of £1.972m based on the assumptions detailed in Appendix C, before any adjustment to the level of Council Tax. The MTFS projects shortfall increases year on year, reaching £2.967m in 2030/31. Projected shortfalls in the MTFS are usual, both in FDC and in Local Government generally. They represent the challenge to be faced in future years in reaching a balanced budget position each year. The projected shortfalls are however significantly higher than previous years forecasts and represent significant challenges for the Council. Any decision this year to not increase the level of Council Tax necessarily increases the scale of that challenge.
- At this time, more detailed work is required on a number of issues which could potentially impact on these figures, both positively and negatively (as detailed in paragraph 7.15 of the report). Further information is expected over the next few weeks, and this will be incorporated where possible, into the final budget report in February 2026.

- **Although there are currently many uncertainties regarding the budget for 2026/27 and the MTFS, there remains a significant structural deficit which the Council will need to address**
- Any final deficits for 2025/26 and 2026/27 will have to be funded from Council reserves (current balances shown in Appendix E). At this stage, due to the many uncertainties around the potential deficits, there is no requirement to formally approve any amounts to be funded from reserves.
- An updated Capital Programme for 2025/26 and for the medium term 2026/27 - 28/29 is proposed.
- Further work is required on the potential new capital schemes identified in Appendix D(ii) and the final proposals will be considered as part of the final budget report in February 2026.

6 Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

- (i) the revised General Fund Budget and revised Capital Programme for 2025/26 be approved;
- (ii) the draft budget proposals for 2026/27 outlined in this report be approved for consultation;
- (iii) the proposed Capital Programme for 2026/27 – 2028/29 be approved.

Wards Affected	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder, Finance
Report Originator(s)	Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer (S.151 Officer) Sian Warren, Chief Accountant
Background Paper(s)	Provisional Finance settlement – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). Autumn Statement 2025 (HM Treasury) Medium Term Financial Strategy working papers. Government announcements since February 2025.

Report:

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial implications of the council's priorities described in the draft Business Plan 2026/27. Revenue budget estimates are draft at this stage and along with the draft Business Plan will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation prior to final budget and council tax setting for 2026/27 in February 2026.
- 1.2 Much of the financial information provided is necessarily based on a number of assumptions which are wholly or partly influenced by external factors. Some of these factors, such as the outcome of the Local Government Finance Settlement will not be known until after this Committee meeting. In addition, actual Business Rates income will not be finalised until the completion of the 2026/27 NNDR1 return by the deadline of the end of January 2026. Both of these could have a significant impact on the figures detailed in this report. Other issues as detailed in paragraph 7.15 of this report will also impact on the MTFS and any amendments will be reported to Cabinet and Council at the February 2026 budget setting meeting.

2 AUTUMN BUDGET 2025

- 2.1 On 26 November 2025, the Chancellor delivered her Autumn Budget confirming the Government's spending plans for 2026/27.
- 2.2 The relevant points for this Council from these announcements are as follows:

Council Tax

- It has been confirmed since then that the Council Tax referendum limit will be set at increases of up to 3% (or £5 whichever is the higher), together with an additional 2% increase for authorities with responsibilities for Adult Social Care (the same as for 2025/26).
- A new High Value Council Tax Surcharge will be introduced in 2028/29. Owners of properties valued in excess of £2m will have to pay the surcharge. There will be a consultation on the operation of the scheme in early 2026.
- The Budget says that the revenues raised by the surcharge will "support funding for local government services". It is anticipated that Local Authorities will be allowed to keep the additional revenues, but these revenues will be deducted from the funding allocations.
- Billing Authorities will receive new burdens funding.

Business Rates

- From April 2026 the Government will reset the Business Rates Retention System (BRRS) as a core part of the Fairer Funding Review (FFR) 2.0 to ensure that the local government funding system is fit for the future.
- This will better align funding across the county to the areas that need it. This includes the growth currently retained by the authority over current Base Funding Levels (BFLs), and the grant compensation that has been awarded in respect of government relief schemes and for historic under-indexation of business rates multipliers. However, as part of the reset, this funding will be distributed differently across the sector from 1 April 2026.

- From 2026/27 onwards, ministers have used their new powers over the multiplier to set **new sectoral multipliers**, with permanently lower multipliers for RHL properties. Lower multipliers for these sectors will be paid for by higher multipliers for businesses with properties with rateable values of more than £500,000;
- The five business rates multipliers have been set for 2026-27:
 - National small and standard multipliers have been set considering: 2026 Revaluation and an allowance for appeals. The impact of either revaluation or appeals on the multipliers are unknown at present.
 - The RHL multipliers will be set 5p lower than their national equivalents.
 - The higher multiplier will be 2.8p above the standard national multiplier.

Table – 2026/27 Multipliers

Multiplier	2025-26	2026-27	Scope
Small business RHL multiplier		38.2p	RHL hereditaments with RVs under £51,000
Standard RHL multiplier		43.0p	RHL hereditaments with RVs between £51,000 and £499,999
National small business multiplier	49.9p	43p	Non-RHL hereditaments with RVs under £51,000
National standard multiplier	55.5p	43.2p	Non-RHL hereditaments with RVs between £51,000 and £499,999
High-value multiplier		48.0p	All hereditaments with RVs of £500,000 or above

Other Changes in Business Rates

- There are various other changes to the business rates system from 2026-27:
 - Business rates Transitional Relief Supplement. 1p supplement from 1 April 2026 for those businesses not receiving Transitional Relief or Supporting Small Business Scheme.
 - Various Supporting Small Business schemes. To provide transitional support to small businesses losing from the transition from RHL relief, and small business rates relief and rural rate relief. .
 - Extension of SBRR grace period.
 - 100% relief on eligible electric vehicle charging points, and electric vehicle charging points

Core Spending Power and Other Announcements

- There will be a 2.6% real-terms increase in Core Spending Power (CSP) in 2026/27. This is higher than for other major services, other than the NHS. The CSP projections imply that there are grant increases for 2026/26 of £1.4billion, £0.5billion in 2027/28 and £0.5billion in 2028/29. It is still not clear whether this funding will be distributed via the Settlement Funding Allocation (SFA) or through specific grants. There still needs to be confirmation that this represents additional spending power.

- Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA). The assumption was that SFA would be cash-flat but there is potentially funding for the inflation-linked uplifts that has been seen in every financial year since 2020. On balance, it may now move towards indexing SFA in line with the increase in line with CPI.
- Full details of the allocation of funding within CSP will be announced later this month in the 2026/27 Finance Settlement. The expectation is that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG), Recovery Grant and the New Homes Bonus will be rolled into the SFA in 2026/27 without any uplifts.
- It is important to note that the bulk of the increase in resources within CSP will come from council tax increases. It is estimated that 76% of the increase will be funded by council tax (less in the first year). This puts pressure on local authorities to uplift their Band D in line with the maximum threshold.
- The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme commenced in 2025/26, and local authorities should receive an estimated £1.1bn in additional income in the current year. The Treasury will guarantee authorities' funding streams in 2025/26 and 2026/27 with local authorities taking the risk on any changes in income from 2027/28 onwards. The Council has now received confirmation of the payment and are due to receive the first two quarters in December 2025.

Local Government Funding : Fair Funding 2.0

- The Government has confirmed that they will go ahead with most of the changes in funding proposed in the original Fair Funding Review including:
 - major changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation and population. The current bespoke formulae and adjustments for flood defence, coastal protection and sparsity will be removed.
 - many new burdens funding streams will be rolled into the main funding formula instead of being provided as separate grants. This includes ongoing revenue funding for food waste new burdens.
 - reset the baseline for retained business rates in full in 2026-27.
 - abolish the New Homes Bonus.
 - simplify and consolidate several grant pots, including for homelessness prevention, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation.
 - provide transitional funding, including a minimum funding floor, to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes.
- The government is also looking to simplify the wider local funding landscape, reducing the number of grants and consolidating them into the Local Government Finance Settlement, as well as moving towards a multi-year settlement so local authorities can plan more effectively.

Local Government Reorganisation

On 16 December 2024, the White Paper on English Devolution was published, outlining extensive reforms to the local government framework across England. These changes include increased devolution from central government to strategic authorities and local government reorganisation in two-tier areas, and in some adjoining Unitary Authority areas.

As set out in the White Paper, the Government intends to implement local government reorganisation in all two-tier areas and in some adjoining Unitary Authority areas. All Councils in an area have been expected to collaborate on unitary proposals that serve the best interests of the region.

Leaders and Chief Executives of the 7 Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been working together on the LGR process. Members had meetings in both March and July 2025, to discuss progress on LGR and to give feedback on the emerging proposals.

Various options have been discussed with some excluded in line with the criteria set by the government, either because they were less financially viable or because they did not meet the requirements of our Combined Authority geography (which must include at least two unitaries).

Members were requested to consider and review the information available on each Option and provide feedback on the suitability for the Fenland area, and for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a whole. It should be noted that the government requires proposals that provide a solution for the whole geography of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, not just the area that includes our own district.

The Government set deadlines for the LGR process, and a joint letter was submitted on 28 November 2025 which has stated the individual preference of the 7 Councils.

Following the receipt of submissions, it is anticipated in early 2026, the Government will commence a statutory consultation process on the Options for unitarisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This will provide another important opportunity for Members individually and collectively to provide feedback to Government on their favoured outcome for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT

3.1 The Provisional Finance Settlement for 2026/27 is expected to be announced during the week commencing 15 December 2025. Consequently, the figures included in this report are estimates based on previous funding announcements. It is therefore, almost certain that the figures announced in the Provisional Settlement will be different from those detailed in this report. An update on any changes will be given to members as soon as they are available.

Local Government Policy Statement 2026/27

3.2 The Local Government Policy Statement 2026/27 was published on 20 November 2025 and provides more details on how funding will be allocated in the 2026/27 settlement although actual funding allocations will not be announced until the provisional settlement itself.

