

AGENDA

CABINET

MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

2.00 PM

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

Committee Officer: Linda Albon

Tel: 01354 622424

e-mail: memberservices@fenland.gov.uk

1 To receive apologies for absence

2 Previous Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

To confirm and sign the public minutes of the meetings held at 2pm and 5pm on 21 July 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 Investment Board Update and Review of the Commercial and Investment Strategy (Pages 9 - 18)

To receive an update of the work of the Investment Board from March 2025 to July 2025.

6 Refuse, Recycling and Cleansing HGV Fleet Replacement (Pages 19 - 24)

To recommend to Council the approval of the procurement of the required HGV vehicles as part of the ongoing Fleet Replacement.

7 Draft 6 Month Cabinet Forward Plan (Pages 25 - 26)

For information purposes.

8 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."

9 Confidential Minutes (Pages 27 - 30)

To confirm and sign the confidential minutes of the meeting held at 2pm on 21 July 2025.

Friday, 5 September 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, 21 JULY 2025 - 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor C Boden (Chairman), Councillor Mrs J French (Vice-Chairman), Councillor S Count, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor S Imafidon, Councillor C Seaton and Councillor S Tierney

APOLOGIES: Councillor G Christy, Councillor Mrs D Laws and Councillor S Wallwork

CAB7/25 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 16 June 2025 were approved and signed.

CAB8/25 FENLAND INSPIRE! CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Members considered the Fenland Inspire! Civil Parking Enforcement Update report presented by Councillor Mrs French.

- Councillor Tierney voiced his frustration that this is the second most common issue after street drinking and that the public believes the Council are at fault. He said this is not true, it is a case of signs and lines not being up to scratch which is the responsibility of the County Council who are not doing what they should. Fenland District Council is doing all it can to push through civil parking enforcement and if County had done their work, it would have happened already. The public are being told things which are not true which is all very unhelpful. Meanwhile he would hope that FDC will be able to use some of the Fenland Inspire! project money to upgrade the signs and lines although it should not have to.
- Councillor Mrs French said she and the Leader have a meeting next week with officers to discuss costings. She is concerned about how much it may cost to employ Milestones when £100,000 of Council money has already been spent on consultation.
- Councillor Boden agreed with Councillor Tierney, saying that County Council have refused to bring lines up to standard and have made unreasonable requirements between FDC and the Highways Authority. He was surprised to learn that there is no legal way to oblige the County Council to upgrade the signs and lines and they have not moved on this. However, it is now all academic as when civil parking enforcement is likely to come into force, both authorities will be abolished and become part of the same new authority anyway. There is no reason for this council not to push forward but it is something many residents are fed up with and they want action taken.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs French, seconded by Councillor Seaton and AGREED to:

- **Note the updated estimated increase in the overall project delivery costs, timelines and CPE running costs post implementation.**
- **Consent to officers proceeding with obtaining updated corrective works costs from Milestone which is likely in itself to incur a cost (currently unknown but estimated to be within the range of £50k to £100k).**
- **Consent to officers proceeding with the implementation of CPE based on the predicted costs contained within this update report in advance of obtaining actual costs. Estimated costs to be brought back to Cabinet for approval upon receipt.**
- **Provide an officer steer on any previously highlighted red line areas within the previously drafted preliminary agency agreement.**

- Approve the member/officer CPE project team to agree any red line areas in order to progress the CPE project to implementation. This would include the administration of all highway permits, suspensions, waivers and dispensations.

CAB9/25 FENLAND INSPIRE! PROJECT: PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members considered the Fenland Inspire! Project: Play Equipment report presented by Councillor Seaton.

- Councillor Hoy pointed out an error at 3.5 of the report that should read Westmead Avenue, not Westmead Road. She added that this is a very welcome addition as current provision is quite poor.
- Councillor Mrs French said the current provision is a disgrace and welcomes this report.

Proposed by Councillor Seaton, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED that Cabinet:

- 1.1 Notes the report and the current comprehensive offer to the community in terms of play areas, skate parks, a splash pad and MUGA's across the District.
- 1.2 Notes 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.
- 1.3 Instructs officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to assess requirements for new play areas on FDC land close to residential areas, or in the event that there are limited options available, to suggest enhancements to existing play areas with a rationale for the play areas selected. Any final decision on these new or enhanced play areas is to be made in the future by Cabinet.
- 1.4 Approves the development of a new play area to replace the existing poor quality play area at Westmead Avenue in Wisbech, to an adjoining position in the same open space, with a maximum budget of £60,000 from the Fenland Inspire! capital project.
- 1.5 Instructs officers to develop a database of current play equipment with an assessment of the useful life left in each piece of equipment, and that any equipment with a life of less than three years is replaced as part of this project, with the capital funding coming from the Fenland Inspire! capital fund.
- 1.6 Notes that the refurbishment of the Manor Leisure Centre will mean the necessary movement of the skate park at Manor Field in Whittlesey, and that Cabinet notes that this work will form part of this play area project in conjunction with other proposed works. The budget will be from the Fenland Inspire! programme but will form part of the overall Manor Leisure refurbishment project costs.
- 1.7 Authorises the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Fenland Inspire! and the Leader of the Council, in his role as Portfolio Holder for Finance, to execute and complete all requisite legal and governance documentation in relation to Cabinet decisions made regarding the matters outlined above, and that Cabinet authorises the Section 151 Officer to make all necessary financial arrangements within the Fenland Inspire! capital budget to carry forward decisions made by Cabinet as a result of this report.

