

## AGENDA

### **CABINET**

**MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2025**

**4.00 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, FENLAND HALL,  
COUNTY ROAD, MARCH**

Committee Officer: Linda Albon  
Tel: 01354 622424  
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1 To receive apologies for absence

2 Previous Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To confirm and sign the public minutes of the meeting held 19 May 2025.

3 To report additional items for consideration which the Chairman deems urgent by virtue of the special circumstances to be now specified

4 To receive members' declaration of any interests under the Local Code of Conduct or any interest under the Code of Conduct on Planning Matters in respect of any item to be discussed at the meeting

5 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025-26 (Pages 9 - 18)

For Cabinet to review and agree the list of outside bodies and nominations for representatives on those organisations for 2025/26.

6 Rural England Prosperity Funding 2025-26 (Pages 19 - 24)

To consider funding available from the Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for a transitional one-year period ending 31 March 2026

7 Fenland Inspire! Projects Update (Pages 25 - 52)

To update Cabinet on progress to date of the Fenland Inspire! project initiatives and to highlight potential risks.

8 Draft 6 Month Cabinet Forward Plan (Pages 53 - 54)

For information purposes.

9 Items which the Chairman has under item 3 deemed urgent

**CONFIDENTIAL - ITEMS COMPRISING EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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

10 Confidential Minutes (Pages 55 - 58)

To confirm and sign the confidential minutes of the meeting held 19 May 2025.

Friday, 6 June 2025

Members: Councillor C Boden (Chairman), Councillor Mrs J French (Vice-Chairman), Councillor G Christy, Councillor S Count, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor S Imafidon, Councillor Mrs D Laws, Councillor C Seaton, Councillor S Tierney and Councillor S Wallwork

# CABINET

**MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025 - 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Councillor C Boden (Chairman), Councillor Mrs J French (Vice-Chairman), Councillor G Christy, Councillor S Count, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor S Imafidon, Councillor Mrs D Laws, Councillor C Seaton, Councillor S Tierney and Councillor S Wallwork

## **CAB72/24 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 and 24 March 2025 were approved and signed.

## **CAB73/24 SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDS - TRANSITIONAL FUNDING**

Members considered funding from the CPCA for a period of one year to fund Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) projects presented by Councillor Count.

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

- Councillor Tierney expressed the opinion that going forward, as it might be too late now to do anything this time, it would be nice if there are grants like this or helping businesses in the future that the Council could build into the conditions that they undertake a little bit of publicity about what they did with the money so it shows residents what their taxpayer funds are being used on and it would be good to showcase some of the positive ways that businesses are helped with this funding.
- Councillor Boden stated that it is unlikely that there will be any further SPF after 2025/26 but as far as 2025/26 is concerned it may not be too late and suggested that Councillor Tierney asks officers to see if something can be actioned along these lines.
- Councillor Mrs Laws agreed with the comments of Councillor Tierney so frequently the Council does hear of good messages and good reports and she feels the Council is poor in promoting what has been undertaken and how taxpayers money is spent and she welcomes any promotional work.
- Councillor Count thanked members for their valuable contributions and he will pursue this along with Councillor Tierney as Portfolio Holder for Media.

**Proposed by Councillor Count, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED to accept Shared Prosperity Funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for a one-year period 2025-26.**

## **CAB74/24 GROUNDS AVENUE DEVELOPMENT AND LEASE TO SUPPORT HOUSING DUTIES**

Members considered a proposal to commission Cornerstone Place to develop land at Grounds Avenue, March and enter relevant legal documentation to lease the land to a Registered Provider (RP) for 125 years with the Council providing directly the required management and support to residents in the properties presented by Councillor Hoy.

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

- Councillor Tierney requested clarification on who would use these properties? Councillor Hoy responded that they would be for local housing need, for a local person who is made homeless to avoid them being placed in a hotel which is costly and not for asylum seekers.

**Proposed by Councillor Hoy, seconded by Councillor Count and AGREED to delegate to the Section 151 and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Housing and the Leader to:**

- **enter into agreement with Cornerstone Place to develop the Grounds Avenue site to provide 12 properties to support the housing duties;**
- **enter into a 125-year lease with an RP for the land;**
- **enter into a management lease with the RP to enable the Council to control the nominations into and undertake the management and support responsibilities; and**
- **allocate at-risk costs of circa £92k dependent on a planning permission, securing a RP and the relevant grant funding and private finance, all to be refunded at funds drawdown.**

*(Councillor Mrs French declared that she is a member of Planning Committee and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon)*

**CAB75/24    DECISION TO ENTER A CONTRACT THROUGH THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATIONS PLAYZONES FRAMEWORK TO CONSTRUCT PLAYZONES AT BARTON ROAD AND MANOR FIELD**

Members considered supportive match funding for Playzone projects in Whittlesey and Wisbech presented by Councillor Boden.

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

- Councillor Hoy expressed concern with the Barton Road scheme as she was told by the previous portfolio holder that the Wisbech Park scheme is not suitable but that is contradictory to what the report says because the report is clear that a scheme is viable there. She feels Wisbech Park is a great location given that it is in the centre of town and a lot of people in the area do not have access to transport, with in the deprived areas there being a reliance on walking. Councillor Hoy stated that her concern with Barton Road scheme is that it is out of town and how will people access it and also that there was a lot of objections to when the secondary school was proposed in this area, she is not sure if there has to be a planning application for Playzones, but if it does there could be problems in the planning process for the Barton Road scheme. She requested that members think about which of the two Wisbech schemes progressed first rather than necessarily naming one of them.
- Councillor Boden made the point that matter for consideration before members today is to consider the offer of financial support for these two specific schemes and whilst there were originally five schemes put forward to the Football Foundation, it has decided that these two should be the first ones. He added that it is not to say that the other three do not qualify, it is merely that in making their decision these are the two they decided to put forward first and they have not given the Council the option to say that the choices can be swapped and it is a case of accepting it or not accepting it. Councillor Boden felt that Councillor Hoy would be favourable to accepting the money for Wisbech rather than not accepting it, noting that Barton Road is in Wisbech town itself regardless of what some people may think in the locality and the Council is not the one who made the choice about which sites to go with first and part of the proposal coming forward is asking that Cabinet to agree that further bids should be supported to the Football Foundation for a Playzone facility in Wisbech Park and a location in March or Chatteris.
- Councillor Tierney agreed with the comments of Councillor Hoy, he does not have any problem with the Barton Road scheme and is not sure the residents will be as upset about this as they were about a school but he does think Wisbech Park is a far better location and although it cannot be changed it is a big mistake.
- Councillor Mrs French expressed her disappointment that Estover was not chosen in the first place and she was told by the previous portfolio holder last week that it had been discounted totally. She stated that she has received an e-mail from the Netball Association,

which outlines what the youth of March do and March Town Council has agreed to give Estover £80,000 per year over the next 3 years. Councillor Boden reiterated that a recommendation will be coming forward about whether to support further bids to the Football Foundation including for a location in March, with the most obvious location being Estover.

- Councillor Count stated that he has received the e-mail from the Netball Association which he has replied to today with a holding response whilst he looks into the matter further. He expressed concern that an application was submitted for a Playzone and that has been rejected because it is 2 metres too big to use as a netball facility but in the Cabinet report it says that Estover has been turned down because they are considering another facility. Councillor Count questioned whether when the paper was written was something else to be undertaken with the netball courts instead or is there something else being proposed for Estover in which case could there be an update to all Cabinet members after the meeting or if not what does the paper actually mean by they are considering an alternative facility at Estover? Councillor Boden stated that to his knowledge nothing has been ruled out for the future, there may need to be an amendment to a proposal made but all five sites were made available for the Football Foundation to consider and it was for them to make the decision about which ones it moved forwards so depending upon what is agreed at the recommendation a location in March will continue to be put forward and as far as he is aware this will continue to be Estover, if it turns out that another one is appropriate March members will be made aware of this and it will be subject to Cabinet debate before anything is actually put forward.
- Councillor Mrs French expressed her belief that the other facility is a 3G pitch.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Seaton and AGREED to:**

- **note the report and the benefits that the development of PlayZones in Fenland will offer, namely;**
  - **increasing community physical activity levels and subsequently community health**
  - **encouraging under-represented groups such as women and girls, disabled people and older people to become more physically active**
  - **supporting a reduction in anti-social behaviour**
  - **supporting community cohesion;**
- **note the General Fund Budget Estimates and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report, agreed by Cabinet and Council in February, which projects a financial shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.432m increasing year on year amounting to around £3.4m by 2027/28. Although there are currently many uncertainties regarding the budget for 2025/26 and the MTFS, there remains a significant structural deficit which the Council will need to address. Any additional costs for items not already included in the budget will incur additional revenue costs of circa. £81k p.a. for every additional £1m required based on an assumed 30 year borrowing profile;**
- **provide the necessary match funding requirement of £80,925.29 for the Manor Field facility and the match funding requirement of £74,988.99 for the Barton Road facility;**
- **identify that this project is a capital project as the original PlayZone report was dated November 2024;**
- **delegate authority to the Corporate Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Environment and Leisure and the Leader of the Council in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Finance to develop the PlayZones as required in paragraph 3.3, through the Football Foundation PlayZones Framework and to award, mobilise and implement such proposal with further authority to take all reasonable ancillary actions to ensure implementation;**
- **authorise the Monitoring Officer to execute and complete all requisite legal documentation in relation to the matters outlined above; and**
- **to support further bids to the Football Foundation for a PlayZone facility in Wisbech Park and a location in March or Chatteris and instructs officers accordingly, noting**

**that any successful funding for two facilities will also be likely to require match funding from the Council in the region of £80,000 per facility if other funders decline to support the projects.**

*(Councillor Mrs French declared that she is a member of Planning Committee and took no part in the voting thereon)*

### **CAB76/24 WHITTLESEY RELIEF ROAD PROJECT**

Members acknowledged the completed Whittlesey Relief Road Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) and its recommendations and consideration of the next steps to source funding for the completion of further, more detailed work presented by Councillor Seaton.