- The main funding formula has been changed in three ways:
 - It now reflects the 2025 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data. The IMD methodology in the latest data has changed and factors in housing costs more heavily.
 - The weighting for visitor and commuter population has been reduced relative to the weighting for permanent residents.

- The adjustment for remoteness has been removed, except for adult social care costs. This disadvantages more rural and remote councils, especially if they do not have responsibility for social care.
- Major changes to the main funding formula with a stronger link to levels of deprivation and population. The current bespoke formulae and adjustments for flood defence, coastal protection and sparsity will be removed.
- Various grants will be rolled into RSG in 2026/27 which will include the Social Care Grant, New Homes Bonus, Funding Floor, and Employer National Insurance Contribution.
- Simplify and consolidate several grant pots, including for homelessness prevention, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation grant but is not part of the RSG.
- Provide transitional funding, including a minimum funding floor, to protect councils from the full impact of the funding changes
- Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) will be indexed in the usual way. Revenue Support Grant will increase in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (1.7%), and the Baseline Funding Level (BFL) will be uplifted in line with the increase in the standard business rates multiplier. Under-indexing (of the small business rates multiplier) will be funded through the cap compensation grants.
- Targeted Deprivation Fund (“Recovery Grant”). The Government will preserve the Recovery Grant as at 2025/26 levels for the whole of the spending review period. This is a new proposal. It will benefit the Council which has high levels of deprivation but will be rolled into the SFA.
- Council Tax Band D thresholds. Thresholds will increase as we expected (2.99% core increase, 2% ASC Precept). Both shire districts and fire authorities will be able to increase by the higher of 2.99% or £5. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be able to increase their precepts by £14 (higher than the £13 which has been available to PCCs in the past two years).
- New Homes Bonus (NHB). NHB has been abolished in 2026/27.
- There will continue to be “no negative RSG”.
- In line with the previous two years, the Government has made available for authorities impacted by Internal Drainage Board levies funding support which has been increased to £5m in 2026/27. The allocations for this funding will be announced in due course.
- The government has committed to provide support for departments and other public sector employers for additional employer NICs costs. This applies to those directly employed by the public sector, including local government. This grant has been rolled into the SFA.
- The statement also confirms that there will be a full package of funding reforms in 2026/27, and that this will be the start of a multi-year settlement. The funding reforms will build on “the previous government’s” Fair Funding Review, and there will also be a full business rates baseline reset. The statement is careful to note that they “will move gradually towards an updated system” and will consult on “possible transitional arrangements”. The statement “begins the process of redirecting as much funding as possible to the places that need it most”.

3.3 The provisional settlement will also detail any allocations from the additional grant funding announced in the budget and detailed in section 2 and the Policy Statement announcements detailed in paragraph 3.2 above.

4 BUSINESS RATES

4.1 Members will be aware that the Business Rates Retention system was introduced in April 2013. Under this system, authorities would benefit if their actual Business Rates income collected in a year was higher than the baseline funding determined by government.

4.2 There has been real business rates growth in Fenland over the last eight years, however how this impacts on the resources available to this Council is complex, due to the rules and the operation of the current 50% Business Rates Retention system. The complexity of the system has been exacerbated by the number of business rates relief schemes and multiplier caps and freezes implemented by the government over the last few years.

4.3 A whole package of changes to the Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS) will be implemented in 2026/26 including baseline reset, 2026 Revaluations and new five multipliers as shown in paragraph 2.2.

Business Rates Pooling Arrangement – 2024/25 and 2025/26

4.4 The Council joined with the County Council, Peterborough City Council, Fire Authority, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire to become part of a pooling arrangement for business rates from 2020/21 up to and including 2023/24.

4.5 As a result of further detailed analysis of forecast business rates income, the pool members decided that the most financially beneficial arrangement for 2024/25 would be a pool without Fenland. As recompense for not being in the pool, agreement was reached with the other pool members that Fenland would be no worse off as a result of the revised pooling arrangement for 2024/25.

4.6 Consequently, an amount of £350k per annum has been included in 2024/25 and 2025/26 as a 'pooling' benefit.

4.7 In November 2026 based on the Business Rates Reform proposed in the Autumn Budget published on 26th November 2025 the current 'Pool' members have reviewed the implications and have decided that there will be no Pool Arrangement in 2026/27 onwards. This has meant the Council will not receive the £300k which was included in the future years budgets so has been removed. This will leave the Council with a £300k shortfall in 2026/27 and future budgets.

Business Rates Reset – 2026/27 onwards

4.8 As stated earlier, major changes will take place in 2026/27. The Baseline Funding Level of all Councils will be reset with all 'growth' income being considered nationally and redistributed in the new system. In the budget for 2025/26 and the medium term forecasts, around £1.4m of business rates above the Council's Baseline Funding Level is being retained. Under the BRRS reset the Baseline Funding Level have been changed but the nett impact is similar to previous years and does appear to have any major changes to the BR the Council are due after this reset.

4.9 The Council will receive further details about the BRRS reset in the Financial Settlement but are not expecting any major changes to the funding levels although the presentation may change.

4.10 In addition, the current system of retaining 100% of business rates from businesses generating Renewable Energy (estimated £1.598m in 2026/27) has been included in the 2026/27 budget but the benefits from current pooling arrangements (estimated £400k in 2025/26) have been removed as previously explained in paragraph 4.4.

4.11 At the time of writing, local government funding reforms, the implementation of Business Rates Reform is a major risk area for this Council over the medium term.

5 FORECAST OUTTURN 2025/26

5.1 The approved budget set by Council in February 2025, showed a deficit of £1.432k and it was balanced by utilising the Budget Equalisation Reserve.

5.2 The latest projected outturn for 2025/26 is set out at Appendix A and shows a reduction in the budgeted deficit of £1.432k by £1.125k to £307k by the end of this financial year.

5.3 There have been numerous significant variations during this year to date which have contributed to the projected reduction in the budget deficit.

5.4 The main additional cost variations compared with the February 2025 budget include the following:

- Reduction in Internal Drainage Board levies of £433k (£226k less levies plus £207k additional government grant);
- Increase in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) funding of £579k against the budget of £958k
- £398k lower financing as a result of re-profiled capital spend and timing of new borrowing;
- Saving of £171k transferring the funding of the Transport Service to external grant funding;
- Increase of £50k for the NNDR Pooling Arrangement
- £145k of additional income from the VAT/RTB sharing arrangement with Clarion Housing;
- Increase in net additional cost of the difference between Housing Benefit paid and subsidy reclaimed from DWP of £411k. Officers are progressing a number of initiatives to increase the amount of subsidy reclaimed;
- Loss of £362k of the closure of the Federated Hermes Trust Property Fund due to a merger undertaken which would not accept Treasury Deposits.

5.5 There are still many uncertainties around the potential shortfall for 2025/26 and there is no requirement at this time to formally approve an amount to be funded from reserves. At the present time, Corporate Management Team, Senior Managers and the Accountancy Team are managing and monitoring the position carefully and will continue to review spending levels to ensure where possible, the amount to be funded from reserves at the year-end is minimised.

5.6 Use of reserves to fund any potential shortfall in 2025/26 will have a consequential impact on the Council's ability to fund any shortfall in 2026/27 from reserves. Details of the Council's reserves are at Section 10 and Appendix E.

6 DRAFT BUDGET ESTIMATES 2026/27 AND MTFS

6.1 The Council's MTFS has to ensure that the commitments made in the Business Plan are funded not only in the year for which formal approval of the budget is required (2026/27) but for forecast years as well, within a reasonable level of tolerance.

6.2 The impact of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (expected to be announced during week commencing 15 December 2025) will also need to be clarified and the figures in this report make no assumptions about any potential changes to government funding.

Extended Producer Responsibility

6.3 This Council received its provisional notice of assessment of the pEPR payment due in 2025/26 on 28 November 2024. This amounted to £958,000. Since that date the payment has been reassessed and the Council will now receive £1,536,888 for 2025/26 and an estimated £1,572,348 in 2026/27.

6.4 Whilst the 2026/27 payment resulting from the collection of producer fees may still change, to provide certainty to authorities, the government has guaranteed that in 2025/26 we will receive the revised amount. For 2027/28 onwards, this amount will be adjusted to reflect actual figures.

6.5 Officers are still assessing any costs associated with our obligations to maximise the collection and recycling of packaging material and any other conditions attached to the above payment.

6.6 In 2026/27 the EPR funding is assumed to be included in the RSG amount of £3.161k.

6.7 Taking all the above into account, the Council's medium term forecasts are shown at Appendix B and summarised in Table 2 below. The table includes for Council Tax income to remain at 0% increase from 2026/27 onwards.

Table 2 - MTFS – Council Tax income constant level from 2026/27 onwards

Summary Medium Term Financial Plan		Estimate	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
		2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure						
Net Service Expenditure		17,467	17,820	18,104	18,229	18,579
Corporate Items		2,169	2,044	1,673	2,103	2,390
Contribution to/from(-) Earmarked Reserves		0	-189	-189	-111	-89
Net Expenditure (before use of balances)		19,636	19,675	19,588	20,221	20,880
Funding						
Revenue Support Grant		-1,589	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500	-1,500
Business Rates Funding (detailed in Appendix B)		-7,910	-7,893	-7,983	-8,078	-8,170
Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit (+)		46	0	0	0	0
Council Tax Collection Fund Surplus(-)		-18	-50	-50	-50	-50
Council Tax (0% increase)		-8,193	-8,193	-8,193	-8,193	-8,193
Total Funding		-17,664	-17,636	-17,726	-17,821	-17,913
Surplus(-)/Shortfall(+) before use of balances		+1,972	+2,039	+1,862	+2,400	+2,967
Contribution to Budget Equalisation Reserve		0	0	0	0	0
Shortfall(+) after use of balances		+1,972	+2,039	+1,862	+2,400	+2,967

6.8 Government support for 2026/27 will be announced as part of the provisional finance settlement. The projections for 2026/27 onwards are based on the best estimates and information available and are consistent with the announcements in the Autumn Budget 2025 and the Policy Statement issued on 26 November 2025. However, subject to further clarity on the detailed implementation of the announcements there remains significant uncertainty in these projections.