CAB10/25 FENLAND INSPIRE! PROJECT REGARDING NORTH DRIVE RECREATION GROUND - OPTIONS FOR NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Members considered the Fenland Inspire! Project regarding North Drive Recreation Ground report presented by Councillor Seaton.

- Councillor Mrs French welcomed the report as North Drive is the most deprived area of March in terms of so few facilities, and it is time that the children had something there.

- Councillor Tierney stated that it is important to get the consultation right; often young people will either be unaware of a consultation or not respond. It is important for them to have a voice as what they want and will use may be different to what older people decide. They must therefore be given a good chance to engage.
- Councillor Boden agreed and asked that officers take that on board; he requested that they be open and pay attention to what young people ask for and not just give them a choice between a or b.
- Councillor Seaton said these are good points and that he has instructed officers to ensure the younger element are taken note of during consultation and given every opportunity to contribute.

Proposed by Councillor Seaton, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED that Cabinet:

- **Instructs officers to proceed with a community consultation regarding the option of either a skate park or a BMX Pump track in the location described above on the open space at North Drive Recreation Ground in March.**
- **Notes the original space discussed by Cabinet in November 2024 to be designated as space required for biodiversity net gain following the development of either a skate park or BMX pumping track.**

CAB11/25 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Members considered the Annual Report 2024/25 presented by Councillor Boden.

Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Tierney and AGREED to approve the Annual Report of the Council 2024/25.

CAB12/25 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2024/25

Members considered the Revenue and Capital Outturn 2024/25 report presented by Councillor Boden.

- Councillor Boden thanked Sian Warren for the work she has done with Peter Catchpole and Mark Saunders, who has now retired and will be greatly missed.
- Councillor Mrs French expressed her thanks to the officers involved for a job well done.

Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED that:

- (i) **The Outturn for the Council's General Fund services in 2024/25, as detailed at Appendix A and Section 2 of this report be noted and that Members note the transfer of the surplus to the Budget Equalisation Reserve'**
- (ii) **The reasons for the variations from revised estimate be noted;**
- (iii) **The current position on the Cambridgeshire Horizons Reserve, as detailed in Section 3 of this report be noted;**
- (iv) **The proposed Capital Funding schedule for 2024/25 at Appendix B(i) be approved.**

CAB13/25 POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR SUPPORTING RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Members considered the Policy and Procedures for Supporting Residents Experiencing Domestic Abuse report presented by Councillor Hoy.

Councillor Boden said he was pleased to see this report at Cabinet having already been presented to the Employment Committee. It is a very good report and unfortunately domestic abuse affects too many people.

Proposed by Councillor Hoy, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED to approve the Policy and Procedure set out in Appendix B for supporting residents experiencing domestic abuse.

CAB14/25 DRAFT 6 MONTH CABINET FORWARD PLAN

Noted for information.

CAB15/25 PORT OPERATIONS REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Tierney said he wanted to make a general point about confidentiality, having often heard it suggested that there was something corrupt or untoward regarding agenda items going into private session. He believes that the public do not always realise that often there are legal reasons why this must sometimes happen, i.e. for discussions over money matters that affect outside businesses or the contractual way that councils work. However legal advice is always taken before making this decision and doing so is always avoided where possible, but all councils do it as part of a normal process.

Councillor Boden agreed that it is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1972 that certain matters are to be discussed as exempt items, and it would potentially be harmful to the Council and third parties to discuss such matters in public.

Members proceeded to consider the Port Operations report presented by Councillor Boden.

Members made comments, asked questions and received responses.

Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Mrs French and AGREED to all recommendations in the confidential report, with one additional recommendation.

(Members resolved to exclude the public for 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).

3.24 pm

Chairman

CABINET

MONDAY, 21 JULY 2025 - 5.00 PM



PRESENT: Councillor C Boden (Chairman), Councillor Mrs J French (Vice-Chairman), Councillor S Count, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor S Imafidon, Councillor C Seaton and Councillor S Tierney

APOLOGIES: Councillor G Christy, Councillor Mrs D Laws and Councillor S Wallwork

Due to the meeting of Council ending later than anticipated, Cabinet commenced at 5.45pm.

CAB16/25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION UPDATE

Members considered the Local Government Reorganisation update following the debate at Council.