Councillor Boden drew members attention to a slight revision to the final recommendation of the report, which was agreed by members.

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

- Councillor Mrs Laws stated that she supports the recommendations as she feels it is essential to move forward as increase in traffic is happening daily, especially HGVs, and it needs to be recognised that if growth and economy are required to open up Fenland then improvement is needed to the road structure between the west to the east. She added that a lot of work has gone into this, thanking both the consultants and particularly Belinda Pedlar who is to be applauded on how she has kept all members of the group involved, up-to-date and it has been a positive and worthwhile exercise.
- Councillor Tierney endorsed the comments of Councillor Mrs Laws as members need to support all of Fenland, this is a great start and good news but there is a lot of work to be undertaken.
- Councillor Count expressed the opinion that the most you can do to achieve economic growth is strategic interventions, it is not grant funding or skills, it is strategic interventions that means that people, goods and information can get around the District better so he is very much in support of this and looks forward to the SOC being advanced and getting the relief road built.
- Councillor Boden stated that the SOC did not show at this time there was value for money in the proposal as it currently stands, however, there is the possibility that the number can change if the proposal is changed and additionally the cost benefit ratio is no longer the be all or end all for a decision about whether something should or should not go ahead. He feels it has been an extremely valuable exercise and he shares Councillor Mrs Laws comments about thanking Belinda Pedler in particular for the amount of hard work that has been put in over a long period of time. Councillor Boden stated that officers are being asked to explore alternative potential approaches to securing the £220,000 required and his suggestion is to firstly speak to the newly elected Mayor of the Combined Authority. He stated that in relation to the slightly amended recommendation, it is important that the conclusion that was reached concerning the increasing unviability and unsustainability of the traffic situation in the centre of Whittlesey that this matter is brought before the Planning Committee whenever it is appropriate so that it can be one of the considerations which is taken into account both by officers in making their recommendations and by members in making their decisions on future significant planning applications.
- Councillor Mrs French made the point that with regard to the road it would be a County Council planning application and not a Fenland District Council one. Councillor Boden responded that it is a long way from that at this stage and what is being discussed is additional funding to expand the SOC after which there would be an Outline Business Case and a few stages until the planning process is reached.
- Councillor Mrs Laws expressed the view that she does not think there is any harm in engaging with County Council to inform them where this Council is with the southern relief road and also to put this advisory note in. Councillor Boden responded that he was planning

to do this on a personal basis as the local county councillor for the area in a very public way.

**Proposed by Councillor Seaton, seconded by Councillor Boden and AGREED to:**

- **note the report and its recommendations;**
- **support in principle the proposal for further work to refine the scheme and assess further benefits;**
- **ask Officers to explore alternative potential approaches to source the £220,000 required to complete the work recommended in the Whittlesey Relief Road Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC); and**
- **bring to the attention of the Planning Team the wording of paragraph 2.2 of the Agenda Report and request that officers include this conclusion of the SOC and take this into account within officer reports for any applications of 20+ houses and any significant commercial developments in Whittlesey, Eastrea and Coates.**

#### **CAB77/24 FENLAND FUTURE LTD - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR**

Members considered approval of the appointment of a new Director to fill a vacancy on the board of Fenland Future Limited (FFL) presented by Councillor Boden.

Members conveyed their thanks to Mark Saunders for his years of service to the Council and that he will be sadly missed.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Laws and AGREED to the appointment of Sian Warren to the Board of FFL and delegate to the Company Secretary all necessary arrangements to make his happen.**

*(Sian Warren left the room whilst this item was being discussed)*

#### **CAB78/24 WISBECH HIGH STREET UPDATE**

Members received an update on the ongoing construction work at 24 High Street, Wisbech presented by Councillor Seaton.

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

- Councillor Tierney expressed the view that a fair portion of his life has been taken up by this development and it is good news to see it finally come to a close. He hopes that the public recognise that it has finally be achieved and whilst it has taken a long time there have been good reasons for this.
- Councillor Hoy expressed the opinion that the Rose Fair road closure might have to wait as the County Council do have some reservations regarding this. Councillor Seaton expressed the view that it would only be a very short wait after the amount of years it has taken to get the building developed.

**Proposed by Councillor Seaton, seconded by Councillor Tierney and AGREED to note the report, recognising that progress on the build continues with completion of construction works due imminently.**

#### **CAB79/24 DRAFT 6 MONTH CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

Members noted the Forward Plan for information.

#### **CAB80/24 PORT FEES AND CHARGES (WITH CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES)**

Members considered the fees and charges for port operations at Port Sutton Bridge and Wisbech Port for the financial year 2025/26 presented by Councillor Boden.

Councillor Boden referred to the options available to members in the report, one of which suggests that there should be no increase at all and another suggesting that there be a 10% increase but he is recommending that neither of those two options are supported. He recommended that, given that there is a significantly extra higher overall costs for the Wisbech Port and in an attempt to recover the costs, the increases for Wisbech Port be set at 10% but the increases at the Port of Sutton Bridge should be set at 0%.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED that the fees and charges for the Wisbech Port be increased by 10% and for the Port of Sutton Bridge they remain the same.**

*(Appendices 2 and 3 to the report involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))*

#### **CAB81/24 PORT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Members considered an update and options relating to investment and repair of the suspended quay at Wisbech Port presented by Councillor Boden.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses.

**Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED to:**

- **note the issues and options outlined, acknowledging and balancing the competing financial and statutory obligations and liabilities identified; and**
- **authorise officers to act accordingly to the recommendations agreed and a further report be brought back to the July Cabinet meeting.**


*(Members resolved to exclude the public from the discussion on this item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))*

*(Councillors Boden, Christy and Tierney declared that they had been contacted by an interested party but had not entered into any discussions with them)*

3.25 pm

Chairman



<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	5	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	16 June 2025	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Outside Body Appointments 2025/26	

## COVER SHEET:

### **1 Purpose / Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to enable Cabinet to review and agree the list of outside bodies and nominations for representatives on those organisations for 2025/26.

### **2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 The nomination and review of representatives on outside body organisations is the responsibility of Cabinet.
- 2.2 In addition to attending Council meetings and other constituency work, Councillors are required to sit as representatives of the Council on other organisations and agencies known as Outside Bodies.
- 2.3 An "Outside Body" is an organisation that has a separate governance structure to that of the Council. The Council appoints elected members to represent it on a range of Outside Bodies at a national and local level. Such appointments ensure that the Council's and residents' interests are represented within key agencies.
- 2.4 The Council recognises the value outside organisations make to the wider community and in the achievement of the Council's corporate priorities.
- 2.5 The list of Outside Bodies and the allocation of seats is set out at Appendix A and have been calculated in accordance with the ordinary provisions of the 1989 Act as agreed at Full Council in May 2025.
- 2.6 In December 2013, Cabinet received a series of recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny in relation to Outside Bodies. One recommendation within the report stated that members of Outside Bodies should only be drawn from the current FDC membership and the continuation of this requirement was agreed by Cabinet at it's meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### **3 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 3.1 Agree the appointments set out at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Note where requirements to provide representatives to outside bodies cannot currently be fulfilled.

- 3.3 Delegate to the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders the addition or deletion of outside bodies as the need arises during the municipal year and appointment of members to vacancies on outside bodies during the municipal year.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	N/A
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance
Report Originator(s)	Carol Pilson, Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:cpilson@fenland.gov.uk">cpilson@fenland.gov.uk</a>  Amy Brown, Assistant Director and Deputy Monitoring Officer <a href="mailto:amybrown@fenland.gov.uk">amybrown@fenland.gov.uk</a>
Contact Officer(s)	Elaine Cooper, Team Leader – Elections, Land charges and Member Services – <a href="mailto:ecooper@fenland.gov.uk">ecooper@fenland.gov.uk</a>
Background Papers	Report to Council – Committee Balance, Political Balance and Allocation of Seats, May 2025.

## **REPORT:**

### **1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES**

- 1.1 Cabinet have endorsed that Outside Bodies should fall into one of the following criteria in order to receive representation from the District Council:
- Statutory Outside Bodies
  - Organisation to which the District Council contributes funding - To ensure public money is used properly and achieves value for money.
  - Organisations which have a clear link to key objectives outlined in the Business Plan.
- 1.2 In accordance with legislative requirements, local and national convention, allocations to seats on outside bodies are to the majority group where there are 2 or fewer seats available but in all other cases politically proportionate percentages are applied to recognised groups or, where alternative arrangements are agreed, such other nominees as may be appropriate.
- 1.3 The table contained within Appendix A outlines the Outside Bodies currently requiring representation, the level of required representation and the proposed appointments to those seats. Cabinet are asked to approve these proposals.