6.9 The net budget requirement for 2026/27 is currently estimated at £19,635m after all identified savings, contingencies and reserve transfers are included. This includes the assumptions detailed at Appendix C. With the provisional funding assumptions and Council Tax income remaining at current levels, a shortfall of £1.875m is currently forecast for 2026/27.

6.10 The development of the Commercial and Investment Strategy has the potential to generate additional significant returns over the MTFS. Currently, recharges to Fenland Future Ltd (FFL) for officer time, loan interest receipts and future dividends from current FFL developments have been included in the forecasts at Appendix A and B. These are based on the current business plan of FFL over the next three years. Additional returns may also be realised depending on the type and timing of investment opportunities. These are however limited at the current time due to high interest rates and the current policy of the PWLB not to lend for purely investment for yield projects. Consequently, no allowance for any further potential returns (over and above the recharges, loan interest and dividends from FFL) have been included in the MTFS at the current time.

6.11 As mentioned in Section 5 above, officers are progressing a number of initiatives to increase the amount of Housing Benefit subsidy reclaimed and together with the anticipated reduction in temporary accommodation costs (partly resulting from the additional houses purchased with assistance from the Local Authority Housing Fund and also from other properties to be purchased from the Council's own resources), **a significant increase in subsidy reclaimed and lower temporary accommodation costs of £600k has been included in the estimates for 2026/27.** As the timings of these initiatives are uncertain, this remains a significant risk in the 2026/27 estimates.

6.12 Members will be aware that the Transformation Agenda 2 (TA2) programme is now underway and is critical in achieving the necessary savings over the course of the MTFS. An amount of £170k has currently been included in the 2025/26 estimates as savings from the TA2 programme, increasing to £372k per annum by 2030/31. Significant savings over and above these will be required from this programme over the MTFS period.

6.13 Taking into account the proposals in the Table 2 above, the estimated net budget requirement in 2026/27 is detailed in Appendix A. The level of forecast resources available to the Council and the estimated levels of expenditure over the medium term are set out in detail in Appendix B. **These show a funding gap of £1.972m in 2026/27 rising to £2.967m by the end of 2030/31.**

6.14 There is still considerable uncertainty around the estimates for 2026/27 and the forecasts for the medium term. Currently there are a number of 'unknowns' which could both positively and negatively impact on the forecasts including:

Risks associated with the MTFS forecasts:

- Potential impact of the Provisional Finance Settlement (announcement in mid-December 2025) on 2026/27 and the medium term;

- Impact of the longer-term changes to the Business Rates Retention system from April 2026;
- Impact of pay awards higher or lower than currently allowed for in the MTFS (2% increase included for 2026/27 onwards);
- Impact of potential additional costs and income in 2026/27 from the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for managing packaging waste;
- Impact of potential net costs of the governments' Food Waste Strategy;
- Impact on income streams being greater than anticipated due to external factors such as Port Income;
- Impact of the current review of Port operations and the future liability of the quay at Wisbech Port;
- Continuing impact of homelessness temporary accommodation costs in 2026/27 and the medium term and the impact on recovery of housing benefit subsidy;
- Impact of increases in Fees and Charges (where feasible) on the 2026/27 estimates and MTFS;
- Impact of service developments eg. Car Parking Enforcement (CPE);
- Revenue impact of funding new capital schemes not currently included in the capital programme. There are currently a number of significant unfunded capital schemes which will need to be considered over the MTFS;
- Potential impact of the Council's future transformation programme with associated savings. Further detailed work is required to quantify the extent of these savings;
- Review of the recharge of staff time to the LATCO (Fenland Future Ltd) to quantify potential revenue savings. Currently recharges of £125k in 2026/27 onwards have been assumed in the MTFS;
- Potential net benefits from FFL of loan interest and dividends from future developments over and above already included in the MTFS generating revenue income;
- Commercial and Investment Strategy and future potential positive returns to the Council;
- Review of the General Fund Balance and Earmarked Reserves to ensure they align with the future requirements of the Council.

6.15 Further details relating to several of the above issues should become clearer with the publication of the Provisional Finance Settlement expected to be announced in mid-December 2025.

6.16 Between now and the final budget report in February 2026 further analysis will be carried out on the impact of the issues detailed above, as and when further information becomes available. Consequently, the estimate for 2026/27 could change significantly from that detailed at Appendix A.

6.17 Whatever impact the above issues may have however, there will remain a significant structural deficit for the Council to address over the medium term.

6.18 The forecasts for the years 2027/28 – 2030/31 are provisional at this stage and should be considered with extreme caution. The Provisional Finance Settlement

announcements regarding local government funding are imminent and therefore, the figures could be different to those included in the forecast. Future announcements and consultation outcomes will also determine government policy and therefore the funding in the future years

6.19 As detailed earlier in this report, Business Rates Retention reform, Local Government Funding reform could have a significant impact on the Council's forecast resources over term of the MTFS. Further to the risks associated with these externally determined funding streams the Council should also ensure that income budgets are achieved, and new income streams considered and implemented for medium to long term sustainability in combination with any operational and transformational benefits that the Council realises. The use of general reserves to support revenue expenditure adds to the overall risks to the Council as such reserves can only be used once but the cumulative impact of such use will continue to be felt into the future.

Other Risks

Capital Programme – Future Funding

6.20 The Council is increasingly relying on borrowing (Internal and Prudential) to fund its future programme as the amount of capital receipts and the level of reserves available to fund the capital programme are reducing considerably over the next two years. Consequently, any new capital schemes (which do not generate a return to repay borrowing costs) will have to be funded through borrowing which will result in revenue costs and therefore will impact on the MTFS and future shortfalls.

6.21 For example, a £1m scheme with a 20 year life, funded by prudential borrowing, would result in around an additional £108,500 per annum in interest (5.85%) and repayment costs.

6.22 Consequently, a review of the current capital programme together with potential new schemes (as detailed in Section 11) and the ongoing revenue cost impact will need to be undertaken prior to the final budget report in February 2026, to ensure the final approved programme is sustainable within the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7 FEES AND CHARGES

7.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel will consider all fees and charges for 2026/27 at its meeting on 19 January 2026 and recommend the Schedule of Fees and Charges to Cabinet at its meeting on 26 January 2026.

7.2 For the purposes of this report, no increase in fees over and above what has already been agreed (eg. Planning Fees and Garden Waste Subscriptions) has been included in the estimates for 2026/27 and the medium term. Income forecasts within the figures in this report are based on current fees and projected activity levels.

7.3 Members will be aware that several of our fees and charges are set by government or other bodies and we have no discretion to amend these. The number of fees and charges which we have discretion to amend and the extent to which any increases significantly impact the Medium Term Forecasts detailed in this report are limited.

8 COUNCIL TAX – 2026/27

- 8.1 The government has set the referendum limit for 2026/27 at 3% or £5, whichever is higher for District Councils (the same as 2024/25). A 3% increase on the Band D Council Tax equates to £7.83 per annum.
- 8.2 Social care authorities, such as Cambridgeshire County Council can also increase their element of council tax by a further 2% (5% in total which would equate to £85.03 on the County Council's Band D Council Tax if increase taken in full).
- 8.3 Council at its meeting on 17 July 2023, agreed to re-position the MTFS by keeping the cash level of Council Tax raised at the current level rather than the previously adopted 0% increase, while recognising that the Council continues to face significant financial challenges and uncertainties that may not allow this ambition to be met.
- 8.4 Members of the Council need to act responsibly each year when setting the precept to balance the ambition of keeping Council Tax income at its' current level with the legal need to balance the budget. It was agreed that raising Council Tax in any of the next four years will be a last resort in order to minimise the financial effects of Council Tax on all of Fenland's households.
- 8.5 For information, an additional 1% increase in Council Tax in 2026/27 would generate in the region of £83k of revenue per annum to the Council. Even with this additional revenue included the estimates for future years show a significant shortfall (see Table 4 below).

Council Taxbase

- 8.6 The amount of Council Tax income recognised in the estimates is determined by the Council Taxbase (Band D equivalents) and the level of Band D Council Tax. For 2026/27, the Council Taxbase has been calculated using the number of dwellings (as notified by the Valuation Office Agency), the impact of exemptions and discounts (eg. Single Person discount) and the amount of Council Tax Support awarded as reported in the Council Tax Base return submitted to MHCLG in October 2025.
- 8.7 In addition, an allowance for growth and for non-collection is included together to produce the estimated taxbase. For 2026/27, the draft taxbase has been calculated as 32,535 (Band D equivalents), an increase of 381 (1.18%) on 2025/26.
- 8.8 The number of dwellings included on the VOA valuation list will be kept under review together with further analysis of growth within the district to ensure the final taxbase calculation reflects the latest position.
- 8.9 In line with the motion agreed by Council on 17 July 2023, assumed Council Tax income has remained at its' current level for 2026/27 and over the period of the MTFS.
- 8.10 At this level of Council Tax, there will be a significant deficit to fund over the period of the MTFS. Consequently, the Council will need to continually consider its strategy to meet the estimated shortfalls shown at Table 2 and in Appendix B.
- 8.11 The implications of not increasing Council Tax over the MTFS is that the Council will be reducing its financial base permanently as it would not be able to recover potential revenue foregone due to the cumulative year on year impact. The consequences of setting Council Tax at its' current level and not achieving the necessary savings/additional income have been clearly demonstrated by the events at other Councils. The ability to achieve significant year on year savings (without

increasing existing and/or introducing new revenue streams together with transformational change) to balance the budget becomes progressively difficult without eventually impacting on front-line services and delivery.

8.12 Council can of course agree to an increase up to the referendum limit of 3% and a 1% increase in Council Tax raises around £83k revenue per annum. Table 4 shows the implications of increasing the Council Tax in 2026/27 by 2.97% per annum and thereafter compared to keeping the Council Tax income constant and compared to freezing the Council Tax in 2026/27 and throughout the MTFS period.