Councillor Boden said it had been an interesting debate and fair to say that there was no great enthusiasm shown for local government reform. The options available do not receive much approval but of those options, where preference was given, it seems that more choose Option C to join FDC with Peterborough City Council and East Cambs. However, there is no financial information or business case to be able to support any of the options, but clearly members want to see Fenland's identity preserved as much as possible.

Councillor Count said he did engage in the council debate, but he would like to reiterate that whilst some members expressed a preference, the fact is there are three options, and he would like Councillor Boden to be fully empowered to carry on looking at everything until more information comes out from the business plans. In respect of there being a potential fourth option, he had believed that proposals had to come from constituent councils but was surprised to read that proposals can come from major stakeholders such as combined authorities, mayors and local MPs. This seems wrong on so many levels, and ultimately, he fears that government aspirations will outweigh any considerations that members have.

Councillor Tierney said whilst he will not vote for any of the options because he does not want to show any support for LGR, his preference is Option C. If members are worried about free parking and controlling council tax, then East Cambs have a similar approach to FDC and aligning with them will give both authorities a reasonably strong voice together to push for the things that benefit Fenland residents. Councillor Mrs French expressed her agreement.

Councillor Boden said this process has been undertaken today because whilst FDC's constitution gives Cabinet responsibility to decide which recommendation to put to Central Government, it is so important a matter that the voice of Council should be heard before Cabinet makes its decision. That decision will not be made today, but when it is it will be important to listen to all members of Council beforehand.

Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Seaton and AGREED to note the feedback from Council on the three proposals and provide a steer to the Leader to support ongoing dialogue within the LGR process.

5.52 pm

Chairman

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Agenda Item No:	5	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	15 September 2025	
Report Title:	Investment Board Update and Review of the Commercial and Investment Strategy	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To provide an update to Cabinet of the work of the Investment Board from March 2025 to July 2025.

2 Key issues

- 2.1 The last report on Investment Board activity was presented to and noted by Cabinet on 24th March 2025.
- 2.2 Work has carried on during the 2025-26 financial year to progress the two identified sites, the Nene Waterfront in Wisbech and the Elms in Chatteris and outline planning permission has now been granted for both sites.
- 2.3 At the Cabinet meeting held on 12th December 2022, it was agreed that the land at Chatteris and Wisbech be transferred to FFL at market value in accordance with a Red Book valuation
- 2.4 FFL own the Nene Waterfront, Wisbech site and are in conditional contract to complete the transfer of the land off The Elms, Chatteris subject to a Reserved Matters Planning approval.
- 2.5 Work on the revised draft Business Plan for FFL was completed and circulated to the Investment Board by 31st January 2025.
- 2.6 No new opportunities have arisen since the last report on Investment Board activity was presented to Cabinet on 24th March 2025.
- 2.7 The Constitution states as follows at paragraph 3.1.1 of Table 3 which sets out the responsibility for executive functions:
 - Cabinet will be responsible for the following specific functions in relation to the Commercial Investment Strategy and the Council's companies and partnerships:
 - (a) Conducting a formal review of the Commercial Investment every 2 years and recommending any necessary amendments for approval by Full Council;
- 2.8 The formal review of the Commercial and Investment Strategy is currently on hold as the focus has changed to delivering the Fenland Inspire programme. Additionally the present economic conditions are challenging and interest rates in particular make it extremely difficult to identify new opportunities.
- 2.9 It should also be noted that in December 2024 Local Government Reorganisation was announced and this will undoubtedly lead to a strategic assessment of priorities.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

- Cabinet note this report from the Investment Board.
- Cabinet agree that the ongoing review of the current Commercial and Investment Strategy as determined by the constitution and delegated to the S151 officer is still currently deferred.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Ref	Not applicable
Portfolio Holder(s)	<p>Cllr Chris Boden – Leader, Finance Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Investment Board</p> <p>Cllr Steve Tierney – Transformation, Communications and Environment Portfolio Holder and Investment Board Member</p> <p>Cllr Sidney Imafidon – Assets, Business Premises, Health & Safety and Food Safety, Environmental Services and Heritage</p>
Report Originator(s)	<p>Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Paul Medd – Chief Executive</p> <p>Carol Pilson – Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Amy Brown - Assistant Director & Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>
Contact Officer(s)	<p>Peter Catchpole – Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Paul Medd – Chief Executive</p> <p>Carol Pilson – Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Amy Brown - Assistant Director & Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>
Background Paper(s)	<p>Investment Board minutes</p> <p>Commercial and Investment Strategy</p> <p>Cabinet update report 22nd March 2022</p> <p>Cabinet update report 30th January 2023</p> <p>Cabinet update report 16th March 2023</p> <p>Cabinet update report 11th September 2023</p> <p>Cabinet update report 15th July 2024</p>

Appendix:

Report of the Investment Board

March 2025 – July 2025



1 What is the Investment Board?

- 1.1 The Investment Board was created on 16th January 2020 to help drive forward the Council's Commercial and Investment Strategy which was approved by Full Council on 9th January 2020. The Investment Board is a sub-committee of Cabinet designed to be more "fleet of foot" in order to be able to respond to opportunities in an agile and commercial manner.