1.4 There are a small number of remaining opportunities for representation which remain vacant. Cabinet are asked to note these at this time.

1.5 Cabinet is asked to delegate responsibility for making in year changes to the number of outside bodies and/or the allocation of seats to the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the group leaders.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Fenland District Council recognises the benefits of endorsing Outside Body appointments. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to confirm those appointments following the Annual Meeting of Full Council where the overall political proportionality calculations are confirmed. The appointments proposed reflect the Council's legal obligations and accepted convention in relation to the allocation of seats in accordance with political proportionality requirements.

## **3 CONSULTATION**

3.1 There are no specific consultation requirements connected with the recommendations set out in this report however, the proposals set out in Appendix A have been formulated with input from the Group Leaders. A full review of the Outside Bodies on the list has also been conducted to ensure that each of the appointments remains relevant to the agreed criteria set out at paragraph 1.1.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 There are no alternative options for consideration in relation to this Report.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Legal Implications**

5.2 The proposals set out in this Report accord with Fenland District Council's legal obligations and accepted standards of practice in relation to outside body appointments.

5.3 FDC is able to appoint whomever it believes to be fit to fulfil its obligations in relation to Outside Bodies and it a matter for Cabinet to make those appointments.

5.4 A full review of the Outside Bodies has taken place to ensure that all the entries in Appendix A remain relevant to the criteria specified at paragraph 1.1. Members appointed to Outside Bodies for the forthcoming municipal year will also be requested to complete a feedback form at the end of the year.

## **5.5 Financial Implications**

There are no new financial obligations associated with the recommendations set out in this report. Attendance at meetings of outside bodies attracts the payment of mileage and expenses in accordance with the Council's Member Allowances Scheme.

## **5.6 Equality Implications**

There are no specific equality implications in relation to the recommendations set out in this Report.

## **6 APPENDICES**

### **6.1 Appendix A: List of Outside Bodies and Associated Appointments**

## **APPENDIX A - ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The percentages for the purpose of the calculations have been applied and create the following results:

<b>Conservative</b>	<b>FIA</b>	<b>Ungrouped</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Entitlement: 114</b> <b>Allocation: 119</b>	<b>Entitlement: 23</b> <b>Allocation: 18</b>	N/A	137

Based on the above, provided the overall entitlement is agreed by Full Council, the recommendations make provision for Group Leaders to negotiate the reallocation of seats before appointments are finally confirmed and agreed at the next Cabinet meeting in June.

As the proposals reflect the ordinary application of the 1989 Act (as opposed to the Alternative Arrangements agreed by Full Council last year), the ungrouped member would lose their 1 seat on the Hundred of Wisbech IDB which automatically becomes a vacant FIA (as reflected in the Table below). Furthermore, the overall agreed allocation of seats for 2023/24 resulted in the conservative group gaining 5 seats. The data presented in the Table represents the current position (save in respect of the amendments in relation to the ungrouped seat) and remain open for discussion/negotiation between the Leaders as appropriate.

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Representation Required</b>	<b>Proportionality</b>	<b>Substantive Nominee</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
Anglia Revenue Partnership	1 substantive 2 substitutes	Conservative		
Benwick Internal Drainage Board (IDB)	4	3 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Cambridgeshire Horizons Board	1	Conservative		N/A
Cambridgeshire Military Community Covenant Board	1	Conservative		N/A
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Chatteris Community Centre Association	2	2 Conservative		N/A
College of West Anglia Governing Body	1	Conservative		N/A
Community Learning and Skills Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
Curf and Wimblington Combined IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Feldale IDB	7	6 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Fenland Association of Community Transport	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Diverse Communities Forum	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Health and Care Forum	Open meeting		Any members can attend	
Fenland Tension Monitoring Group	1	Conservative		N/A
Fenland Transport and Access Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
Hanson, Fletton Brickworks Industry	1	Conservative		N/A
Health Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr H Nawaz	Cllr D Laws

Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Hundred of Wisbech IDB	15	12 Conservative 3 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr G Booth Cllr D Roy Cllr M Summers	N/A
Kings Lynn IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
LGA/ LGA Rural Commission/ LGA Urban Commission	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Manea and Welney Drainage Commissioners	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Area Transport Study	2	2 Conservative		N/A
March West and White Fen Internal Drainage Board	6	5 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March East IDB	11	9 Conservative 2 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr J Clark Cllr P Hicks	N/A
March Education Foundation	1	Conservative		N/A
March Fifth District Drainage Commissioners	8	7 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Sixth District Drainage Commissioners	4	3 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
March Third IDB	5	4 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Middle Level Commissioners	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Needham and Laddus IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Nightlayer IDB	10	8 Conservative 2 FIA		N/A
North Level District IDB	7	6 Conservative 1 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr G Booth	N/A

<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Representation Required</b>	<b>Proportionality</b>	<b>Substantive Nominee</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
Wisbech Community Development Trust (Oasis Village Centre)	1	Conservative		N/A
Ransonmoor District Drainage Commissioners	2	2 Conservative		N/A
RECAP	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative		
Rural Cambs CAB	3	2 Conservative 1 FIA		N/A
Safer Fenland Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership	1	Conservative		N/A
The Combined Authority Board	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr C Boden	Cllr S Hoy
The Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee	2 substantive 2 substitutes	2 Conservative	Cllr E Sennitt Clough Cllr A Hay	Cllr L Foice-Beard Cllr J Mockett
The Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr G Christy	Cllr S Wallwork
The Combined Authority HR Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr S Tierney	Cllr C Boden
The Combined Authority Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr S Tierney	Cllr D Laws
The Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr C Seaton	Cllr H Nawaz
The Combined Authority Employment and Skills Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute	Conservative	Cllr I Benney	Cllr H Nawaz



Outside Body	Representation Required	Proportionality	Substantive Nominee	Substitute
Investment Committee	1 substantive 1 substitute			
Upwell IDB	2			N/A
Waldersey IDB	2	2 Conservative		N/A
Warboys, Somersham and Pidley IDB	1	Conservative		N/A
Whittlesey & District IDB	5	4 Conservative 1 FIA	<u>FIA</u> Cllr R Gerstner	N/A
Wisbech Access Strategy Member Steering Group	2	2 Conservative		N/A
Young People March	1	Conservative		N/A
Water Resources East (WRE) Strategic Advisory Group	1	Conservative		N/A
Community Rail Partnership	1	Conservative	Cllr Seaton	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137 substantive 15 substitutions</b>	<b>119 Conservative 18 FIA</b>		

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<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	6	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	16 June 2025	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26	

## Cover sheet:

### **1 Purpose / Summary**

- 1.1 The Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund (REPF) builds on and is a top-up to the Governments Shared Prosperity Fund and is available only to eligible rural local authorities in England.
- 1.2 The funding available to Fenland District is for £130k over a transitional one-year period 2025-26 and will support the continuation of the 2022-25 REPF rural business grant scheme.

### **2 Key Issues**

- 2.1 Acceptance of £130k REPF from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for a transitional one-year period ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.
- 2.2 To delegate to Officers responsibility for approving and finalising with the CPCA the REPF Grant Funding Agreement.

### **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 Cabinet is requested to consider and recommend acceptance of Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority for a one-year period 2025-26.
- 3.2 Cabinet is requested to consider and recommend that officers be delegated to approve and finalise with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority the Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund Grant Funding Agreement 2025-26.

Wards Affected	Eligible Wards only – excludes Wisbech
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/15MAY25/01
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Steve Count
Report Originator(s)	Anna Goodall, Assistant Director Simon Jackson, Economic Growth Manager
Contact Officer(s)	Simon Jackson, Economic Growth Manager
Background Papers	

## **Report:**

### **1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES**

- 1.1 The Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund (REPF) has been retained to maintain support for businesses and communities prior to the introduction of the Government's Industrial Strategy to be launched in 2026.
- 1.2 All areas of the UK are receiving an allocation of the funds via a funding formula where the funding available to Fenland District is £130k over a transitional one-year period 2025-26.
- 1.3 The REPF allocated for Fenland will be paid by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). As per the previous Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) the District Council will claim in arrears the funding from the CPCA.
- 1.4 The REPF will support the continuation of the 2022-25 REPF rural business grant scheme.
- 1.5 The project will continue to be managed and delivered by the Council's Economic Growth Team. The project will maintain the involvement of Cambridgeshire ACRE in assessing grant bids and making recommendations to the Council's Grant Team for final decisions on grant applications. The Council's Grants Team consists of Officers from Finance, Audit, Communications and Economic Growth.
- 1.6 The key elements of the REPF Business Grant project are:
  - A maximum grant of up to £10k per business.
  - Businesses will need to contribute a minimum of 50% towards the total cost of the project.
  - Only businesses with between 2 and 40 employees will be eligible.
  - Only businesses located within the defined Fenland REPF area.
  - Capital grants will be available for businesses to promote business growth and diversification and for the purchase of for example capital equipment, expansion of business premises and so on.
- 1.7 The criteria used in assessing applications for REPF will include:
  - Projects that create and sustain rural jobs.
  - The diversification of income streams.
  - Certain types of rural businesses will receive priority including farming, suppliers to farming businesses, manufacturing and tourism businesses.

### **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The REPF helps support the delivery of the Council's economic growth and communities' corporate objectives.