Table 3: MTFS Deficits at Differing Council Tax levels in 2026/27 onwards

Deficits based on different levels of Council Tax	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Deficits at CT with 0% increase p.a (as shown in Table 2/Appendix B)	+1,972	+2,039	+1,862	+2,400	+2,967
Additional CT with 3% increase p.a. from 2026/27	-246	-498	-752	-1,006	-1,260
Deficits at 3% increase	+1,723	+1,541	+1,110	+1,394	+1,707

9 REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BALANCE AND EARMARKED RESERVES

9.1 An important part of any budget strategy is the review and consideration of reserves. Earmarked Reserves are typically held and used in a planned way to deal with issues where it is foreseen that resources need to be set aside to meet a specific need, but the exact amount and timing is not known. General Reserves are held to cushion the impact of an event or events that cannot be foreseen whilst maintaining these resources at a consistent and reasonable level over the medium term.

9.2 Sufficient levels of reserves are necessary to provide for various contingent and unplanned items that could include:-

- significant increased costs of providing statutory services
- significant increased contractual costs
- an unexpected and/or significant event or disaster, e.g. civil emergency
- an unexpected major liability in law
- the need to make significant payments in relation to prior year adjustments under the direction of the external auditor

9.3 The Council's current uncommitted General Fund Balance is £2m. It is good practice to keep the balance on this reserve under review alongside ensuring that the purposes for which other earmarked reserves were allocated remain consistent with and relevant to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9.4 Consequently, a review of the level of the General Fund Balance and the number and purpose of the earmarked reserves will be undertaken and any amendments will be presented to Cabinet and Council in the final budget report in February 2026.

9.5 The Budget Equalisation Reserve was established in 2019/20 to provide a smoothing mechanism between financial years which could provide resources to help achieve balanced budgets in future years whilst maintaining a 0% Council tax increase each year. The current balance on this reserve is £2.213m and is available

to meet potential budget shortfalls for 2025/26 and 2026/27. Funding the £307k current projected shortfall for 2025/26 from this reserve would reduce the balance available for future years to £1.816m.

9.6 In previous reports, the Leader has stated that one of the main purposes of the Budget Equalisation Reserve was to facilitate a form of feedback loop to counter what he described as the Council's systemic historic outturn surpluses. However, the deficit incurred in 2023/24 of £212k was the first for several years and demonstrated the challenging financial environment all Councils are currently experiencing. Table 5 below, details the historic surpluses prior to 2023/24 and the movement to a deficit position from 2023/24 although there was small surplus in 2024/25. This deficit position is projected to worsen in 2026/27 and increase significantly in 2027/28. It is, ultimately, a matter of political interpretation whether the pattern of historic repeated outturn surpluses was evidence of taxing residents more than we need to each year, or if it bears a different interpretation. That is entirely a political matter for Cabinet and Full Council to consider. It is though quite clear that the pattern of historic surpluses will not be repeated and there will be significant deficits over the MTFS for the Council to address.

9.7 At a time of much personal financial pressure for households across Fenland, the Leader proposed, and Full Council approved at their budget meeting in February 2023, a one-off 2% reduction in Council tax in 2023/24. Subsequently, Council at its meeting on 17 July 2023, agreed to re-position the MTFS by keeping the cash level of Council Tax raised at the current level and adopted a 0% increase, while recognising that the Council continues to face significant financial challenges and uncertainties that may not allow this ambition to be met. The decisions by Council in February and July 2023 was considered a more effective and appropriate way to eliminate the Council's pattern of outturn surpluses, and that the fact that the Budget Equalisation Reserve now stands at £2.213m (before any potential use to fund any shortfall in 2025/26) provides a limited facility to smooth any short term revenue account budget pressures in any year(s) over the term of the MTFS. The scale of the forecast deficits in the current year, 2026/27 and over the MTFS are significantly higher than what will be available to fund from the Budget Equalisation Reserve and further significant cost savings and/or income generation (eg. Council Tax increases) will be required to set a legally balanced budget.

Table 4: Net Deficit/Surplus(-) transferred from/(to) Budget Equalisation Reserve

	Budget £000	Outturn £000	Outturn Transferred to(+)/from(-)	
			Budget Equalisation	Reserve Balance
2025/26	1,432	307 <small>(projected)</small>	-307	1,477
2024/25	-3	-130	130	1,784
2023/24	-4	212	-212	1,654
2022/23	203	-800	800	1,866
2021/22	842	-584	584	1,066
2020/21	0	-167	167	482
2019/20	151	-115	115	315
2018/19	73	-200	200	

9.8 The analysis of reserves at Appendix E details the projected General Fund and earmarked reserves position as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027 before any

use of these reserves to fund the potential shortfalls detailed at Appendix A. The final budget report to be considered by Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2026 will consider the use of these reserves.

10 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 10.1 Capital Expenditure and Income plans have been prepared through the Council's service and financial planning cycle. The Council's capital resources are dependent on government funding, external grants or through the ongoing disposal of assets.
- 10.2 Since February 2025, Members have continued to receive regular updates on several high-profile schemes including Wisbech High Street. In addition, Cabinet at their meetings of 30 September 2024 and 15 November 2024, have approved the purchase of additional properties to help support the Council's housing duties and these are included in Appendix D(i).
- 10.3** An updated Capital Programme for 2025-29 is presented at Appendix D(i) for approval. The programme has been updated to ensure it adequately reflects the cost and anticipated timing of schemes previously approved. **At this stage, no further capital schemes over and above those already approved have been included in the updated programme and no further financing costs included in the MTFS.**
- 10.4** No allowance has yet been made for any potential new schemes detailed in Appendix D(ii). These schemes will be subject to further review by officers and members prior to determining the final budget proposals in February 2026. **The potential additional revenue costs associated with any new schemes will increase the financial challenges facing the Council over the MTFS period.**
- 10.5 In addition, no allowance has yet been made for the following developments which will also significantly impact the Council's capital programme.

Fenland Inspire

- 10.6 Following the approval by Cabinet in February 2025, the initialisation of the Fenland Inspire! Project was progressed and borrowing earmarked and agreed by Full Council was £30m over a three-year period.
- 10.7 The Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26 outlines the list of these initiatives identified by Cabinet Members under the Fenland Inspire! banner. It is envisaged that these projects will enhance sports, leisure, and heritage facilities, promote healthy lifestyles and preserve the district's unique character.
- 10.8 There is the potential for certain Fenland Inspire! projects to generate an income for the Council, although this information is not yet available. Work will continue to develop supplementary funding strategies, including grant funding opportunities. However, in some cases, grant funding will not only dictate the scope of the project (potentially in contrast to the original Member vision), but it will also require an upfront investment in the design brief to secure.
- 10.9 Planning permission is required for a number of projects and in some cases listed building consent will be needed. Whilst in all cases of planning applications there is a risk that conditional approval may require an increased spend. Biodiversity net gain may be a consideration within some projects.
- 10.10 In December 2024, Central Government delivered the 'White Paper – Local Government Reorganisation' stating that all District Councils will cease to exist from 1 April 2028. This announcement contributed to the decision to undertake the

Fenland Inspire! programme with an aim to deliver all projects within the timeframe Central Government has specified for LGR. Therefore, it has been proposed that all Fenland Inspire! projects are completed by the deadline of 31 March 2028

- 10.11 Should resources from external funding and/or capital receipts not generate the level of receipts forecast, or there is a delay in disposal of assets, then the capital programme will need re-visiting to ensure funding is sufficient to meet proposed expenditure including through borrowing. Reviews of the programme and resources available are carried out regularly during the year.
- 10.12 The Council's Borrowing Strategy which is incorporated into the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement, recognises that prudential borrowing will be required over the life of the capital programme. Details of the estimated borrowing required is detailed at Appendix D. The projected annual revenue costs for the Council of the current approved programme are reflected in the medium term forecasts at Appendix B.
- 10.13 As stated earlier, a review of the current and future capital programme and its ongoing revenue cost impact will be undertaken to ensure the programme is sustainable within the context of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

11 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There is an element of risk inherent in any process that looks into the future to make forecasts, particularly in the current economic climate and other national and international events now or in the future that may impact on the Council either directly or indirectly. The Council has a strong track record in good financial management as recognised in the recent Annual Audit Letter. This risk is further minimised by adopting the following methodology when preparing the estimates:-
 - Service managers and the Accountancy Team working together to define likely service income/expenditure patterns matched with service delivery plans;
 - Maintaining "earmarked" reserves for expenditure that it is known will occur but the exact amount and timing of the expenditure is not known;
 - Maintaining an adequate level of general reserves to meet sudden and/or unforeseen expenditure;
 - Adopting clear guidelines and control systems (robust revenue and capital budget management and monitoring procedures, Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules etc.) to alert service managers, and members before variances reach tolerance levels;
 - Using professional and expert advice and economic forecasts where these are available, e.g. treasury management, interest rates;
 - Maintaining a rolling review of forecast estimates beyond the current year.
- 11.2 These assumptions are made with all available information but are necessarily calculated based on broad assumptions. In the current economic climate, some of these assumptions are particularly volatile. The MTFS will be prepared annually on a rolling basis so that as information becomes more certain the figures will be updated, and early consideration can be given to any action or changes in direction that may be required.