2 Purpose of the Investment Board

- 2.1 The Investment Board is responsible for implementing the Commercial and Investment Strategy including oversight of the Council's companies and partnerships.
- 2.2 The Investment Board will act as a decision-making body in relation to the functions delegated to it and will report to Cabinet in relation to the exercise of those functions.
- 2.3 Support and advice will be provided to the Investment Board by key members of the Corporate Management team.

3 Membership and Operation of the Investment Board

- 3.1 The Investment Board will comprise a maximum of two Cabinet Members (one of whom should be the portfolio holder for finance if that position is not held by the Leader) in addition to the Leader who will determine their appointment annually.
- 3.2 The Investment Board shall meet on a basis agreed by itself with a minimum of 3 meetings per year.
- 3.2 The quorum shall be the Leader in the presence of a minimum of;
 - a. one other Cabinet Member;
 - b. one senior advisory officer (or their appointed deputy)

An invitation to attend must have been provided to the Chair of O&S at least 5 clear days in advance of the meeting taking place. This notice period may be waived if the Chair of O&S or their nominated deputy so agrees.

An invitation to attend must also have been provided to the Section 151 officer and the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated deputies) which will normally be at least 5 clear days in advance of the meeting taking place.

- 3.3 The provisions relating to substitution set out at paragraph 28 of the Standing Orders shall apply to meetings of the Investment Board save that the Leader and Cabinet Members may only be substituted by Cabinet Members [and the Chair of O&S may only be substituted by the Vice Chairman]. Such substitutions to be notified to Council as part of the annual nomination process.

- 3.4 The Cabinet Procedure Rules shall apply to meetings of the Investment Board save in respect of paragraphs 1.6, 1.8, 2.2 (second paragraph), 2.3(g) and (h) and paragraph 2.5(d) which shall be disapplied.

4 Functions of the Investment Board

- 4.1 To determine investment appraisals submitted under Part 2 of the Council's Commercial and Investment Strategy together with the most appropriate means of delivery;
- 4.2 To determine business cases submitted under Part 3 of the Council's Commercial and Investment Strategy by the Council's companies and partnerships;
- 4.3 To determine the amount and terms of any investments, loans and assets required for the delivery of proposals approved in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) above from the agreed budget allocation;
- 4.4 To produce a report to Cabinet twice a year summarising its activities in accordance with paragraphs (a) to (c) above.
- 4.5 Approve the business plans of the Council's companies and partnerships;
- 4.6 To monitor performance and financial delivery in line with the approved business plans;
- 4.7 To ensure that those companies and partnerships comply with relevant Council policies, strategies and objectives;
- 4.8 To exercise decisions, where delegated by Cabinet, in relation to a company or partnerships' reserved matters;
- 4.9 To oversee the relationships between the Council and the Council's companies and partnerships in accordance with the Council's objectives.
- 4.10 To prepare and present an annual report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- 4.11 To determine for each individual company or partnership whether the Investment Board recommends to Cabinet the delegation of any functions to the officers of the Council.
- 4.12 All other matters not falling within the remit of the Investment Board functions set out at 4.1 to 4.11 above will be referred to Cabinet for decision.

5 Background

- 5.1 The Commercial and Investment Strategy was approved by Full Council on 9th January 2020.
- 5.2 At the same meeting Full Council also agreed to establish a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of the agreed strategy and noted the proposed intention that the Investment Board will be able to utilise reserves and/or borrow sums up to a combined maximum of £25 million in order to deliver the objectives of the Strategy.

- 5.3 Following on from this approval the creation of the Investment Board and the delegation of functions was approved by Cabinet on 16th January 2020.
- 5.4 The business case for the creation of the LATCo was approved by Cabinet on 9th June 2020 and Fenland Future Ltd (FFL) was incorporated on 10th June 2020.
- 5.5 FFL held its inaugural board meeting on 8th December 2020 and a first draft business plan was circulated to the Investment Board for discussion and approval. The final business plan was formally presented to the Investment Board in March 2022.
- 5.6 At a meeting of the Investment Board on 18th September 2020 approval was given to take forward to a detailed business case the development of FDC owned land at the Nene waterfront in Wisbech.
- 5.7 At a meeting of the Investment Board on 12th January 2021 approval was given to take forward to a detailed business case the development of FDC owned land in Chatteris.
- 5.8 At a meeting of the Investment Board on 16th March 2021 approval was given to acquire a commercial property in Wisbech and this was subsequently completed on 26th March 2021.
- 5.9 The last report on Investment Board activity was presented to and noted by Cabinet on 24th March 2025.