- 2.2 The business grant project has the greatest potential to deliver new, inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities for the District's residents and businesses.

### **3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Engagement with partners and evaluation on current provision such as via the CPCA Growth HUB has enabled external views and policies to be incorporated into the proposed REPF business grant project.

### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The REPF is a specific funding opportunity with no comparable alternative options. Acceptance of the funding provides an opportunity to deliver the outcomes to be specified in the CPCA's REPF GFA and is a requirement of receiving the funding. The REPF agreement will be subject to appropriate legal oversight to ensure that Fenland District Council's position is adequately protected.

### **5 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1 Legal Implications**

- 5.2 Powers: FDC will enter into the funding and partnership arrangements with CPCA and grant recipients using its powers under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 5.3 Contracting: The grant funding agreements with FDC will not impose any unacceptable risks or obligations on FDC and that, to the extent feasible, risks and obligations will flow down to the end grant recipients through appropriate grant funding agreements to mitigate FDC's risk.
- 5.4 Procurement: The awards will be made via a grant funding agreement as opposed to a contract for services, so there will be no relevant public procurement implications.
- 5.5 Subsidy control: The potential awards have been previously externally considered and reviewed for subsidy control compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. There will be no subsidy to FDC as FDC will be acting during its public functions and, in any event, will not receive any economic advantage from the grants. There will be no subsidy to the end recipients, or the grants will be provided by way of the minimal financial assistance allowance under the Act.

#### **5.6 Financial Implications**

- 5.7 The project is fully externally funded. Whilst FDC will be responsible for administering the various projects there are no significant implications for the FDC budget.
- 5.8 It is currently being assumed that there will be no carry over of the REPF into 2026-27. There is a potential risk that some of the REPF funding may not be

utilised. The project leads is aware of this risk and is undertaking mitigating actions.

### **5.9 Equality Implications**

The project and services have been assessed to ensure equality of access, etc.

## **7 SCHEDULES**

Schedule One – RESPF Business Grant Fund Scheme


## **Schedule One – REPF Business Grant Fund Scheme**

1. The REPF Business Grant Fund Scheme will provide access to pump-priming grant funding in Fenland for rural businesses to enable them to drive local economic growth, productivity, R&D, energy saving, business innovation and skills development to secure access to market opportunities and boost long-term skilled employment.
2. The project will support existing rural businesses with more than 2 and fewer than 40 employees.
3. The project will be managed by the District Council's Economic Growth Team (EGT) ensuring quick mobilisation of the project.
4. Rural businesses will submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form to the EGT for consideration. Once assessed using a standardised scoring process those applicants that exceed the scoring threshold will be invited to complete the full grant application form and will receive support to complete the form from the EGT.
5. Those businesses invited to complete a Full Application Form submitted into the EGT will be assessed and scored. Each Application Form will be supported by the EGT who will also ensure due diligence, supporting evidence has been provided, subsidy control has been reviewed, etc.
6. The grant decision making process will be advised by the Chief Executive Officer of Cambridgeshire ACRE. The final decision on whether to support an application will be made by the Council's REPF Grants Team consisting of Officers from Finance, Audit, Communications and Economic Growth.
7. A council cannot contract out its decision making to another body unless it is permitted by the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act. The decision on whether to support an application will be made by the Council's REPF Grants Team. Decisions relating to the allocation of funding will be published on the Council's website in line with transparency requirements and the associated exemptions under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
8. The Chief Executive Officer of Cambridgeshire ACRE will have access to information about businesses that have applied for an REPF grant including potentially commercially sensitive data. The Chief Executive will be required to declare any conflicts of interest with any applicant business before the application is considered. All applicants will be made aware that their application will be seen by Chief Executive Officer and what the application process is so that they can equally flag any potential concerns to the Council before their data is shared. The application pack will include a privacy statement to ensure we are compliant with GDPR, transparent and how the data will be shared with others to assess and determine the application.
9. If an applicant is dissatisfied with the outcome, they can request a review of the decision. The review will be undertaken by a group of Council officers, including

the Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer (s151 officer) and the Monitoring Officer. This officer group may wish to consult with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Portfolio Holder for Finance on any complex decisions.

10. Grant requests up to a maximum of £10,000 will be considered. The requirement for a private sector match of at least 50% increases ownership by the applicant and increases the return on investment for the project.



<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	7	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	16 June 2025	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Fenland Inspire! Project Update	

## 1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 The [Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26](#) outlines the list of capital investment 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.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet members on progress to date and to highlight a number of potential risks associated with the Fenland Inspire! projects.

## 2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Clarification is needed on the full and definitive list of Fenland Inspire! projects to be taken forward. Not all of the proposed Fenland Inspire! projects are included in the [Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26](#).
- 2.2 Following the initialisation of the Fenland Inspire! project, the original borrowing earmarked and agreed by Full Council was £30m over a three-year period. Following project scoping of a number of projects, the estimated financial requirement has increased to over £43m. This figure does not include the budget of projects for which a scope of works is yet to be determined. Therefore, this figure of £43m is not yet a definitive cost. It is worth noting that an upfront cost in terms of RIBA design stages will require c £1.5m spend. This will provide a re-estimated figure of the construction cost (see revenue risks outlined in other parts of this report).
- 2.3 The current Fenland Inspire! programme capital budget of £43m is estimated to be funded by approximately £41m from external borrowing unless additional external funding can be secured. The annual revenue cost to borrow this total amount would be £3.3m over 30 years.
- 2.4 Based on current interest rates and MRP over 30 years, for every further £1m borrowed, it is estimated that it will cost the Council £81.3k for each year that it is borrowed.
- 2.5 The General Fund Budget Estimates and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report, agreed by Cabinet and Council in February, projects a financial shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.432m increasing year on year amounting to around £3.4m by 2027/28. Although there are currently many uncertainties regarding the budget for 2025/26 and the MTFS, there remains a significant structural deficit which the Council will need to address

- 2.6 There is no revenue budget built into the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to support the maintenance costs of the Fenland Inspire! projects due to be completed over the next three years. Therefore, there is a risk to the Council's MTFS due to the unknown value and schedule required of maintenance.
- 2.7 There is the potential for certain Fenland Inspire! projects to generate an income for the Council, although this information is not yet available. The proposed new Chatteris swimming pool is estimated to make a net loss of circa £106,000 per year.
- 2.8 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. Any uplift in scope as a requirement of funding could disproportionately increase the cost of the project compared to the funding made available.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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. However, should the timeframe or scope for LGR change, this could result in a significant risk to the Council.

### **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet members note the content of this report and determines the following matters:
- To confirm the full and definitive list of Fenland Inspire! projects to be taken forward noting that the current list now totals over £43m. projects to be taken forward and to specify whether this is then a closed list and if not, the process that should be followed for the incorporation of any further projects in future.
  - To confirm whether to the key members for each project at Appendix S is accurate and up to date.
  - To decide whether the Leisure RIBA design stages (valued at £1.5m) are temporarily paused to reduce the impact of committing spend before identifying external funding opportunities.
  - To review the Fenland Inspire! programme as a whole and confirm which, if any, projects should be prioritised for immediate progress (as set out in point 6.4 of the main report). In relation to any projects not to be progressed or removed from the project list, to confirm what additional information or

actions members require in order to make a future decision as to how to proceed.

Wards Affected	All Fenland Wards
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/11APR25/01
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden – Leader of the Council
Report Originator(s)	Paul Medd – Chief Executive Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer Carol Pilson – Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer Amy Brown – Assistant Director Anna Goodall – Assistant Director Dan Horn – Assistant Director Sian Warren – Chief Accountant Esme Johnson – Transformation Implementation Team Lead Monty Todd – Business Improvement Officer Jo Blackmore – Head of Corporate Support
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd – Chief Executive Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer Carol Pilson – Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer Amy Brown – Assistant Director Anna Goodall – Assistant Director Dan Horn – Assistant Director
Background Papers	<a href="#">Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26</a> Cabinet report from 24.02.25 – Leisure Centre Facility Strategy – potential refurbishment and improvement projects: <a href="#">240225 Leisure Facility Investment Proposals Shared.pdf</a>

## 1 [Reasons for Exemption] – NOT APPLICABLE

## 2 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

2.1 The [Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26](#) outlines the list of capital investment 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. The Fenland Inspire! projects chosen by Members and included in the Business Plan 2025/26 are:

- New Wisbech Park bowls green
- Wisbech Park Splash Pad improvements

- Wisbech 11/12 High Street development
  - Wisbech Chapel building improvements
  - Wisbech floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial & War Memorial
  - Wisbech Park pathway improvements
  - Leisure centre refurbishments
  - New Chatteris swimming pool
  - District-wide assessment of new play equipment
  - New March Rugby Club HQ & pitches
  - New March country park
  - Whittlesey monastery acquisition
  - Whittlesey Manor field sustainable surface path
  - New village green for Wimblington
  - Civil Parking Enforcement (district wide)
- 2.2 In accordance with the Leader's instructions, the following projects were added to the Fenland Inspire! programme.
- 3G pitches
  - March - St John's Graveyard
- 2.3 A full list of the Fenland Inspire! projects and the key members for each project is shown in appendix S.
- 2.4 Since inception of the Fenland Inspire! project, additional projects have been forwarded to officers for potential inclusion. These projects (listed below) have not yet been progressed or confirmed as being part of the Fenland Inspire! project:
- Wisbech Cashino Building
  - Whittlesey Country Park
  - March Football Club
  - Whittlesey Path Upgrades

### **3 Progress to Date**

- 3.1 CMT leads and project managers have been assigned to each project with the initial brief of working with lead Members to outline the scope of work, determine financial requirements and understand requirements for effective delivery.
- 3.2 A summary of the information collated to date is shown in appendices A to Q. Each appendix outlines:
- Scope of the project
  - Estimated cost and timescales

- Current status
- Deliverability and risks
- Proposed next steps

#### 4 Current Financial Information

- 4.1 Following the initialisation of the Fenland Inspire! project, the original borrowing target was £30m over a three-year period.
- 4.2 Now that the project scoping is very much underway, the financial requirement has increased to over £43m. This figure does not include the budget of projects for which a scope of works is yet to be determined. Therefore, this figure of £43m is not yet a definitive cost.
- 4.3 The cost of the Fenland Inspire! project will be recorded in a financial tracker, the current version of which can be found at appendix R. As project designs develop, budgets will be re-estimated, and the financial tracker updated.
- 4.4 The information in the Fenland Inspire! Financial Tracker will assist members in strategically managing the cost of borrowing and risk to increasing revenue pressures.
- 4.5 The Council has currently budgeted for the borrowing costs of £30m over three years starting in 2025/26 (please see table below).

