



CABINET - FRIDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2025
NOTICE OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED ON 12 NOVEMBER 2025

Item 5
Fenland Inspire! - Wisbech Park Orchard
Purpose
To provide information regarding the potential removal of the Wisbech Park Orchard from the area of the old bowling green adjacent to the Pavilion.
Decision
<p>AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the report • Note that the local In Bloom group who began the orchard project no longer have the capacity to maintain it. • Recognise that potential negative publicity regarding the removal of the orchard whilst also acknowledging the positive impact the orchard removal will have on reducing antisocial behaviour in Wisbech Park and enabling alternative use of the space. • Instruct officers to work with the CP Learning Trust to remove the orchard within Wisbech Park due to the increasing antisocial behaviour taking place and to attempt to transplant the fruit trees to the Fenland Orchards Project with any cost to the Council kept within the budget highlighted in paragraph 4.6.
Reason for Decision
<p>With the increased ASB and Wisbech in Bloom handling responsibility of future maintenance and stewardship of the site, it is felt that the removal would serve the best long-term interests of the park.</p> <p>It is planted on the original site of the bowls green and, prior to the successful funding application and construction of the adjacent pavilion, with further projects planned for the area and the orchard no longer being community maintained, it now presents a significant hurdle to these works.</p>
Alternative Options Considered
The only alternative option is for the orchard to remain. This option would mean continued ASB from within the orchard and no potential to use this space for alternative, more desired, community facilities.
Interests
N/A
Background Documents

N/A

Item 6

Extension of the Norfolk Street Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

Purpose

To extend the Norfolk Street passageway PSPO by a further three years.

Decision

AGREED to approve the extension of the PSPO for a further 3-year period which prevents access through a passageway located between Norfolk Street and West Street in Wisbech.

Reason for Decision

The passageway had been identified as a location for anti-social behaviour including urination, defecation and litter, the impact of which was having a detrimental impact upon the local community.

Following our community consultation with local businesses, residents and landlords, and enquiries conducted with Fenland District Council Streetscene team, the PSPO was introduced in July 2023. The introduction of the PSPO has mostly prevented the associated anti-social behavior from continuing. However, litter continues to be a nuisance at the gate entrance, albeit not at the same level of severity as compared to prior to the Order coming into place. The extension of the Order is believed necessary, as prescribed in points (a) and (b) of Section 60(1) to prevent occurrence or recurrence or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities.

Alternative Options Considered

The other options are to allow the Order to expire or to extend with an amendment. If the Order were allowed to expire then we would likely see a return of the associated anti-social behaviour to the passageway. It is not felt necessary to seek an amendment to the Order based upon consultation feedback, save for those suggested by our legal advisors.

Interests

N/A

Background Documents

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/section/60)

Item 7

Acceptance of £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Fund Allocation

Purpose

Fenland District Council has been awarded £1.5m from the Pride in Place Impact Fund to support regeneration initiatives across the district.

This report seeks approval to accept the funding and delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer

to enter all necessary legal and financial arrangements to secure and manage the funding, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Government.
Decision
AGREED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the acceptance of the £1.5m Pride in Place Impact Fund allocation for FY 25/26 and 26/27 awarded to Fenland District Council • Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to enter all relevant legal and financial arrangements necessary to bring the decision into effect and manage the funding in accordance with grant conditions.
Reason for Decision
<p>Acceptance of the funding aligns with the Council's corporate priorities around regeneration, community engagement, and economic development.</p> <p>Delegating authority to the Section 151 Officer ensures that the funding can be managed efficiently and in compliance with all the relevant financial and legal requirements.</p>
Alternative Options Considered
The alternative option of not accepting the funding was considered but rejected, as it would result in a missed opportunity to deliver significant regeneration benefits for the district.
Interests
N/A
Background Documents
Pride in Place Offer Letter to FDC Pride in Place MOU

Item 8
FDC Endorsement of Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan for Wisbech
Purpose
<p>This report seeks Cabinet endorsement of the Wisbech Town Board Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan, which has been developed and provisionally approved by the Wisbech Town Board. The Regeneration Plan forms the submission of the Town Board to Government to unlock £20m of endowment style funding across the next ten years from 2026 onwards for revenue and capital projects in Wisbech.</p> <p>FDC has representation on the board via its membership and acts as the accountable body for the funding, monitoring defrayal and managing governance of the funds in line with procurement and finance principles of the Authority. FDC is responsible for submission of the document on behalf of the Town Board.</p> <p>The Plan represents the evolution of the previous strategic framework for the Long-Term Plan for Towns, aligning with national priorities for regeneration and local place-making. There is also an expectation that following the submission, the scheme will be rebranded again in line with the new</p>

<p>Pride in Place brand from government.</p> <p>Cabinet is being asked, as a partner of the Town Board, to endorse the Plan for submission to Government by 28 November 2025, in accordance with the requirements of the Plan for Neighbourhood programme.</p> <p>The Plan includes a draft 4-year year investment plan, outlining proposed projects for delivery. This strategy remains flexible to accommodate changing local circumstances and priorities and projects can change as The Board moves through the ten-year delivery phase.</p>
Decision
<p>AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the Wisbech Town Board Price in Place Regeneration Plan for submission to Government by 28 November 2025. • Delegate authority to the High Street Project Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder based upon recommendations of the Town Board, to make any necessary amendments to the Plan prior to submission, should local circumstances or ongoing consultation outcomes change. • Authorise officers to enter all relevant legal and financial arrangements to bring the Plan into effect, subject to future Cabinet/Officer approvals as required.
Reason for Decision
<p>Endorsing the Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to partnership working and local regeneration, aligning with corporate priorities around economic growth, community wellbeing, and sustainable development.</p> <p>The Council, as a partner and accountable body responsible for submission is required to endorse the plan, ahead of submission.</p>
Alternative Options Considered
<p>Not endorsing the Plan would risk losing access to government funding and undermine the Council's role as a key partner in local regeneration and as a partner of the Town Board. This option is not recommended.</p>
Interests
<p>Councillor Boden declared a conflict of interest as a member of the WTB and therefore would neither speak nor vote and that as Leader of the Council he would hand the Chair to Councillor Mrs French for this agenda item.</p> <p>Councillors Hoy and Wallwork each declared they are members of the WTB and would neither speak nor vote on this item.</p> <p>Councillor Tierney declared that he is a member of the Wisbech Town Board but as he was appointed by FDC he would speak and vote.</p>
Background Documents
None