6 Work programme and outcomes

- 6.1 There have been no formal Investment Board meetings in 2025/26 so far as there have been no substantive items to discuss. A monthly report on progress is prepared and sent to the Investment Board to keep them abreast of developments.

7 Commercial and Investment Strategy (CIS) Update

FDC

- 7.1 As part of the Commercial and Investment Strategy a facility of £25m was granted to the Investment Board to finance capital expenditure to be undertaken in accordance with the aims and objectives of the agreed strategy. At the end of March 2022 £4m of this facility has been utilised to fund the acquisition detailed in 7.2 below and a strategic purchase which offers an opportunity to open up access to a Council owned potential development site. These acquisitions were approved at Investment Board meetings held on 16th March 2021 and 3rd December 2021 respectively.
- 7.2 The Commercial Investment in Wisbech has delivered a rental income of £230k p.a since acquisition in March 2021 and is up to date for 2025-26. As we used our own funds to acquire this asset there was no external cost of capital. This acquisition has enhanced the Councils revenue position and has had a positive impact on the MTFS as presented to Full Council in February 2025.
- 7.3 A further £3m of the £25m facility has been approved by the Investment Board to support the Local Authority Housing Fund initiative where the government provides up to 40% of the capital cost of certain properties to support various housing initiatives.

- 7.4 No further opportunities have been formally presented to the Investment Board since 1st March 2025 as the initial due diligence as prescribed in the Commercial and Investment Strategy was not passed. It is worth noting that since the inception of the Commercial and Investment Strategy nearly 40 opportunities have been looked into and these are broken down as follows:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>Completed</u>	<u>In progress</u>	<u>Parked</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>Total</u>
FDC owned land		2	2			4
Other land					4	4
Commercial Retail					8	8
Commercial Investment	1			1	6	8
Residential- Commercial	1	1			3	5
Residential- Affordable					1	1
Other	1	2			3	6
	3	5	2	1	25	36

The current Commercial and Investment Strategy (CIS) strategy review as required by the constitution is on hold as focus has changed to delivering the Fenland Inspire programme. Additionally the present economic conditions are challenging and interest rates in particular make it extremely difficult to identify new opportunities.

FFL update including finance

- 7.5 Further utilisation of the above mentioned “facility” has been used to help develop the projects being delivered through Fenland Future Ltd and is in line with the cash flow and financial projections as agreed as part of the Business Plan circulated to the Investment Board by 31st January 2025. Further refinement will be required as updated site appraisals are prepared. Funding drawdown has been completed following the process as detailed in the financing agreement agreed by the Investment Board in July 2022.
- 7.5 The land transfers of the two sites, The Elms, Chatteris and the Nene Waterfront, Wisbech were approved by Cabinet on 12th December 2022 and the work to conclude the legal transfer has now been completed.
- 7.6 Both sites now have Outline Planning Permission and work has progressed on the delivery models needed to develop them.
- 7.7 A development manager has been appointed for The Elms site and work to prepare and complete a Reserved Matters Application is now underway. This includes detailed design work and technical reports as well as revised financial appraisals for the scheme.
- 7.8 Work on the Nene Waterfront includes the delivery of a new electricity substation funded through the Brownfields Land Release Fund and the delivery of an all affordable for rent Extra Care facility for which design and pre-application work has commenced. The electricity substation work is now complete.

- 7.9 FFL have exchanged contracts with Fenland Extra Care Consortium who will acquire plot 5 of the Nene Waterfront. FECC have submitted a Reserved Matters planning application in June 2025 and we are awaiting determination. This will be an all-affordable for rent housing scheme for older people with care needs (circa 70 homes).
- 7.10 To date Fenland Future Ltd expenditure and commitments are as shown in the table below.
- 7.11 Based on the revised cash flows further funding has been drawn down from Fenland District Council to both cover the costs detailed below and to enable FFL to meet its future financial commitments to develop the sites. A further update will be taken to the Investment Board later in the year along with the request to drawdown any extra funding required.
- 7.12 For information the Board of Directors for Fenland Future Ltd comprises:-
- Dan Horn – Managing Director and Chairman
 - Sian Warren – Director
 - Anna Goodall – Director
 - Jane Bailey – Company Secretary