Capital Budget	Borrowing Costs – Interest and MRP		
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
£000	£000	£000	£000
5,000	0.407	0.407	0.407
10,000	0	0.773	0.773
15,000	0	0	1.100
<b>Total Cost Per Year</b>	<b>0.407</b>	<b>1.180</b>	<b>2.280</b>

- 4.6 The interest rates for future years borrowing have been estimated based on the current forecast rates which has assumed they will reduce. Therefore, these are only indicative costs.
- 4.7 Based on current interest rates and MRP over 30 years, for every further £1m borrowed, it is estimated that it will cost the Council £81.3k for each year that it is borrowed.

#### 5 Projects Income Generation, Revenue Costs and Funding Opportunities

- 5.1 There is the potential for certain Fenland Inspire! projects to generate an income for the Council.
- 5.2 Estimates of potential income for leisure projects were included in the [Cabinet report](#) tabled at the meeting held on 24.02.25.

- 5.3 Further work will be carried out to determine any income generation from other Fenland Inspire! projects once they have progressed to the stage where estimates can be provided.
- 5.4 The new Chatteris swimming pool sits outside of the list of Leisure projects discussed at Cabinet on 24.02.25 and it has been estimated to make a net loss of circa £106,000 per year.
- 5.5 Work will continue to develop supplementary funding strategies including:
- Streamlining the Council's asset portfolio, empowering capital receipts
  - Maximising grant funding opportunities
  - Continuing to make prudent use of reserves
  - Considering external funding already allocated to the Council, including [Plan for Neighbourhood](#) funding allocated to the Wisbech area.

## 6 Estimated Timeline

- 6.1 The projected timeline for completing each Fenland Inspire! project will vary due to both the scope and complexity of the project. Further information can be found in appendices A to Q inclusive.
- 6.2 Implementation of projects will be iterated, in light of the evolving project environment. This will allow a pragmatic spread of risk management of time and resources.
- 6.3 The Leisure Projects to develop the existing centres of the four market towns exceed £20.5m (please [Cabinet report](#) tabled in February 2025 for further information). There is a mixture of condition survey works and construction works within this project. In terms of construction, RIBA design stages will require c £1.5m spend. This will provide a re-estimated figure of the construction cost (see revenue risks outlined in other parts of this report).
- 6.4 Officers have been instructed to proceed with 6 initial projects, each of which are estimated to incur costs of under £300k. This work can be carried out whilst the strategic development of the programme dependencies continues to be developed. The 6 projects referred to are:

PROJECT	CURRENT ESTIMATED COST
Wisbech Park Splash Pad improvements (phase one)	£60K
Wisbech floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial & War Memorial	£30K
Wisbech Park pathway improvements	£40K
New Village Green for Wimblington	£0

St. John's Graveyard, March	£25K
Whittlesey Manor field community field perimeter path	£300K

6.5 This wave of 6 projects has a combined estimated budget of £455,000.

## **7 Programme Risks and Considerations**

### **7.1 Project Progression in Isolation**

7.2 The Fenland Inspire! Programme management board have collated information for all potential projects to ensure information is captured at a programme level. Without adequate circulation of this information, isolated project level decision making could inadvertently impact on the wider programme in terms of time, resource, and finance.

### **7.3 Revenue Pressures**

7.4 Where design is required prior to construction and is funded through the capital programme (borrowing) but does not subsequently proceed to construction phase, then the design cost spent may revert to a revenue cost and cannot be funded through borrowing. This presents a significant financial risk to the Council's revenue budget.

7.5 Although the Council have currently built in capital budgets of £30m over the next three years and the associated borrowing costs into the revenue budgets specifically for the Fenland Inspire! Programme, the full financial commitment of borrowing requirements cannot be forecast without completing full project scopes. Construction budgets can only be confirmed following a full design and competitive tender exercise.

7.6 There is no revenue budgets built into the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to support the maintenance costs of the Fenland Inspire! projects due to be completed over the next three years. Therefore, there is a risk to the Council's MTFS due to the unknown value and schedule required of maintenance.

### **7.7 Human Resource**

7.8 The Fenland Inspire! projects will result in significant additional and unplanned workloads in addition to business as usual. Therefore, additional resource will be needed to undertake these projects.

7.9 If no additional resource is recruited, then elements of business as usual or other projects will need to be delayed or cancelled to accommodate the Fenland Inspire! project management.

### **7.10 Scheduling**

7.11 Estimated timeframes cannot consider the availability and lead time of external suppliers, therefore a full schedule is currently incalculable.

7.12 Some projects have long timeframes and there are risks that these timescales will extend. As a result, there is a risk that delaying project start dates or delays during the project could extend the delivery date beyond April 2028.

### **7.13 Planning**

- 7.14 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, where net biodiversity gain is a consideration, this poses the largest risk.

### **7.15 Programme and Impact on Borrowing Schedule**

- 7.16 See [Financial Implications](#) section for further information.

### **7.17 External Funding**

- 7.18 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. Any uplift in scope as a requirement of funding could disproportionately increase the cost of the project compared to the funding made available. External funding is volatile and therefore cannot be relied upon to support capital expenditure.

## **8 The Context of the Fenland Inspire! Project in Relation to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 However, should the timeframe or scope for LGR change, this could result in a significant risk to the Council.
- 8.3 The Council's business case for LGR is currently expected to be submitted in November 2025 and legislation is due to be passed in May / June 2026. Following the adoption of this legislation, the Council will potentially see up to 16 Fenland Inspire! projects go live at the same time, along with the intensive work needed to deliver the Government's LGR changes.
- 8.4 Should any of these dates be re-scheduled, the timeframe for delivery of the Fenland Inspire! programme has the potential to be extended. However, the estimated borrowing cost of £2.28m from 2027/28 will be incurred yearly until the borrowing is repaid and will need to be included in the Council revenue budgets if the LGR programme is delayed.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **9.1 Definitive List of Fenland Inspire! Projects to be Taken Forward**

- 9.2 As set out in the [first paragraph](#) of this report, there are a number of proposed Fenland Inspire! projects which are not included in the Business Plan 2024/25. A definitive list of Fenland Inspire! projects to be taken forward will enable



officers to collate more accurate information with which to provide regular updates to Cabinet members.

- 9.3 As part of confirming the definitive list of Fenland Inspire! projects, it is recommended that the list of key members for each project is reviewed so that any amendments can be recorded (see appendix S).

#### **9.4 Leisure RIBA Design Stages**

- 9.5 It is recommended that the previous Cabinet decision to progress to the Leisure RIBA design stages is temporarily paused. This approach will reduce the impact of committing spend before identifying external funding opportunities as well as allowing Members to reflect on the programme as a whole.

- 9.6 A pause at this stage will also allow for the uncertainty introduced by LGR to be reflected upon. Should the April 2028 LGR timetabled deadline be extended, this would pose a significant risk to the Council and the re-distribution of the costliest projects would require careful consideration.

#### **9.7 Next Steps**

- 9.8 Should Cabinet agree to the recommendations above, the next steps proposed would be:

- Pause the Leisure RIBA design stage
- Solidify remaining Fenland Inspire! project scopes
- Gather more financial information on spend and income
- Produce a further Cabinet report outlining the proposed delivery phase

### **10 CONSULTATION**

- 10.1 Public consultation has been undertaken for the proposed New Country Park in March.
- 10.2 Each Fenland Inspire! project will need to be assessed individually to determine if consultation is needed. Public and/or stakeholder consultation may be a requirement of any external funding secured.

### **11 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 11.1 No alternative options have been considered to date. However, as each project's scope and financial analysis progresses, alternative options may be explored, in accordance with Member's wishes.

### **12 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **12.1 Legal Implications**

- 12.2 There are various legal and governance implications connected with each of the Fenland Inspire! Projects and these will be given detailed and appropriate

consideration on a case-by-case basis. Generally, however, in reaching all decisions which involve significant expenditure of public funds members must have regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to the council taxpayer. Members should note that their fiduciary duty includes consideration of future local taxpayers as well as present local taxpayers. The fiduciary duty also includes requirements to act in good faith with a view to complying with the Council's statutory duties and financial prudence in the immediate and longer term.