12 CORPORATE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (S151 Officer) STATEMENT

- 12.1 The proposed budget is set against the context of significant economic uncertainty, the current cost of living crisis, together with considerable uncertainty regarding government funding over the MTFS. The Government intends to make fundamental changes to the funding system for Local Government through the introduction of a new needs based fairer funding formula and the introduction of business rates. In addition, the New Homes Bonus has been abolished in 2026/27 and there is still uncertainty around the net impact of the Food Waste and the Simpler Recycling reforms. The cumulative impact of these changes and lack of visibility on any transition or damping arrangements means that financial planning for 2026/27 and the medium term is very uncertain.
- 12.2 Although there are still many uncertainties around the estimates for 2026/27 and over the medium term to 2030/31 detailed in this report, there are undoubtedly significant challenges facing the Council over the next few years. The report also highlights several major areas of risk which could also adversely affect the estimates over the MTFS. Of particular concern is the additional revenue impact of any new capital schemes which may be included in the final budget in February 2026.
- 12.3 As detailed in the report, Council Tax over each year of the MTFS has been included at its' current level in accordance with the decision by Council at its' meeting on 17 July 2023. At this level, there are currently estimated shortfalls of £1.972m in 2026/27, rising to £2.967m in 2030/31.
- 12.4 These represent a significant challenge for the Council and it is therefore, imperative that a robust savings strategy is in place to meet these challenges.
- 12.5 Consequently, the delivery of the planned savings and major business projects **is critical** to the successful delivery of the Council's budget strategy. **Even with these, the scale of the forecast deficits over the MTFS period means that the current Council Tax strategy of having as a 0% increase per annum, is unsustainable and future increases in Council Tax inevitable to help deliver a balanced budget.** Table 4 in Section 9 of this report exemplifies the impact of increasing Council Tax by up to 3% (the current referendum limit) on the shortfalls over the MTFS detailed in Appendix B.
- 12.6 Given the uncertainties detailed in this report, it is imperative that the Council maintains sufficient resources to cover any in-year unforeseen expenditure. A risk based approach to the consideration of the level of reserves is a component of the Council's overall risk management framework. Operational risks should be managed within Services' bottom line budgets and thus will not normally result in any further call on the Council's General Balances, as detailed in Section 10 above.

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Agenda Item 9

Agenda Item No:	9	 Fenland CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Committee:	Overview & Scrutiny	
Date:	19 January 2026	
Report Title:	Draft Business Plan 2026-27	

1 Purpose / Summary

For Overview & Scrutiny to comment on Draft Business Plan 2026-27.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Our Draft Business Plan 2026-27 identifies the key challenges and opportunities for Fenland. Its structure outlines our key Corporate Priorities. These are Communities, Environment, Economy and Quality Organisation.
- 2.2 In addition to our 4 priorities, we also have ambitions to deliver several investment projects under the Fenland Inspire! programme.
- 2.3 The Draft Business Plan 2026-27 will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 19 January 2026.
- 2.4 The public will be invited to comment on the Draft Business Plan 2026-27 between 5 January 2025 and 1 February 2026. Feedback will be incorporated into the final version of the Business Plan that will be considered by Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2026.
- 2.5 Cabinet would welcome comments on the focus of the priorities and sub priorities of the Draft Business Plan.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 For Overview and Scrutiny to make comment on the Draft Business Plan 2026-27.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Chris Boden, Leader of the Council Councillor Steve Tierney, Portfolio Holder for Communications
Report Originator(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director Carol Pilson, Corporate Director David Wright, Head of Policy & Communications

Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Peter Catchpole, Corporate Director Carol Pilson, Corporate Director David Wright, Head of Policy & Communications
Background Papers	Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Draft Business Plan 2026-27 sets out the priorities we aim to deliver over the next 12 months. These priorities have been developed to address the most important needs of our communities and set a framework for how we will work towards our ambitions for the area and achieve our goal of creating a thriving place to live and visit.
- 1.2 Our core priorities focus on three areas: Communities, Environment and Economy. These priorities primarily focus on the statutory and wide variety of services that we provide day-to-day. A fourth priority, Quality Organisation, sits alongside everything we do. It aims to ensure that the Council runs effectively, transparently and sustainably. We invest in and support our workforce to ensure they have the skills and resources they need to work to the best of their ability.
- 1.3 Each priority is underpinned by a series of performance indicators, which are used to track progress, measure success, and identify areas for improvement. All performance indicators are reported to all elected Members at our Council meetings. These public reports are summarised to provide end of year performance updates against our priorities in our Annual Report, which is available to download on our website.
- 1.4 It also remains a priority of our elected Cabinet Members to deliver several investment projects under the Fenland Inspire! programme, launched at the end of 2024. The projects aims include enhancing sports, leisure, heritage facilities, promoting healthy lifestyles and preserving the district's unique character.
- 1.5 We continue to deliver on our transformation journey, which encompasses our ongoing transformation work to improve efficiency and customer experience, drive positive change and ensure the Council is fit for the future.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For Overview and Scrutiny to make comment on the Draft Business Plan 2026-27.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The public will be invited to comment on the Draft Business Plan 2026-27 between 5 January 2026 and 1 February 2026. Feedback will be incorporated into the final version of the Business Plan that will be considered by Cabinet and Council on 23 February 2026.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 N/A

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

5.2 There are no legal considerations connected with the content of this report.

5.3 Financial Implications

5.4 The Draft Business Plan 2026-27 sets out our corporate priorities we aim to deliver over the next 12 months. These are reflected in the Council budget.

5.5 Equality Implications

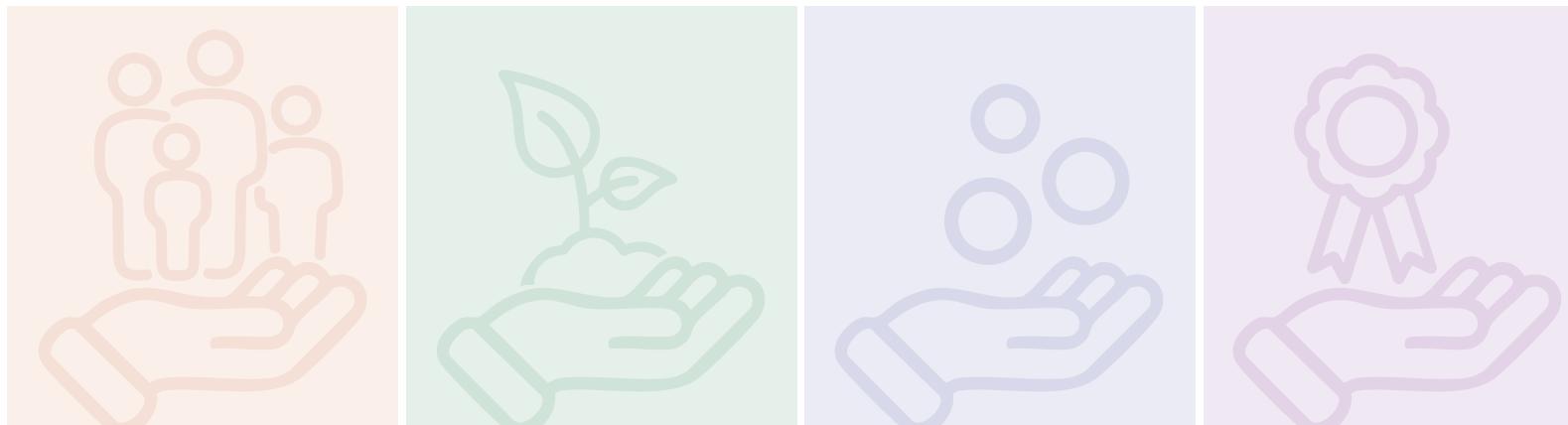
5.6 N/A

6 SCHEDULES

Draft Business Plan 2026/27



Fenland District Council **Business Plan 2026/27**



Contents



- Introduction
- About Fenland
- Our Priorities
- Fenland Inspire!
- Transformation
- Our priorities: Communities
- Our priorities: Environment
- Our priorities: Economy
- Our priorities: Quality Organisation
- Performance



Welcome to Fenland District Council's Business Plan for 2026/27

Fenland District Council enters 2026/27 knowing that significant change lies ahead. The Government's national requirement for Local Government Reorganisation will see the biggest shake up in how councils are structured and residents access services in more than 50 years.

If it proceeds as planned, Fenland and the six other constituent councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will cease to exist from April 2028, and the reins will be handed over to newly established unitary authorities.

Our Cabinet Members have challenged the proposed reform process and made clear their concerns about its scope, cost, deliverability, and impact on local identity. However, they accept reform is desirable and recognise their responsibility to ensure Fenland's communities are represented, and its voice heard as the changes are developed.

The Government is expected to consult the public on its preferred option(s) for unitary authorities in early 2026 before Ministers make a final decision on which new arrangements are put into place.

Against this evolving backdrop, our focus remains firmly on continuing to serve our residents and businesses, delivering on our

priorities, and driving forward ambitious projects.

Through our Fenland Inspire! projects, we are investing in improvements to sports, leisure, and heritage facilities across our towns and villages. Alongside this, we are maximising external investment, including £1.5million Pride in Place Impact Funding, to deliver even more meaningful improvements that people will see and experience in their everyday lives.

We are also supporting the Wisbech Town Board to deliver a regeneration plan for the town as part of the Government's Plan for Neighbourhoods, which has promised up to £20million for Wisbech over a ten-year period.

Financial pressures continue to affect all local councils, but once again Fenland stands out nationally for its record on council tax. In our Draft Budget for 2026/27, Members are proposing to maintain a 0% increase in our portion of the council tax bill for the EIGHTH year running (in 2023/24, we even cut our element by 2%). This demonstrates our continued commitment to balancing financial prudence with support for those who need it most.

Partnership working also

continues to be as important as ever in our day-to-day work and in the lead up to Local Government Reorganisation, ensuring Fenland benefits fully from wider collaboration. This includes working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on key initiatives such as its Local Growth Plan, as well as with health and employment partners to deliver our successful WorkWell programme.

Transformation continues to underpin all our services too, driving efficiency, effectiveness and resident satisfaction in everything we do. We will build on the progress of recent years and strive for even greater impact.

Together with our communities, we look forward to making a meaningful difference once again in 2026/27 – creating a stronger and more resilient Fenland for the future.