Fenland Future Ltd		Total	Nene		Ex Barclays	FFL	Consultancy	Legal Costs	FDC	Loan
Financial Update		FFL Costs	Waterfront	Chatteris	March	Set up Costs	Costs	General	Recharges	Interest
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Confirmation Statement	Companies House	34.00				34.00				
Data Protection Fee	Information Commissioner	40.00				40.00				
Bank Charges	Barclays Bank	56.20				56.20				
Consultancy	Instinctively Green	93,600.00					93,600.00			
Legal services	Bevan Brittan	20,752.50	18,092.50	2,400.00				260.00		
Planning consultancy	Tetra Tech	4,750.00	4,750.00							
Valuation Report - The Elms	Carter Jonas	750.00		750.00						
Archeology Services	Headland Archeology	29,695.25	29,695.25							
Planning Fee	Fenland District Council	363.00	363.00							
Planning Consultancy Support	Barmach	500.00	500.00							
DM Fee + DP Fees	Lovell	241,440.97		241,440.97						
Directors Insurance	AON UK Ltd	3,920.00				3,920.00				
FFL Website	Chameleon Studios	972.50				972.50				
Interest Received on Late Repayment	HMRC - VAT Claim	-1,275.05				-1,275.05				
Support Recharges	FDC SLA 2024/25 - 12 months	127,363.00				2,363.00			125,000.00	
Interest Costs	FDC Loans 2024/25 - 12 months	147,518.49								147,518.49
Total Paid	2024/25 - to 31.03.25	670,480.86	53,400.75	244,590.97	0.00	6,110.65	93,600.00	260.00	125,000.00	147,518.49
Grand Total Paid to Date	to 31.03.25	1,889,736.78	221,503.62	653,419.63	1,000.00	18,276.15	330,136.58	40,607.65	475,000.00	149,793.15
Confirmation Statement	Companies House	34.00				34.00				
Data Protection Fee	Information Commissioner	0.00								
Bank Charges	Barclays Bank	0.00								
Consultancy	Instinctively Green	23,400.00					23,400.00			
Consultancy	Create Consulting Engineers Ltd	8,841.25	8,841.25							
Consultancy	Caneparo Associates Ltd	5,750.00	5,750.00							
Consultancy	Dyer	90,000.00	90,000.00							
Legal services	Bevan Brittan	0.00	0.00							
Survey Services	The Survey House	2,295.00	2,295.00							
Planning consultancy	Planning Potential Ltd	32,068.45	32,068.45							
Valuation Report - The Elms	Carter Jonas	0.00								
Ecology Services	Red Ecology Limited	5,809.43	5,809.43							
Archeology Services	Headland Archeology	0.00								
Planning Fee	Fenland District Council	0.00								
Planning Consultancy Support	Barmach	0.00								
DM Fee + DP Fees	Lovell	24,723.42		24,723.42						
Directors Insurance	AON UK Ltd	0.00								
FFL Website	Chameleon Studios	0.00								
Interest Received on Late Repayment	HMRC - VAT Claim	0.00								
Support Recharges	FDC SLA 2024/25 - 12 months	0.00								
Interest Costs	FDC Loans 2024/25 - 12 months	0.00								
Total Paid	2025/26 - to 31.07.25	192,921.55	144,764.13	24,723.42	0.00	34.00	23,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Benefit to FDC Revenue Account - to 31.07.25		627,156.15								
Total Benefit to FDC - Capital Receipt - to 31.07.25		200,000.00								

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Reviewing the CIS ensures compliance with our best value duty and is also compliant with the delegations to Cabinet in which it is provided that it will be reviewed every 2 years. At their meeting in March 2025 Cabinet agreed to defer this review.

Agenda Item No:	6	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	15 September 2025	
Report Title:	Refuse, Recycling and Cleansing HGV Fleet Replacement	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To recommend to Council the approval of the procurement of the required HGV vehicles as part of the ongoing Fleet Replacement Plan.
- 1.2 To recommend to Council the delegation of the procurement of these vehicles to the relevant director, through existing procurement frameworks or mini tender as required, in consultation with the portfolio holder.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Fenland has an efficient approach to vehicle replacement that allows frontline vehicles to be in service for more than 10 years, where they remain viable.
- 2.2 To provide the key frontline services, such as domestic waste and recycling, garden waste, commercial waste and street sweeping services the Council requires a fleet of 20 HGV vehicles.
- 2.3 There is a Fleet Replacement Plan in place for these vehicles as they come to the end of their serviceable lives.
- 2.4 Lead times for this type of vehicle are increasing, and can be 12 months, and it is important to allow these services to keep running without issue to ensure that the Council has an approved vehicle and capital replacement plan. For the coming 3 financial years this includes the vehicles in the table below that will require ordering and replacement.
- 2.5 The vehicles being replaced will have been in service for between 9 and 15 years at the point they are replaced.

Table 1. Fleet HGV Replacement Schedule 2026-2029

Vehicle Type	Service Area	Age ¹	Delivery	Cost Est.
2026/27 Capital Commitment				
12 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Garden Waste	15 yrs	Apr 26	£155,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Garden Waste	10 yrs	Apr 26	£233,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 26	£233,000
18 Tonne Street Sweeper	St. Cleansing	12 yrs	Apr 26	£190,000
Total				£811,000
2027/28 Capital Commitment				
7.5 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 27	£135,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 27	£240,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 27	£240,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Garden Waste	10 yrs	Apr 27	£240,000
Total				£855,000
2028/29 Capital Commitment				
7.5 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 28	£140,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Commercial Waste	9 yrs	Apr 28	£260,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 28	£250,000
26 Tonne Refuse Freighter	Refuse/Recycling	10 yrs	Apr 28	£250,000
Total				£900,000