### 12.3 Financial Implications

12.4 Borrowing for Fenland Inspire! projects is currently forecast as follows:

<b>Capital Budget</b>	<b>Borrowing Costs – Interest and MRP</b>		
	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>
<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
5,000	0.407	0.407	0.407
10,000	0	0.773	0.773
15,000	0	0	1.100
<b>Total Cost Per Year</b>	<b>0.407</b>	<b>1.180</b>	<b>2.280</b>

12.5 The estimated annual revenue cost of borrowing £1m is £81.3k (£33k interest charge and £48k minimum revenue provision).

12.6 The current Fenland Inspire! programme capital budget of £43m is estimated to be funded by approximately £41m from external borrowing unless additional external funding can be secured. The annual revenue cost to borrow this total amount would be £3.3m.

12.7 Bringing projects forward or starting them all immediately will necessitate earlier spend and therefore accelerate the impact on revenue. However, an overall cost saving may result due to avoidance of price inflation.

12.8 The General Fund Budget Estimates and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report, agreed by Cabinet and Council in February, projects a financial shortfall for 2025/26 of £1.432m increasing year on year amounting to around £3.4m by 2027/28.

12.9 Although there are currently many uncertainties regarding the budget for 2025/26 and the MTFS, there remains a significant structural deficit which the Council will need to address

### 12.10 Equality Implications

N/A

## 13 SCHEDULES

Appendix A	New Wisbech Park bowls green
Appendix B	Wisbech Park Splash Pad improvements
Appendix C	Wisbech 11/12 High Street development
Appendix D	Wisbech Chapel building improvements
Appendix E	Wisbech floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial & War Memorial
Appendix F	Wisbech Park pathway improvements
Appendix G	Leisure centre refurbishments
Appendix H	New Chatteris swimming pool
Appendix I	District-wide assessment of new play equipment
Appendix J	New March Rugby Club HQ & pitches
Appendix K	New March country park
Appendix L	Whittlesey monastery acquisition
Appendix M	Whittlesey Manor field sustainable surface path
Appendix N	New village green for Wimblington
Appendix O	Civil Parking Enforcement (district wide)
Appendix P	3G pitches
Appendix Q	March - St John's Graveyard
Appendix R	Fenland Inspire! financial tracker
Appendix S	Fenland Inspire! Projects and Key Members

## Appendix A – New Wisbech Park Bowls Green

<b>TITLE</b>	New Wisbech Park Bowls Green
<b>SCOPE</b>	This project proposes the removal and relocating an existing orchard to install an artificial bowling green and refurbish a toilet block to provide changing facilities.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The current estimated cost is £1m.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	The current estimate is that the project will take 2 years from design consultant instruction through to completion.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	The project scope has been outlined and is at a stage where concept design quotes can be obtained. These will allow a more accurate estimate of construction costs and will present enough information for a planning application to be prepared. Consultancy fees for the concept design phase are estimated at £75k.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>Successful delivery hinges on planning approval enabling the relocation of the orchard.</p> <p>Required assessments are an ecology survey, heritage impact assessment and potential biodiversity net gain solutions.</p> <p>These requirements and possible subsequent planning conditions could both cause delays and significantly increase costs.</p> <p>The timeframe and budget may be affected by the evolution of scope and confirmation of maintenance arrangements.</p> <p>No forthcoming external funding has been identified and no income to FDC is expected to be generated by this project.</p> <p>If halted post-concept phase, the projected £75k design spend will shift to the revenue budget.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet report to request funding for obtaining quotes and to instruct the concept design phase.</li> <li>• Further decision to proceed to be presented to Members once more accurate designs and construction costs have been produced.</li> </ul>

## Appendix B – Wisbech Park Splash Pad Improvements

<b>TITLE</b>	Wisbech Splash Pad Improvements
<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>This project involves two phases:</p> <p>Phase 1 includes the expansion of existing splashpad features as well as improvements to soft landscaping and park furniture.</p> <p>Phase 2 requires further scoping.</p>
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<p>Phase 1:</p> <p>Current budget estimate is £60k</p> <p>Phase 2:</p> <p>Scope yet to be confirmed and refined before formal budgets can be estimated.</p> <p>The current budget estimate is £250k.</p>
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<p>Phase 1:</p> <p>Works are underway and expected to be completed by October 2025, with splashpad improvement completed by the end of August 2025.</p> <p>Phase 2:</p> <p>Yet to be confirmed.</p>
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	An order has been placed for splashpad equipment from Canada at a cost of £17k and is expected to arrive at the end of July 2025.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>Phase 1 of the project expected to be completed on time and within budget.</p> <p>Phase 2 – yet to be confirmed.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receipt and installation of the splashpad equipment.</li> <li>• Park furniture and aesthetics require purchasing.</li> </ul>

## Appendix C – Wisbech 11/12 High Street Development

<b>TITLE</b>	Wisbech 11/12 High Street Development
<b>SCOPE</b>	Regeneration of High Street buildings.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Circa £3m.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	Predicted to take 2 years from instruction to a design consultant through to practical completion of the construction.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<p>A quote for detailed design by the existing architect has been obtained and requires procurement input for a direct appointment preference.</p> <p>Detailed design will lead to a new planning application which is required due to the scale of proposed changes.</p> <p>The quote for this stage is approximately £65k and the spend has been approved in a prior Cabinet decision.</p>
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>The project requires listed building consent and a new planning application. These elements may impose previously unforeseen planning conditions that may affect the project budget.</p> <p>Delays on securing consent could lead to significant inflation-related cost increases.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation that the existing designer can be appointed within the rules of procurement legislation</li> <li>• Instruct of the existing designer to further design and submit a new planning application.</li> </ul>

## Appendix D – Wisbech Chapel Building Improvements

<b>TITLE</b>	Wisbech Chapel Building Improvements
<b>SCOPE</b>	Refurbishment of disused former chapel and adjacent public toilets to provide community art space. The extent of refurbishment and new facilities has not yet been confirmed.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	Until further scope refinement is complete, a budget estimate of £800k has been allocated to this project.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	To be confirmed.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Confirmation of the full project objectives are being sought from Members and the community arts group.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>The building will require listed building consent and a full planning application prior to works commencing, which could impose planning conditions that require additional construction spend.</p> <p>It is understood that services are not connected to the building. Installation of these services could add significant cost and delay to the project.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project objectives and scope to be refined</li> <li>• Cabinet report to be produced including proposals and budget for consideration.</li> </ul>

## Appendix E – Wisbech Floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial and War Memorial

<b>TITLE</b>	Wisbech Floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial and War Memorial
<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>Refurbishment to the lighting at the Clarkson Memorial which requires the installation of a new mains power supply cable. Additional elements may include parking deterrents.</p> <p>Works to the Wisbech War Memorial involve the installation of new uplighters, requiring a new mains power supply cable. Upon further investigation, due to the lighting requirements, there is likely to be an element of road and bollard alterations within this project.</p> <p>This project is being undertaken in house by the FDC Engineering Team.</p>
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The original combined budget for this project was £30k but this is expected to increase if road alterations are required.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	As it is unknown as to whether road alterations are needed (along with the consequent Highway consent) a timeline cannot yet be confirmed.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<p>UK Power Networks have confirmed permission to install the power supply cable to the Clarkson Memorial at a cost of circa £4.6k. FDC engineers await lighting designs from manufacturers to produce a specification for pricing.</p> <p>The Engineering Team is making enquiries with Cambridgeshire County Council regarding road alterations around the War Memorial.</p>
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>The projects are expected to be deliverable. However, if the monuments require listed building permission for alterations this will add to the cost of internal resource and statutory fees.</p> <p>Highways requirements are also unknown and could have an associated cost.</p> <p>Given the costs to date and anticipated outcomes from consultations, it is expected that the project will exceed the original budget.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain lighting design and produce a specification for tender.</li> <li>• Continue to engage Cambridgeshire County Council regarding highways permissions</li> <li>• Draft an outline design for Member approval</li> </ul>



## Appendix J - New March Rugby Club and Pitches

<b>TITLE</b>	New March Rugby Club and Pitches
<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>Although the project scope requires further confirmation, it is anticipated that the project will involve the purchase of land and construction of four rugby pitches with changing facilities, club house, and floodlighting.</p> <p>No allowance has been made for spectator stands to date.</p>
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The current project budget estimate is £4.5m for the purchase of land and construction.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<p>To be further determined once additional information is available (please see below).</p> <p>The construction time on site is estimated at 8 to 11 months.</p>
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Contact has been made with March Rugby Club to establish their requirements and with the landowner to register interest.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>There is ambiguity on the timeframes surrounding this project.</p> <p>The land required is currently within probate for a larger estate, and no timeframe has been provided for a conclusion. Additionally, the executor/ vendor has confirmed that the land would be required to go to open market which will add additional unknown time to the project length. This could increase the purchase cost of land and presents the risk that another purchaser/ bidder is preferred.</p> <p>A full planning application must be prepared and due to the location of the site, there is a risk that permission will be refused and/or have onerous associated conditions which could significantly increase the project budget, particularly where net biodiversity conditions apply.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek regular updates on the progress of probate or identify an alternative site.</li> </ul>