Paul Medd
Chief Executive



Chris Boden
Leader of the Council

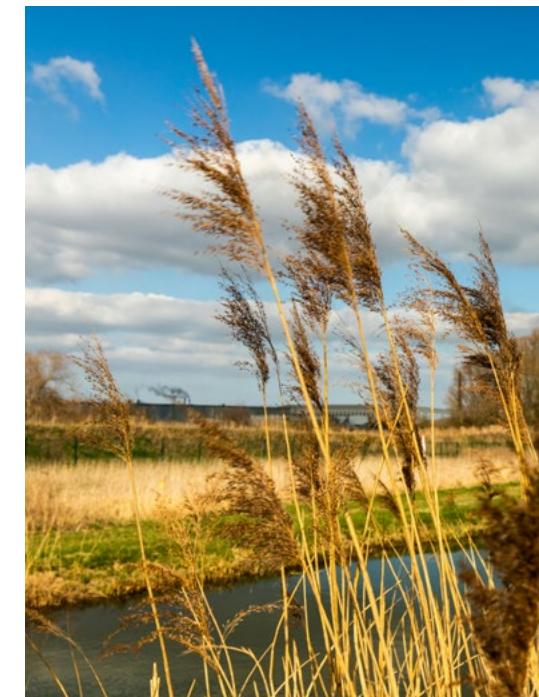
About Fenland



Fenland is a district defined by strong community spirit, rich heritage and expansive rural landscapes. Located in North Cambridgeshire, the district covers 211 square miles and brings together four vibrant market towns – Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech – alongside 29 villages that reflect the area's strong identity.

- Home to approximately 104,595 residents (ONS: mid-2023 estimate).
- Population projected to reach 120,860 by 2043, a 16% increase (ONS: mid-2023 estimate).

- 23% of residents (around 24,540 people) are aged over 64, above both county and national averages.
- Average house price of £225,000 (UK HPI: August 2025), 20% lower than the national average.
- Close proximity and excellent links to large urban cities like Cambridge and Peterborough.
- 135 hectares of public green space and over 200 miles of navigable waterways.
- 66th most deprived area out of 296 local authorities nationally (IMD: 2025).



Our Priorities



Our core priorities focus on three areas: Communities, Environment and Economy. A fourth priority, Quality Organisation, sits alongside everything we do. It aims to ensure that the Council runs effectively, transparently and sustainably.



Communities



Environment

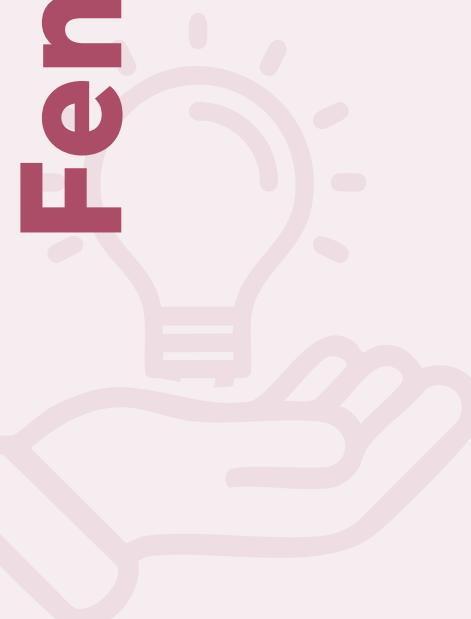


Economy



Quality Organisation





Fenland Inspire!

It remains a priority of Fenland's elected Cabinet Members to deliver several investment projects under the Fenland Inspire! programme, launched at the end of 2024.

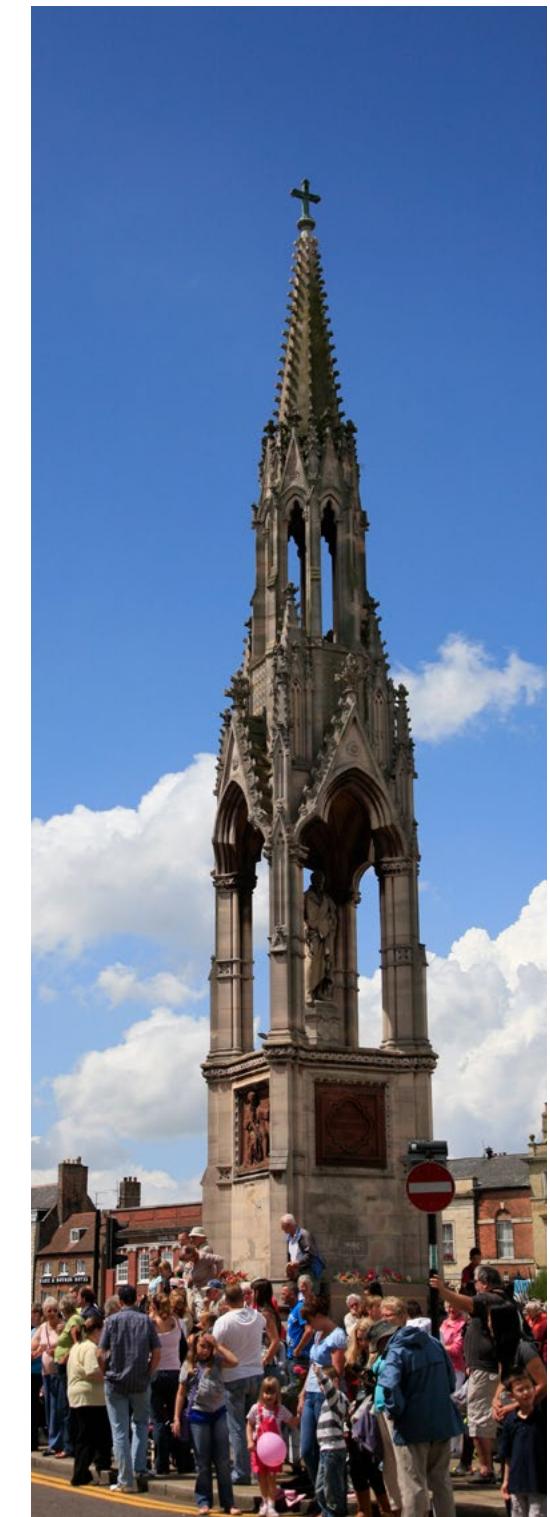
The projects' aims include enhancing sports, leisure, and heritage facilities, promoting healthy lifestyles and preserving the district's unique character.

Fenland Inspire! projects include:

- Pursuing adoption of civil parking enforcement (a legislative change that allows local authorities to enforce on-street parking restrictions in place of the police).
- Districtwide assessment and inventory of current play park provision and play equipment and identify opportunities to enhance it.
- Development of multipurpose / 3G sports pitches in association with the Football Foundation.
- Condition survey work to provide a comprehensive assessment of the physical state and maintenance needs of Chatteris Leisure Centre.
- Securing land next to West End Park, March, to allow, in the future, the creation of a March Country Park.
- Securing the future of St John's Graveyard Chapel, March.
- Progressing the major redevelopment plans for Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey.
- Progressing the transfer of land to secure a village green for Wimblington.
- Progressing development at 11/12 High Street, Wisbech, to repair a gap in the High Street left when the former building had to be demolished.
- Further improvements to Wisbech Park Splash Pad, where additional water features have already been added through Fenland Inspire!, to add a canopy to provide shade and further picnic tables .
- Improvement and the restoration of lighting to the Clarkson Memorial, Wisbech.

These projects are subject to scoping work and the development of outline business cases to determine their feasibility and affordability, ensuring that investment is targeted effectively and delivers the greatest benefit to local communities.

**Fenland
Inspire!**



Transformation



Transformation programme and outcomes

Our transformation programme ties together all major 'change' initiatives that are looking to improve how the council works and delivers services.

In 2026/27 we will be continuing our transformation journey to improve efficiency, customer experience, and drive positive change.

Key outcomes include:

- An improved customer experience where customers will be able to interact with the council via a channel and time that is convenient to them.
- The ability for customers to self-serve via a suite of online processes or gain the personal support they need on more complex issues.
- Be flexible and forward thinking reflecting the diversity of our workforce and services we provide and enabling us to continue to be resilient and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Interdependencies between services will be maximised to improve outcomes for local people.
- We will continue to attract, recruit and retain skilled staff enabling us to continue to deliver excellent services to our local residents.

- We will have a motivated, committed, productive workforce ensuring colleagues have the necessary tools, equipment, training, and ongoing support to fulfil their role.
- We will continue to have a commercial focus to service delivery, considering future opportunities and sustainable income streams.



communities



Support vulnerable members of our community

- Enable residents to claim the Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit they are entitled to.
- Use our housing powers to improve the condition of private rented homes.
- Use our housing powers to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.
- Reduce emergency accommodation use to provide better quality and more cost-effective short-term accommodation and supported homes for homeless clients.
- Use our housing powers to meet housing needs, including bringing empty homes back into use.
- Encourage partners to support the delivery of the Golden Age programme and support older people.



Promote health and wellbeing for all

- Create healthier communities through activities developed and delivered by Active Fenland and Freedom Leisure.
- Work with partners to deliver the WorkWell programme using an integrated approach to providing health and employment support.
- Work with the Integrated Care System to tackle local health and wellbeing priorities and provide information to help people make healthier choices.



Work with partners to keep people safe in their neighbourhoods by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and promoting social cohesion

- Manage the Fenland Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Support the Fenland Diverse Communities Forum to deliver the Fenland-wide Community Cohesion Action Plan.
- Deliver the Community Safety Grant Agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner.



Deliver a high performing refuse, recycling and street cleansing service

- Work with partners, businesses, the community and volunteers to maximise the quality and quantity of recycling collected.
- Deliver an effective, self-funding Garden Waste collection service.
- Deliver clean streets and public spaces as set out in the national code of practice.
- In cooperation with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership, to plan and deliver the domestic food waste service and other Environment Act 2021 changes through the shared Waste Strategy.

Work with partners and the community on projects to improve the environment and streetscene

- Use education, guidance and Council powers to fairly enforce environmental standards and tackle issues such as fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, littering and associated anti-social behaviour.
- Ensure well maintained parks and open spaces by working with our grounds maintenance contractor.
- Supporting volunteer Street Pride groups and other environmental volunteers, organisations and partners.



- Work with Town Councils and the community to provide local markets and thriving market town community events.