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To recommend to Council to approve the procurement of the 4 HGV vehicles for delivery April 2026 as part of the ongoing Fleet Replacement Plan.
- 3.2 To recommend to Council this vehicle and capital requirement for 2027/28 and 2028/29 and for these requirements to be added to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 3.3 To recommend to Council the delegation of the procurement of these vehicles to the corporate director with responsibility for Environmental Services, through existing procurement frameworks or mini tender as required, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder responsible for street sweeping, recycling and refuse collection.
- 3.4 To note that the total value of required vehicles that will need to be ordered within the next 24 months is expected to be in the region of £2,560,000. The Chief Finance Officer will determine the best value means of financing these necessary vehicles.

¹ Age at replacement

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	KEY/10JUN25/01
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Finance Portfolio Holder Cllr Steve Tierney, Portfolio Holder for Communications, Decarbonisation, ICT, Street Sweeping, Street Bins & Dog Bins, Recycling & Refuse Collection.
Report Originator(s)	Mark Mathews Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer(s)	Carol Pilson Director and Monitoring Officer Peter Catchpole Director and S151 Officer
Background Papers	

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Council has in place a Fleet Replacement Plan (appendix 1 for HGVs) to ensure that vehicles remain serviceable, safe and offer efficient running costs. The larger refuse vehicles are run for between 9 and 11 years, and some of the smaller HGV vehicles can last 15 years before they require replacement.
- 1.2 Non-HGV fleet vehicles, such as vans and cleansing vehicles, are already included within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy capital plan, with £200,000 set aside for this year and next.
- 1.3 Newer vehicles offer improved environmental credentials, and the larger HGV refuse, garden waste and recycling collection vehicles all have hybrid electric bin lifts to reduce fuel usage and noise.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Fenland provides statutory and chargeable waste services to domestic, municipal and commercial premises. To achieve this in a reliable, efficient and effective fashion there is a need to maintain the HGV vehicle fleet appropriately, including replacement at end of life.
- 2.2 The lead-in and build times on these types of vehicles is currently around 12 months, the sooner that approval and orders are in place the more likely definite delivery dates will match to service requirements and the fleet replacement plan.
- 2.3 The refuse freighters are purchased through a RECAP shared framework to provide best value for the Cambridgeshire authorities, including Peterborough.

3 CONSULTATION

N/A

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Continue to maintain existing fleet without replacement. This option was discounted as a result of the risk of significant expensive failures such as engine, chassis or transmission creating large costs and service disruption in these high mileage vehicles.
- 4.2 The transformation team identified that contract hire was significantly more expensive than outright purchase within their review of the Environmental Services Workshop and thus contract hire has been dismissed as an option.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 The Council has a statutory duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended, to collect household waste and specified recyclable household waste. The council must also arrange for the collection of commercial waste and recyclable commercial waste when requested by the occupier of the premises. From 2026 these duties will also include the weekly collection of domestic food waste.

5.3 Financial Implications

- 5.4 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 £1.4m 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.

For the purpose of vehicle purchases, if the money is borrowed, £1m will cost £146,000 in revenue each year over a 10-year period.

- 5.5 The garden waste service is self-funding through subscriptions, including the provision of required fleet vehicles.

The commercial waste service is income generating and fees charged to local businesses include the provision of required fleet vehicles.

The Council, from 2025/26, receives funding through Extended Producer Payments for packaging waste (£1.5m in 2025/26) and also continues to claim recycling credits.

This recycling-based income is expected to total between £1.5 and £1.9 million in 2026/27. These payments are set in statute and intended to fund the collection of the materials in question, including the provision of fleet vehicles.

- 5.6 It is noted that whilst any order for vehicle(s) due to be replaced in 2026/27 is made within the current financial year, the capital funds are not released until delivery within the 2026/27 year. If approved, these capital commitments will be added to Medium-term Financial Strategy.
- 5.7 At present this Fleet Replacement Plan does not include any additional fleet vehicles to accommodate property growth. This is expected to be required within this 3-year window but not included within this report because of the anticipated changes to local government that will likely change borders, collection routes and similar. Should LGR not take place or be delayed then additional capital spend is a likely requirement.