## Appendix K – New Country Park

<b>TITLE</b>	New Country Park
<b>SCOPE</b>	This project involves the extension of an existing park, provision of parking, and additional facilities such as fishing platforms, exercise equipment, and a splashpad.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<p>The current budget allocation for the project is £1.1m subject to final scope agreement.</p> <p>There is an opportunity that approximately £118k of S106 funds could be made available for project delivery subject to governance and legislation.</p>
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	Estimated time scale of 12 to 18 months, subject to final scope agreement.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Public engagement has been completed, and a confirmed scope is in progress. FDC Officers are in the process of confirming whether the land is transferable for a nominal sum.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>FDC does not currently own the part of the proposed site and statutory permission would be required to deliver the project, which may increase both time and cost. A full scope is yet to be agreed which may also impact both of these constraints.</p> <p>Planning permission will be required for this project and there may be an element of biodiversity net gain requirements.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm land transfer agreement to FDC</li> </ul>

## Appendix L – Whittlesey Monastery Acquisition

<b>TITLE</b>	Whittlesey Monastery Acquisition
<b>SCOPE</b>	The current project scope is to acquire the monastery building in Whittlesey. No use, purpose or required works have been established to date.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	No budget can be confirmed for this project with the information currently available.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	No timescale can be confirmed for this project with the information currently available.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Not started.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	The scope of the project is unknown.
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm project scope and obtain a valuation of the building for purchase.</li> </ul>

## Appendix M – Whittlesey Manor Community Field Perimeter Path

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Whittlesey Manor Community Field Perimeter Path</b>
<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>Construction of a new path to the perimeter of the field and connecting to existing and new facilities (new facilities part of Manor Leisure Centre project).</p> <p>This project is being undertaken in house by the FDC Engineering Team.</p>
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The current project budget estimate is £300k.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	Due to weather and ground conditions during winter and the time required to specify and tender the works, it is anticipated that construction would begin in Spring 2026. The construction phase should last between 4 and 8 weeks.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	No design work has been started as the route must be confirmed in conjunction with the Manor Leisure Centre project. Ground investigations to inform a specification have commenced via an external contractor.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>Ground condition surveys may present previously unknown information which could result in an increased specification and higher cost. Additionally, current indications are that Middle Level Commission approval is required which may add to the timeframes estimated.</p> <p>The final design cannot be confirmed until the layout for the Manor Leisure Centre proposed works has been finalised. Therefore, a phased approach may be preferable for this project to deliver faster improvements and mitigate against delay of the Manor Leisure Centre design works.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm Manor Leisure Centre Works and assess ground investigation results to confirm required specification.</li> </ul>

## Appendix N – New Village Green for Wimblington

<b>TITLE</b>	New Village Green for Wimblington
<b>SCOPE</b>	This project is the transfer of land to Wimblington Parish Council.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The costs of transfer are expected to be covered by the Parish Council and therefore the project is cost neutral to FDC.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	The project is expected to be concluded within the next 6 months.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	A valuation has been instructed to confirm that best value is being achieved, taking into account planning and use restrictions.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	Low risk and high chance of successful delivery subject to the valuation outcome.
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain valuation and request Portfolio Holder Decision Notice to confirm transfer terms.</li> </ul>

## Appendix O – Civil Parking Enforcement

<b>TITLE</b>	Civil Parking Enforcement
<b>SCOPE</b>	Implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement within the administrative area of Fenland.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	A full scope for this project is yet to be confirmed. However, the current estimate for delivery is £1m. Of this, £81k has been spent to date and £400k of external funding has been identified.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	The likely timescale for delivery is a minimum of 2 years.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Outline works have been identified, and a further Cabinet report is required to confirm exact project scope.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>An application is required for approval before works can begin. Applications can be made once per year and the application window is not currently known. Approval could take a further year, with implementation in addition to this.</p> <p>Significant works with road lining, signage, technology and software, and personnel are required. If the approval process takes 2 years from the date of this report, then there is a high risk that this project would not be delivered before April 2028.</p> <p>It remains to be confirmed but some elements which fall outside of 'de-minimis' category may require planning permission.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a further Cabinet report for decisions on implementation.</li> </ul>

## Appendix P – 3G Pitches in Five Locations

<b>TITLE</b>	3G Pitches in Five Locations
<b>SCOPE</b>	This project involves the construction of one full sized 3G pitch in Estover Park and four smaller 3G pitches in various locations.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	<p>Part funding from the Football Foundation has been confirmed for 2 of the smaller pitches. A further funding application must be submitted for the part funding of the additional 2 pitches.</p> <p>The full-sized pitch requires matched funding from FDC, with the majority coming from third party grant funding.</p> <p>In total, the project budget is estimated to be circa £2.3m with a cost to FDC of circa £562k.</p>
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	Timescales for the project depend on the success of funding applications.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	<p>Part funding for two pitches confirmed from the Football Foundation.</p> <p>Further applications required for additional funding.</p>
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>The main risk to this project is unsuccessful application for external funding increasing the cost to FDC, and that delivery of these pitches through the Football Foundation framework is the only delivery route available from a procurement perspective.</p> <p>Planning permission would be required to deliver these pitches</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a Cabinet report to seek further decisions on the various factors involved.</li> </ul>

## Appendix Q – St John’s Graveyard Chapel, Transfer to Town Council

<b>TITLE</b>	St John’s Graveyard Chapel, Transfer to Town Council
<b>SCOPE</b>	The long lease of the former chapel building to March Town Council and prior installation of a power cable to facilitate security alarm installation in future.
<b>ESTIMATED COST</b>	The current budget estimate for the project is £25k, subject to final scope agreement and UK Power Networks requirements.
<b>TIMESCALE</b>	The current timescale estimate is 6 months, subject to final scope agreement and UK Power Networks requirements.
<b>CURRENT STATUS</b>	Outline scope agreed and further investigations under way.
<b>DELIVERABILITY &amp; RISKS</b>	<p>This project is deliverable within the timescales stated. There is a risk that unknown factors could increase costs when installing a below ground power cable and it is not known whether a single phase or three phase supply is required.</p> <p>Three phase power would increase the cost of the project.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm specification and obtain permission and quotes from UK Power Networks.</li> </ul>