- Deliver the Council's carbon reduction and climate adaptation plan including meeting all climate change targets which are legally required by the Government.

Ensure Fenland is attractive to new businesses, jobs and opportunities whilst supporting our existing businesses

- Promote and develop our Business Premises at South Fens, The Boathouse and Light Industrial Estates to encourage investment, business development, job creation and skills diversification.
- Support the Combined Authority with their ambitious Local Growth Plan to attract investment into Fenland.

Promote and enable housing growth, economic growth and regeneration

- Enable appropriate growth, development and infrastructure through delivering a proactive and effective Planning service.
- Work with partners and the local community to deliver targeted improvements using the £1.5million Pride in Place Impact Funding awarded by Government, supporting projects that enhance public spaces, revitalise town centres, and strengthen community facilities across Fenland.
- Support the Wisbech Town Board to deliver long-term regeneration through the Government's Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative, securing and overseeing up to £20million of investment for Wisbech over a ten-year period to enhance the town centre, boost economic growth, and improve opportunities for residents and businesses.

- Drive forward the development and delivery of new homes and commercial space by using our surplus property and land assets to deliver sustainable economic and residential growth.

- Work with our partners to enable new affordable housing to meet housing needs.
- Identify and bid for external funding that aligns with and supports our housing, economic and growth objectives.

Promote and lobby for infrastructure improvements

- Promote sustainable road, rail and concessionary transport initiatives to improve access to employment and local services.
- Engage with the Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council on the feasibility and delivery of road and rail infrastructure projects.

- Work with the Combined Authority to influence how housing and infrastructure funding is used to stimulate housing development and economic growth and improve connectivity in the district.



Quality Organisation



Performance Management (Performance Indicators)

- Set relevant and robust performance targets to ensure the effective delivery of Business Plan priorities.
- Report regularly on service performance to the Corporate Management Team, Members and the public.

Excellent Customer Service

- Maintain excellent Customer Service standards to ensure we continue to deliver the most effective service to our communities.
- Help residents to self-serve and access our services digitally to allow us to provide greater support for vulnerable customers and complex queries.

Governance, Financial Control and Risk Management

- Maintain robust and effective financial standards, internal controls and organisational management.
- Comply with data protection and General Data Protection Regulation requirements.
- Ensure we proactively manage all risks in accordance with our Corporate Risk Management Strategy.

Local Government Reorganisation

- Ensure Fenland's residents, businesses and communities are represented and the district's identity and priorities safeguarded, as the Government's



requirement for Local Government Reorganisation is developed.

- Develop our workforce so they are prepared for Local Government Reorganisation.

Consultation and Engagement

- Appropriately consult with residents about our service and proposals as outlined in our Consultation Strategy.

Asset Management and Commercialisation

- Ensure our asset base is sustainable, suitable and fully utilised to maximise income opportunities and financial efficiencies.
- Deliver our adopted Capital Programme to maintain the integrity and safety of our assets.
- Work jointly with public, private and third sector partners to improve access to our services, including from co-located facilities.

Equalities

- Meet our Public Sector Equality duty by complying with the requirements of the Equality Act

2010 and Human Rights Act 1998 through our core service delivery and publication of a statutory Annual Equality Report.

Workforce Development

- Equip our workforce with the right skills to effectively deliver our priorities.
- Support and empower our staff to make effective decisions.

Enforcement and Compliance

- Use a fair and proportionate approach to improve living, working and environmental standards as set out in our Enforcement Policies.
- Support businesses to ensure compliance with a wide range of regulatory requirements.

Health and Safety

- Maintain effective Health and Safety systems to comply with relevant legislation and local requirements.
- Deliver all aspects of the Council's Health and Safety action plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our workforce, partners and wider community.

Performance

Each priority is underpinned by performance indicators, which are used to track progress, measure success and identify areas for improvement. All performance indicators are reported to our elected Members at our Council meetings.



Communities	Performance Measures
Enable residents to claim the Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit they are entitled to.	Days taken to process new claims and changes for Council Tax Support. Days taken to process new claims and changes for Housing Benefit.
Use our housing powers to improve the condition of private rented homes.	Total number of private rented homes where positive action has been taken to address safety issues.
Use our housing powers to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.	The proportion of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through housing options work.
Reduce emergency accommodation use to provide better quality and more cost-effective short-term accommodation and supported homes for homeless clients.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports
Use our housing powers to meet housing needs, including bringing empty homes back into use.	Number of empty properties brought back into use.
Encourage a range of partners to support the delivery of the Golden Age programme and support older people.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Create healthier communities through activities developed and delivered by Active Fenland and Freedom Leisure.	Customer satisfaction for Freedom Leisure Centres
Work with partners to deliver the WorkWell programme using an integrated approach to providing health and employment support.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Work with the Integrated Care System to tackle local health and well-being priorities and provide information to help people make healthier choices.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Manage the Fenland Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Support the Fenland Diverse Communities Forum to deliver the Fenland-wide Community Cohesion Action Plan.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Deliver the Community Safety Grant Agreement with the Police and Crime Commissioner.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Environment	Performance Measures
Work with partners, businesses, the community and volunteers to maximise the quality and quantity of recycling collected.	% of household waste recycled through the blue bin service.
Deliver an effective, self-funding Garden Waste collection service.	Customer satisfaction with our Garden Waste service.
Deliver clean streets and public spaces as set out in the national code of practice.	% of inspected streets meeting our cleansing standards.
In cooperation with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership, to plan and deliver the Environment Act 2021 changes to domestic and commercial waste collection through an updated Waste Strategy.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports. Customer satisfaction with refuse and recycling services.
Use education, guidance and Council powers to fairly enforce environmental standards and tackle issues such as fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, littering and associated antisocial behaviour.	% of Rapid or Village response requests (to action issues such as fly-tipping, dog fouling and littering) actioned the same day. Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Ensure well maintained parks and open spaces by working with our ground maintenance contractor.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.

Performance



Economy	Performance Measures
<p>Supporting volunteer Street Pride groups and other environmental volunteers, organisations and partners.</p> <p>Work with Town Councils and the community to provide local markets and thriving market town community events.</p> <p>Deliver the council's carbon reduction and climate adaptation plan including meeting all climate change targets which are legally required by the UK Government.</p>	<p>Number of Street Pride, In Bloom, Friends of Groups and Green Dog Walkers community environmental events supported.</p> <p>% of those asked satisfied with community events.</p> <p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Promote and develop our Business Premises at South Fens, The Boathouse and Light Industrial Estates to encourage investment, business development, job creation and skills diversification.</p> <p>Support the Combined Authority with their ambitious Local Growth Plan to attract investment into Fenland</p> <p>Enable appropriate growth, development and infrastructure through delivering a proactive and effective Planning service.</p>	<p>% occupancy of Business Premises estates.</p> <p>% of debt on the investment portfolio of the total rent roll.</p> <p>% occupancy of our Wisbech Yacht Harbour.</p> <p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Work with partners and the local community to deliver targeted improvements using the £1.5million Pride in Place Impact Funding awarded by Government, supporting projects that enhance public spaces, revitalise town centres and strengthen community facilities across Fenland.</p>	
<p>Support the Wisbech Town Board to deliver long-term regeneration through the Government's Plan for Neighbourhoods initiative, securing and overseeing up to £20million of investment for Wisbech over a ten-year period to enhance the town centre, boost economic growth and improve opportunities for residents and businesses.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Drive forward the development and delivery of new homes and commercial space by using our surplus property and land assets to deliver sustainable economic and residential growth.</p>	<p>% of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks.</p> <p>% of minor applications determined in 8 weeks.</p> <p>% of other applications determined in 8 weeks.</p>
<p>Work with our partners to enable new affordable housing to meet housing needs.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Identify and bid for external funding that aligns with and supports our housing, economic and growth objectives.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Promote sustainable road, rail and concessionary transport initiatives to improve access to employment and local services.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Engage with the Combined Authority and Cambridgeshire County Council on the feasibility and delivery of major road and rail infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
<p>Work with the Combined Authority to influence how housing and infrastructure funding is used to stimulate housing development and economic growth in the district.</p>	<p>Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>
Quality Organisation	
<p>Set relevant and robust performance targets to ensure the effective delivery of Business Plan priorities.</p>	<p>Corporate performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.</p>

Performance



Report regularly on service performance to the Corporate Management Team, Councillors and the public.	% of Council Tax collected. Council Tax net collection fund receipts. % national non-domestic rates (NNDR) (Business Rates) collected. National non-domestic rates (NNDR) (Business Rates) net collection fund receipts.
Maintain excellent Customer Service standards to ensure we continue to deliver the most effective service to our communities.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Help residents to self-serve and access our services digitally to allow us to provide greater support for vulnerable customers and complex queries.	% of customer queries responded at first point of contact. % of customers satisfied by our service. Contact Centre calls handled.
Maintain robust and effective financial standards, internal controls and organisational management.	Annual External Audit Report.
Comply with data protection and General Data Protection Regulation requirements.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Ensure we proactively manage all risks in accordance with our Corporate Risk Management Strategy.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Ensure Fenland's residents, businesses and communities are represented and the district's identity and priorities safeguarded, as the Government's requirement for Local Government Reorganisation is developed.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Develop our workforce so they are prepared for Local Government Reorganisation.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Appropriately consult with residents about our service and proposals as outlined in our Consultation Strategy.	Consultation Strategy and Consultations reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Ensure our asset base is sustainable, suitable and fully utilised to maximise income opportunities and financial efficiencies.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Deliver our adopted Capital Programme in line with our Corporate Asset Management Plan to maintain the integrity and safety of our assets.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Work jointly with public, private and third sector partners to improve access to our services, including from co-located facilities.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Meet our Public Sector Equality duty by delivering the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act and 1998 Human Rights Act through our core service delivery and publication of a statutory Annual Equality Report.	Annual Equality Report.
Equip our workforce with the right skills to effectively deliver our priorities.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Support and empower our staff to make effective decisions.	Ad-hoc staff surveys.
Use a fair and proportionate approach to improve living, working and environmental standards as set out in our Enforcement Policies.	% of local businesses who said they were supported and treated fairly. Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Support businesses to ensure compliance with a wide range of regulatory requirements.	Performance reported via Portfolio Holder Reports.
Maintain effective Health and Safety systems to comply with relevant legislation and local requirements.	Annual Health and Safety Report. Annual Audit and Risk Report.
Deliver all aspects of the Council's Health and Safety action plan to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our workforce, partners and wider community.	Annual Health and Safety Report. Annual Audit and Risk Report.