Item 9
Manor Leisure Centre - Fenland Inspire! Redevelopment Project Update

Purpose	
To update Cabinet regarding progress of the Manor Leisure Centre redevelopment project, to highlight the current estimated costs of the project and to seek Cabinet's decision to 'freezing' the footprint of the substantive elements of the design in order that the project team is then able to submit a planning application and continue the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3 design process as well as starting the RIBA Stage 4 process.	
Decision	
<p>AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report and the progress of this important community project. • Note the significant financial situation that the Council faces and pay close attention to the financial assessment section of this report. • Note and consider that potential cost mitigation measures that could be taken to reduce the overall project costs as identified in Section 11 of the report. • Approve the footprint at Appendix 1 of the report in order that the substantive elements of the footprint remain fixed allowing the project to progress smoothly through RIBA stages 3 and 4 and the planning process. • Note that the Council is working with Sport England to secure supportive funding that will offset design improvements required by Sport England that have enhanced initial designs. 	
Reason for Decision	
1.1	The redevelopment of the Manor Leisure centre is necessary for the growing community of Whittlesey and surrounding villages. It will also benefit from an increase in revenue and footfall by continuing to import demand from residents in the eastern area of Peterborough.
1.2	The project team has focussed on the design of an operationally financially viable facility that generates increased footfall and income whilst keeping the capital costs as low as possible.
1.3	The redevelopment replicates the commercially viable aspects of the sports hall building, alongside the modernisation of the swimming pool building and pool changing area. The gym has been made slightly larger to anticipate latent demand within the area, with the necessary gym changing rooms being added. These works will enhance the facility increasing footfall and financial viability.
1.4	The reception area is enhanced and will offer a café suitable for facility users and will also cater for children's parties in the adjacent soft play space. These works will enhance the facility increasing footfall and financial viability.
1.5	Sport England has added enhancements that improve changing provision and disabled access to all facilities. Whilst at a significant cost, this cost is anticipated to be a negative net cost if a grant from Sport England is forthcoming. These works will enhance the facility increasing footfall and financial viability.
1.6	The sports hall area remains a sufficient size for 2 exercise class areas, as well as a badminton court space. These three areas can be combined into one large space that can be used for community events, functions and conference meetings. The adjacent kitchen will cater for those events.
1.7	Space that was part of the swimming pool area has been used to accommodate a community room that is anticipated to be used for meetings, training, activity sessions for older people or people with specific medical needs, for example healthy heart classes. This space will enhance the facility increasing footfall and financial viability.

1.8	The proposed footprint is the minimum necessary footprint for the redevelopment, considering Member priorities regarding event and kitchen space, the rifle club and its enhancements, and Sport England's stipulations regarding changing facility and disability access enhancements.
Alternative Options Considered	
The Cabinet Report of February 2025 identified two other options instead of the redevelopment of the pool, namely:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a new facility adjacent to the current facilities. This option is estimated to cost a further £10m and was deemed unaffordable. • Instead of a redevelopment, the existing facilities condition survey spending of £4.331m would allow the buildings to stand still. It was considered that this would be sunk money on a facility that is no longer fit for purpose and would not serve the community for the next 20+ years. 	
Interests	
N/A	
Background Documents	
Cabinet Report June 2025 Cabinet Report February 2025 Cabinet Report November 2023 Cabinet Report January 2025 2021 Condition Survey reports Alliance Leisure documentation	

Item 10
Wisbech High Street Update
Purpose
To provide Cabinet with an update regarding the ongoing construction work at 24 High Street, Wisbech and the pre-construction design and planning work for 11-12 High Street, Wisbech.
Decision
AGREED to note the report.
Reason for Decision
To provide an update on the work.
Alternative Options Considered
N/A
Interests
None
Background Documents

Previous monthly Cabinet reports regarding Wisbech High Street
 July 2022 Cabinet and Council reports regarding 24 High Street, Wisbech
 June 2025 Cabinet papers regarding the Fenland Inspire! project and 11-12 High Street, Wisbech

Item 13

Port Operations Update Report (Confidential)

Purpose

To provide Members with an update regarding FDC's ongoing position relating to Wisbech Port following actions agreed at Cabinet in May and July 2025.

Decision

AGREED to the recommendations within the confidential report, plus some additional recommendations in light of new information.

Reason for Decision

N/A

Alternative Options Considered

All the options have been set out to Members in previous Cabinet reports.

Interests

None

Background Documents

Confidential Reports as follows:
 Port Operations and Maintenance – Cabinet; 19 May 2025
 Port Operations report – Cabinet; 16 December 2024
 Quay Repairs report – Cabinet; 16 March 2023

Additional information regarding these decisions is available from
 Amy Brown – Tel: 01354 622452

The 19 November 2025 at 1700 hours is the expiry date for call-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel of any of the above decisions. These decisions will come into force and may then be implemented on 20 November 2025, with the exception of any that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel calls in.