Item	Project Name	Start Date	Target End Date	Brief Project Update	Notes on Governance	Deliverability Comment from Programme Managers	Escalated Risk?	Total Project Cost Estimate	Budget Variance Since 15 May 2025	Spend to Date	Approved Spend to Date	How is it funded?				
												Capital Funding	FDC Revenue Funding	Grant Funding (add note to cell for source)	S106 Funding	Inspire Funding
1	New Wisbech Park bowls green	01-Apr-25	01-Jun-27	A meeting has happened with Cllrs and Wisbech stakeholders to confirm scope. Next step is to obtain quotes for concept designs (paper to go to June Cabinet).	A paper on funding requirements to reach outline design/ planning submission stage is being prepared for Cabinet.	Possible to deliver this but significant ecological challenges present a risk to timeline and budget.	No	£ 1,000,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
2	Wisbech Park Splash Pad improvements	01-Apr-25	31-Oct-25	Equipment has been ordered from Canada which will arrive in June. Completion of installation works due in August. Additional landscaping and furniture to be completed by October.	Spend of £60k approved by Cabinet. Orders placed.	High change of successful delivery within budget.	No	£ 60,000.00	0%	£ 17,000.00	£ 60,000.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
3	Wisbech 11/12 High Street development			A quote for detailed design by the existing architect has been obtained and requires procurement input for a direct appointment preference. Detailed design to include amendments to the planning application.	Cabinet report approved for alterations to proposals and funding for detailed design. Project manager seeking advice from procurement to instruct existing designer by exemption.	Reasonable chance of delivery within budget, subject to planning permission alterations. There is a risk of exceeding budget due to inflationary pressures increased by delays. Concern about funding sources.	No	£ 3,000,000.00	0%	£ -		2%	0%	0%	0%	98%
4	Wisbech Chapel building improvements	01-Apr-25	30-Nov-27	A meeting with Cllrs is required and being organised to confirm the use and scope for the building. Project likely to run to late 2027/ early 2028.	None to report to date. Cabinet paper required.	Without a scope and confirmed use there is a high risk that this project is undeliverable within time constraints and/or within budget.	No	£ 800,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
5	Wisbech floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial and War Memorial	01-Apr-25	Unknown	UK Power Networks have confirmed FDC can install a new power supply to the Clarkson Memorial. Engineers are awaiting lighting designs from manufacturers. The Wisbech War Memorial scope is yet to be fully defined and is likely to require road alterations needing input from Highways Agency. Risk of cost increase.	Small element of design works being funded through previously approved capital lighting project. Additional spend requires CMT approval.	Deliverable subject to confirmed scopes and statutory approvals. Likely to exceed budget.	No	£ 30,000.00	0%	£ 4,600.00	£ -	7%	0%	0%	0%	93%
6	Wisbech Park pathway improvements	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Resurfacing of the existing pathway likely to start construction phase in Spring 2026. Design stage has not yet commenced. Consideration given to bundling this with other pathway project.	Report to Cabinet required.	Deliverable within timescales and budgets.	No	£ 40,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
7	Leisure Projects															
7.1	Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Quote obtained from framework project contractor for design stage RIBA 0-4. Not yet instructed, awaiting clarification on funding. Concern from the project manager about FDC resource to manage this.	Report to Cabinet submitted in February 2025. Approval for spend to detailed design change to be added to forward plan. Member decision notices required to confirm spend.		Yes	£ 14,999,987.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
7.2	Chatteris Leisure Centre condition survey work	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Minor works to update dilapidated finishes. Procurement route agreed but has not yet started. Timescales not confirmed as funding agreement required.	Report to Cabinet submitted in February 2025. Approval for an additional £7 million to be added to the capital programme forward plan to fund this work.		No	£ 50,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
7.3	George Campbell Leisure Centre, March	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Condition survey recommendation works and remodelling improvement works. Procurement route for design consultants agreed but has not yet started. Timescales not confirmed as funding agreement required.	Report to Cabinet submitted in February 2025. Approval for an additional £7 million to be added to the capital programme forward plan to fund this work. Member decision notice required to proceed with spend.		No	£ 2,890,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
7.4	Hudson Leisure Centre, Wisbech	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Condition survey recommendation works and padel court construction. Full scope not yet agreed and project budget likely to increase. Procurement route for design consultants agreed but has not yet started. Timescales not confirmed as funding agreement required.	Report to Cabinet submitted in February 2025. Approval for an additional £7 million to be added to the capital programme forward plan to fund this work. Member decision notice required to proceed with spend.		No	£ 2,500,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
8	New Chatteris swimming pool	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Quote obtained from framework project contractor for design stage RIBA 0-4. Not yet instructed, awaiting clarification on funding. Concern from the project manager about FDC resource to manage this.	Report to Cabinet submitted in February 2025. Approval for spend to detailed design change to be added to forward plan. Member decision notices required to confirm spend.	Possible to deliver this but delays are likely to increase the construction cost significantly. A significant risk to revenue budget if design stage does not proceed to construction.	Yes	£ 7,743,535.00	0%	£ 15,500.00	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
9	District-wide assessment of new play equipment	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Scope to be confirmed in a June Cabinet report. No action taken to date other than Cllr meetings.	Report to go to Cabinet in June to outline proposed scope and budget.		No	£ 950,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
10	New March Rugby Club HQ and pitches	01-Apr-25	Unknown	The proposed site for construction is currently going through probate and when concluded, but go on the open market. There is no know timescale for this. The vendor will not accept below £400k. The site is on green belt land and therefore there is a planning risk.	Further investigation required before a report to Cabinet is submitted.	Extremely unlikely to be deliverable within timescales available due to probate and sale method for the land. Budgets are based on a number of assumptions and costs could increase.	Yes	£ 4,500,000.00	33%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
11	New March Country Park	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Public engagement complete and outline scope discussed. Further scope refinement to happen at a meeting on 2nd June.	Report to Cabinet required to have scope and budget agreed.		No	£ 1,100,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	11%	89%
12	Whittlesey Monastery acquisition	01-Apr-25	Unknown	No known use or scope for the building. Project manager to meet with Cllrs to gather more information.	No governance to report. Report required to Cabinet.		Yes	£ -	0%	£ -	£ -					
13	Whittlesey Manor Community Field Perimeter Path	01-Apr-25	01-Aug-25	Ground investigations under way. The earliest reported date for construction start is end of August but that is likely to be pushed back to Spring 2026 if Middle Level Commissioner permissions required.	A Member decision notice or Cabinet report is required to approve spend.		No	£ 300,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
14	New Village Green for Wimblington	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Consultant engaged to undertake a valuation and awaiting receipt of that. Transfer to the Town Council at their cost so the project is expected to be cost neutral for FDC under current scope.	CMT approval required.	High change of successful delivery within budget.	No	N/A	0%	£ -	£ -					
15	Civil Parking Enforcement	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Full scope requires input from Cllrs. Unclear on the number of wardens and technology used etc. No further scoping work has been done to date save for what has been included in previous Cabinet reports.	A Cabinet report is being prepared for June to recommend scope decisions and re-approve spend.		No	£ 1,000,000.00	0%	£ 81,000.00	£ -	0%	0%	40%	0%	60%
16	3G Pitches in five unconfirmed locations	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Funding confirmed for two pitches from the Football Foundation, with matched funding from FDC. Further funding application is needed for additional two pitches. The final pitch is larger and requires a contribution from FDC. This final pitch is unconfirmed.	Report to go to Cabinet in June outlining funding options.		No	£ 2,215,148.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	75%	0%	25%
17	St John's Graveyard, March transferal to District	01-Apr-25	Unknown	Installation of power supply to the church building and transfer ownership to Town Council. Scope only recently confirmed so project manager is reviewing previous quotes to obtain updated versions to progress. UKPN and other permissions to be confirmed.	CMT approval required.		No	£ 25,000.00	0%	£ -	£ -	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
TOTALS								£ 43,203,670.00		£ 118,100.00	£ 60,000.00	£ 62,000.00	£ -	£ 2,053,320.00	£ 118,683.00	£ 40,969,667.00

## Appendix S – List of Fenland Inspire! Projects and Key Members

Fenland Inspire! Project	Key Members (lead members in bold)
Wisbech Park Bowls Green (including changing facilities)	<b>Cllr Tierney</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Murphy
	Cllr Miscandlon
Wisbech Splash Pad Enhancements	<b>Cllr Hoy</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Murphy
11/12 High Street, Wisbech	<b>Cllr Hoy</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Seaton
Wisbech Chapel Building	<b>Cllr Sennitt-Clough</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Seaton
Wisbech Floodlighting for Clarkson Memorial & War Memorial	<b>Cllr Imafidon</b>
	Cllr Boden
Wisbech Park 100m of Pathway Renewal	<b>Cllr Imafidon</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Murphy
Leisure Centre's Refurbishment	<b>Cllr Miscandlon</b>
	Cllr Boden
Chatteris Swimming Pool	<b>Cllr Benney</b>
	<b>Cllr Hay</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Miscandlon
District Wide Assessment of New Play Equipment	<b>Cllr Murphy</b>
	Cllr Boden
March Old Auction House, Floods Ferry - New Rugby HQ & pitches	<b>Cllr Count</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Miscandlon
	Cllr J French
March Country Park - enhancement of West End Park facilities and additional land past bypass and immediately prior to bypass	<b>Cllr Count</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Murphy
	Cllr J French
Whittlesey Monastery = Number 9C Market Street, Acquisition	<b>Cllr Sennitt-Clough</b>
	Cllr Boden
Whittlesey Manor Field Perimeter Pathway	<b>Cllr Sennitt-Clough</b>
	Cllr Boden

<b>Fenland Inspire! Project</b>	<b>Key Members (lead members in bold)</b>
New Village Green for Wimblington	<b>Cllr Davis</b>
	Cllr Boden
	Cllr Benney
	Cllr Christy
3G Pitches (5 locations; Barton Rd / Manor Field / Wisbech Park / Estover Field (full size) & Estover Field Netball small sized pitch))	<b>Cllr Murphy</b>
St John's Graveyard, Station Road, March (discuss matching lease on additional empty chapel with Cllr J French and providing power to the buildings)	<b>Cllr J French</b>
Civil Parking Enforcement	<b>Cllr J French</b>
	Cllr Boden

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## DRAFT 6 MONTH CABINET FORWARD PLAN – Updated 6 June 2025



(For any queries, please refer to the published forward plan)

### CABINET

CABINET DATE	ITEMS	LEAD PORTFOLIO HOLDER
21 July 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Fenland Inspire! Civil Parking Enforcement Update	Cllr French Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	3. Fenland Inspire! Wisbech Chapel	Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	4. Fenland Inspire! Chatteris Swimming Pool Project	Cllr Boden Cllr Count
	5. Fenland Inspire! Procure & Deliver Wisbech Park Bowling Green	Cllr Tierney Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	6. Fenland Inspire! Bowls Green Revenue	Cllr Tierney Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	7. Fenland Inspire! 100m Resurfacing, Wisbech Park	Cllr Imafidon Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	8. Fenland Inspire! Wisbech Splash Pad	Cllr Hoy Cllr Boden Cllr Seaton
	9. Fenland Inspire! Project – 3G Artificial Turf Pitches	Cllr Seaton
	10. Fenland Inspire! Play Area Projects	Cllr Seaton Cllr Boden
	11. Annual Report 2024-25	Cllr Boden
	12. Air Quality Update, Wisbech	Cllr Wallwork
	13. Local Plan Update	Cllr Boden Cllr Laws
	14. Wisbech Town Board, 10-year Vision Document and 3-Year Investment Plan	Cllr Boden Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney Cllr Wallwork
	15. RECAP Waste Strategy	Cllr Tierney
	16. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney

<b>CABINET DATE</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>LEAD PORTFOLIO HOLDER</b>
	17. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
21 July 2025 (additional meeting after Council)	1. Local Government Reorganisation	Cllr Boden
15 Sept 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Investment Board Update & Review of the Commercial & Investment Strategy	Cllr Boden Cllr Tierney
	3. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	4. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
13 Oct 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	3. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
17 Nov 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	3. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
15 Dec 2025	1. Draft Business Plan 2025/26	Cllr Boden
	2. Draft Budget & MTFS 2025/26	Cllr Boden
	3. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	4. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	5. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden

TBC = To be confirmed

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

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