Fenland District Council
Fenland Hall, County Road,
March, Cambridgeshire, PE15 8NQ

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Agenda Item No:	10	
Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny	
Date:	19 January 2026	
Report Title:	Reporting – Use of Waiver Provisions	

1 Purpose / Summary

To provide notice to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of decisions taken without the need for notice to be given on the Forward Plan and/or for the call-in procedures to be applied.

2 Key Issues

To comply with the notice requirements set out in the Council's Constitution at paragraphs 16.3 of Procedure Rule 2 and paragraph and 20.4 of Procedure Rule 4.

3 Recommendations

For the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to note the waivers permitted by the Chairman since the date of the last meeting.

Wards Affected	All
Report Originator(s)	Maureen Davis, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Amy Brown, Assistant Director for Legal and Governance amybrown@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	As above
Back-ground Papers	Fenland District Council's Constitution: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/localgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=315&MId=2451&info=1&bcr=1

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Access to Information Procedure Rules which constitute Rule 2 of the Council's Constitution specify at paragraph 13.1 that a key decision may not be taken unless notice of that decision has been published in the Forward Plan for a minimum period of 28 days. The Council's Forward Plan is accessible via the following link: <https://moderngov.fenland.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPlId=136&RD=0&bcr=1>
- 1.2 Article 13 of the Council's Constitution defines a key decision as any decision which results in saving or expenditure in excess of £100,000 or, in respect of any land or property acquisition in excess of £250,000 and/or which is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of the District comprising two or more wards.
- 1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedures Rules which constitute Rule 5 of the Council's Constitution specify at paragraph 18 that when a decision is made by Cabinet, an individual member of the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet or a key decision is made by an officer with delegate authority from the Cabinet or under joint arrangements, that decision must be published within 3 working days of being made. There then follows a period of 5 working days following publication and prior to implementation, during which that decision can be called-in. Information about the procedure for call-in can also be found at Rule 5 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.4 In exceptional circumstances, if it is not possible to meet the forward plan publication requirements, there are 2 procedures that can be followed to enable the decision to still be taken:
 - 1.5 Procedure Rule 2, paragraph 16 of the Council's Constitution specifies that if a matter which is likely to be a key decision has not been included in the Forward Plan and the procedure at paragraph 15 cannot be compiled with then, in cases of special urgency, the decision may still be taken if the Chairman of O&S or, in their absence, the Chairman of the Council agrees that the taking of the decision cannot be reasonably deferred.
 - 1.6 Rule 4 of the Council's Constitution which comprises the Cabinet Procedure Rules specify at paragraph 20 that the call-in procedure shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chairman of O&S or, in their absence, the Chairman of the Council agrees that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances to be treated as a matter of urgency.
- 1.7 Paragraph 16 of Procedure Rule 2 and Paragraph 20.4 of Procedure Rule 4 both specify that decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel together with the reasons for the urgency.
- 1.8 Decisions taken after the application of the urgency provisions are also routinely published in the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's annual report which is also submitted to Full Council for approval.

2 NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS

2.1 Since the date of the last meeting the Chairman of O&S has permitted the use of the waiver provisions on one occasion:

2.1.1 A waiver of the requirement to place an entry on the Forward Plan for the full period of 28 days was requested due to the need for an urgent report to be tabled at the Cabinet meeting held on 5 December 2025 regarding the Whittlesey Southern Relief Road (WSRR).

2.1.2 The urgent cabinet report resulted from the CPCA Mayor expressing his support for ongoing Whittlesey Capital Transport schemes at a [CPCA Board meeting](#) held on 26.11.26. At the same meeting, the CPCA initiated a public consultation on their 2026/2027 budget, with a closing date of 12 January 2026.

2.1.3 The Mayor's support for the WSRR had not been made evident prior to the CPCA meeting. Therefore, in order for one of the recommendations from the report to progress (namely to write to the CPCA under the budget consultation to request inclusion of the cost of the next Whittlesey Relief Road report in the CPCA 2026/2027 budget or, failing that, in the MTFS for 2027/2028) it was vital that the report was considered by Cabinet at their December meeting as the scheduled January Cabinet meeting would have taken place after the CPCA budget consultation period had concluded.

2.1.4 An entry was placed on the forward plan on 3 December 2025 ([Whittlesey Southern Relief Road Outline Business Case - KEY/03DEC25/01](#)) and the WSRR Cabinet report was tabled on 15 December 2025 ([Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 15th December, 2025, 2.00 pm - Fenland District Council](#)). The timing of the notification of the CPCA budget consultation period (following the Mayor's support of the Whittlesey Capital Transport schemes being made evident) did not allow for the full period of 28 days notification of the decisions that needed to be made.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny has to date provided a verbal update as to the use of the waivers provided for in the Constitution. In future, unless it is not possible to prepare a Report in time for Agenda dispatch in relation to the next available meeting of O&S, a Report will be prepared.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Legal Implications

4.1.1 The legal implications are as set out in the main body of this Report.

4.2 Financial Implications

4.2.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this Report.

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• UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS

REF	Date Requested	Question	Target Date																												
COMPLETED ACTIONS																															
	• 11/11/25	<p>Clarion Questions:</p> <p>Headlines from Communities (page 38 of agenda pack) - Is there a list of organisations, with their projects and locations? Do the organisations submit an evaluation piece with an impact report?</p> <p>Is there any data on accessibility adaptations/adjustments requests and Clarion's responsible assessment time on works completed?</p> <p> Copy of Copy of FDC Project Activity Tracke response received 14-11-25</p> <p>Here is a list of the “major” adaptations we’ve completed in Fenland since 2019. Anything that costs less than £1k is excluded from this process:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #d9e1f2;"> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Row Labels</th><th style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Count of AdaptUpn</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Adaptation -</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bathroom</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adaptation -</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Extension</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adaptation - Kitchen</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Door - Entry equipment</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Door - Thresholds</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Door - Widening</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dropped Kerb</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hardstanding</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Heating Adjustment</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lift - Hoist</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lift - Stairlift</td><td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">13</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Row Labels	Count of AdaptUpn	Adaptation -	9	Bathroom	9	Adaptation -	7	Extension	7	Adaptation - Kitchen	8	Door - Entry equipment	1	Door - Thresholds	5	Door - Widening	4	Dropped Kerb	1	Hardstanding	4	Heating Adjustment	1	Lift - Hoist	5	Lift - Stairlift	13	19/11/25
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Lift - through floor	1
Miscellaneous - Major	2
Miscellaneous - Minor	1
Multiple - Major	17
Multiple - Minor	1
OT Visit -Rehousing	1
Rail - Drop Down	1
Rail - Grab	9
Ramp	25
Shower - Level	
Access	94
Shower - over bath	6
Shower - Seat	1
Toilet - Bidet_Bio	
Bidet	1
Toilet -Clos-o-mat	7
Wet Room	10
Grand Total	235

We're committed (via the stock transfer agreement) to spend c. £440k in Fenland on major adaptations in 25/26 (this is uplifted by CPI each year), which we have pretty much spent/committed already this year.

.	01/12/25	Question to Councillor Dee Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor Booth suggested that if the decisions made does go to an appeal this needs to be factored into the council's higher-level analysis and that's where he feels the changes need to be made and additional training required to help councilor's put forward a stronger case if they are going to refuse an application and improving the situation over a wider picture. Councillor Mrs. Davis suggested in Councillor Laws absences that the question be put to her for her to respond. 	12/01/26
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WATCHING BRIEF ITEMS

None at present

Overview and Scrutiny – Draft Work Programme 2025-2026

All Informal pre-meetings are held via Teams until further notice,
but Formal meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at Fenland Hall

Meeting Dates

<u>Agenda Despatch Due Date</u>	<u>Informal pre-meeting</u>			<u>Formal Overview & Scrutiny Meeting</u>	
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
20 February 2026	24 February 2026	2.00pm	Via Teams	2 March 2026	10.00am
10 April 2026	13 April 2026	2.00pm	Via Teams	20 April 2026	10.00am

2 March 2026

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ CMT/Officer/Guest
10.00 -12.00 Meeting	Annual Review of Anglia Revenues Partnership	All	Peter Catchpole Anna Goodall Cllr French ARP representatives
	Road Safety Partnership update		Dan Horn Alan Boughen Cllr Wallwork Simon Burgin
	Public Health & Education	Communities	Carol Pilson Anna Goodall Annabel Tighe Cllr Count (skills)
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions	All	Amy Brown Chair
	Waivers Report	All	Amy Brown Chair
	Future Work Programme 2023/24	All	Amy Brown Chair

20 April 2026

Time	Agenda Item	Fenland Corporate Priority	Portfolio Holder/ CMT/Officer/Guest
10.00 -12.00 Meeting	Progress in Delivering the Economy Corporate Objectives to include Planning 2025/26	Economy	<p>Peter Catchpole Carol Pilson Dan Horn Anna Goodall</p> <p>Mark Greenwood Phil Hughes Wendy Otter Matt Leigh Cllr Count Cllr Seaton Cllr Laws Cllr Boden Cllr Gary Christy</p>
	Update on CPCA Growth Service and impact on Economic Development in Fenland	Economy	<p>Peter Catchpole Anna Goodall Mark Greenwood Cllr Count</p>
	Waivers Report	All	<p>Amy Brown Chair</p>
	Matters arising – Update on previous actions	All	<p>Amy Brown Chair</p>
	Future Work Programme 2024/25	All	<p>Amy Brown Chair</p>

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