5.8 Equality Implications

N/A

Appendix 1 HGV Fleet Replacement Plan

Front Line RCV - Household Refuse and Recycling														
Reg No	Current Round	Type	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
VX16ACF	SERVICE SUPPORT	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VX17JZA	BRAVO 7	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VX17JZC	BRAVO 1	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VU68MWJ	BRAVO 9	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VK69EXT	BRAVO 8	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VK20XWM	BRAVO 4	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VX23ZGY	BRAVO 6	Refuse Vehicle STD		£ 196,000										
VX24HRL	BRAVO 3	Refuse Vehicle STD				£ 211,000								
VX24HRM	BRAVO 5	Refuse Vehicle STD				£ 211,000								
VN25DWL	BRAVO 2	Refuse Vehicle STD				£ 211,000								
VN25DWM	BRAVO 10	Refuse Vehicle STD					£ 225,000							
VX16ACF (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD						£ 233,000						
VX17JZA (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD							£ 240,000					
VX17JZC (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD							£ 240,000					
VU68MWJ (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD								£ 250,000				
VK69EXT (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD								£ 250,000				
VK20XWM (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD									£ 250,000			
VX23ZGY (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VX24HRL (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VX24HRM (REPLACEMENT)	TBA	Refuse Vehicle STD												
			£ -	£ 196,000	£ -	£ 422,000	£ 450,000	£ 233,000	£ 480,000	£ 500,000	£ 250,000	£ -	£ -	£ -
														£ 2,531,000

Front Line RCV - Garden Waste Collection														
Reg No	Current Round	Type	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
VX16ABZ	BRAVO 16	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VU68MWK	BRAVO 17	Refuse Vehicle STD												
VA21ZHO	BRAVO 18	Refuse Vehicle STD	£ 180,000											
VX16ABZ (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 16	Refuse Vehicle STD						£ 233,000						
VU68MWK (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 17	Refuse Vehicle STD							£ 240,000					
VA21ZHO (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 18	Refuse Vehicle STD										£ 260,000		
			£ 180,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 233,000	£ 240,000	£ -	£ -	£ 260,000	£ -	£ -
														£ 913,000

Front Line RCV Small - All Streams (Note - KE54AFO Retained For Longer Period As Back Up)														
Reg No	Current Round	Type	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
KE54AFO	WEST END	Caged Tipper												
UK11DZL	SERVICE SUPPORT	Refuse Vehicle Small												
DX16AAO	BULKY	BOX												
UK17WYP	BRAVO 11	Refuse Vehicle Small												
UK17WYO	BRAVO 15	Refuse Vehicle Small												
DG22ASU	BRAVO 12	Refuse Vehicle Med	£ 126,000											
KE54AFO (REPLACEMENT)	WEST END	Caged Tipper				£ 46,000								
FJ25YKX (DX16AAO REPLACEMENT)	BULKY	BOX				£ 64,000								
UK11DZL (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 15	Refuse Vehicle 12t						£ 155,000						
UK17WYP (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 11	Refuse Vehicle 7.5t							£ 135,000					
UK17WYO (REPLACEMENT)	SPARE SUPPORT	Refuse Vehicle 7.5t								£ 140,000				
DG22ASU (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 12	Refuse Vehicle 12t										£ 180,000		
			£ 126,000	£ -	£ -	£ 110,000	£ -	£ 155,000	£ 135,000	£ 140,000	£ -	£ 180,000	£ -	£ -
														£ 846,000

Trade RCV - (Note - Uses Vehicle VX23ZGY When VOR)														
Reg No	Current Round	Type	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
VK69EWE	BRAVO 14	Refuse Vehicle Trade												
VK69EWE (REPLACEMENT)	BRAVO 14	Refuse Vehicle Trade												
			£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 260,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
														£ 260,000

Cleansing Sweeper (Large Channel)														
Reg No	Current Round	Type	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33
EY64SZU	SIERRA	SCARAB												
EY64SZU (REPLACEMENT)	SIERRA	SCARAB						£ 190,000						
EY64SZU (REPLACEMENT 2)	SIERRA	SCARAB												
			£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 190,000	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -
														£ 190,000

**DRAFT 6 MONTH CABINET FORWARD PLAN –
Updated 20 August 2025**

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

CABINET

CABINET DATE	ITEMS	LEAD PORTFOLIO HOLDER
13 Oct 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Fenland Inspire! Wisbech Park Orchard	Cllr Seaton
	3. Manor Leisure Centre Refurbishment Update	Cllr Count
	4. Wisbech Town Board, 10-Year Vision Document and 3-Year Investment Plan	Cllr Hoy
	5. Air Quality Update (Wisbech)	Cllr Imafidon
	6. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	7. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
17 Nov 2025	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Fenland Inspire! Project – 3G Artificial Turf Pitches	Cllr Seaton
	3. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	4. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
15 Dec 2025	1. Draft Business Plan 2026/27	Cllr Boden
	2. Draft Budget & MTFS 2026/27	Cllr Boden
	3. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	4. RECAP Waste Strategy	Cllr Tierney
	5. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	6. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
26 January 2026	1. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update	Cllr Boden
	2. Fees and Charges	Cllr Boden
	3. Wisbech High Street Update	Cllr Seaton Cllr Hoy Cllr Tierney
	4. Cabinet Draft Forward Plan	Cllr Boden
23 February 2026	1. Business Plan 2026/27	Cllr Boden
	2. Budget & MTFS 2026/27	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

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

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