

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2024 - 10.00 AM



**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs M Davis (Chairman), Councillor E Sennitt Clough (Vice-Chairman), Councillor B Barber, Councillor G Booth, Councillor L Foice-Beard, Councillor R Gerstner, Councillor S Imafidon, Councillor Dr H Nawaz, Councillor D Roy and Councillor A Woollard

In attendance: Amy Brown (Assistant Director), Helen Moore (Member Services and Governance Officer), Councillor C Boden, Councillor Mrs D Laws, Carol Pilson (Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer), Anna Goodall (Assistant Director), Dan Horn (Assistant Director), Mark Greenwood (Head of Property, Assets and Major Projects), Alan Boughen (Safer Fenland Partnership Development Officer), Simon Jackson (Economic Growth Manager) and Ann Wardle (Business Account Manager).

**Guests:** Simon Burgin - Road Safety Manager Cambridgeshire County Council, Alexis McLeod - Senior Programme Manager, CPCA, Domenico Crillo – Business Programmes and Business Board Manager, CPCA, Steve Clarke – Senior Responsible Officer Local Grown Fund, Market Insight and Evaluation, CPCA and Preshalin Govender – Economy and Grown Support Officer, CPCA.

## **OSC8/24**    **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of 12 July 2024 were confirmed and signed.

## **OSC9/24**    **ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AND VISION ZERO**

Members received a presentation from Simon Burgin, Road Safety Manager, joined by Alan Boughen and Dan Horn from Fenland District Council.

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

- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated the presentation was very data lead after accidents have happened and asked how the Police get ahead of potential danger areas? She continued to ask when describing serious offenders how does this skew data in terms of accident hot spots as it might not be the road but an area with higher drug or crime rates. Simon Burgin responded that potential danger areas are looked at by local highways authorities to assess white lines and skid risks, this is carried out by local highways engineers who make sure the road itself performs as it should do and everything is in place as a matter of routine, depending on the classification of the road, be it an A, B or C class road, will depend on how often that road gets visited. He added that when it is a skid risk issue that information will come from a screen test which tests the friction of the road and it is then down to the highways engineer to maintain that area and there is a change coming to the way white lines are monitored especially at night time as this is something that up to now has not been looked at and historically white lines are most effective at night time for drivers especially on dark country roads. Simon Burgin referred to the question about where collisions were occurring and stated that data is collected about where the people were from that were causing the accidents, looking at if there was a correlation between who was involved and what the causation factors were.
- Councillor Roy stated presentation slide 17 states 'a cluster site is identified as a junction or 100 metre length where there's been six or more injury collisions of any severity or three or more serious or fatal collisions' and asked why there has to be a time span to wait for these accidents to happen before prevention is put in place, with there being continued issues

around school parking with no back up from the Police. He would like to know if there is a long term policy being introduced to stop people from parking around school areas at school times, there are already 20mph speed limits in place but could a hatch box junction be put in place to clear the ways for schools. Simon Burgin responded there is a two prong approach to this, firstly work is carried out with Junior Travel Ambassadors who are the children within the schools themselves that identify the problem then work on a solution, work is also carried out with School Streets to look at further measures to restrict people having access to the road at the time when schools are likely to be arriving and leaving but this does depend on the location and what that road effectively allows people to do because there has to be freedom of movement for traffic and not preventing people from going where they lawfully need to be going, this is something that is being trialled in Cambridge City. He referred to box junctions and stated, in accordance with the highways manual, these cannot be placed outside of a school area and the school keep clear lining has been found to be more effective.

- Councillor Roy stated in the villages he represents there are narrow pathways with limited walking spaces and asked how can Parish Councillors get more support with making changes from the Road Safety Partnership? Simon Burgin recommended Parish Councillors invite the local highways office to look at the situation, if there are issues with the current infrastructure then this will get fed back to the various maintenance teams to be dealt with accordingly.
- Councillor Booth stated the process that seems to be in place is reactive and not proactive, with the criteria for looking at accident hot spots being the same for years regarding fatalities and serious injuries which he feels needs to be changed. He also has some concerns around the data being used as this is based on accidents that have occurred involving ambulances and the Police, but the truth is that many more accidents happen at local hot spots areas that are not reported as drivers exchange details or chose not to report the incident which does not get registered on the database being used and, therefore, in his view, there needs to be a rethink around another category for collating numbers of non-accident incidents that occur in hot spot locations because if this is going to be data driven then this is data that should be recorded and used. Simon Burgin responded the injury classification used is non injury, slight injury, serious injury and fatality which comes from the statistics that the Police provide to the Road Safety Partnership on a yearly basis and he agreed that if a collision is classified as a non-injury incident this does not get collated within the data, however, what does happen is where there are a spate of collisions the Police inform the Road Safety Partnership of potential problems or where there are issues or it may come through from the local highways office where the parish councillors have been in contact to highlight a potential issue then the Road Safety Partnership can step in and assess the road layout and look at potential changes to signage, speed limits and road markings. He added that there is evidence that the 20mph speed limits in other districts has had a positive affect but some of the responsibility does need to come back to the driver and there is evidence which has been taken from the local village speed watch surveys of some complacency with local drivers when driving the Fen roads. Councillor Booth agreed with the statement around local drivers which is a national problem and added that most local parish councils do not have the sufficient funding to pay for traffic calming measures within their villages as the investment is very limited from Central Government and he feels this is why the policies needs to be investigated and possibly changed.
- Councillor Barber asked if mobility scooters are allowed to travel on the roads? Simon Burgin responded that mobility scooters can travel on the road and the advice from the Highway Code is to travel on the road where there is a minimum amount of risk or harm and ideally to wear a high visibility jacket or clothing so they can be seen by other road users. He stated that this is an area which is being monitored along with E-scooters and E-bikes to assess the accident risk as local hospitals have started to report traffic accidents involving E-scooters and E-bikes, but no mobility scooter related accidents have been recorded locally. Councillor Barber asked if there were any plans for mobility scooter, E-scooter or E-bike users to receive road safety training? Simon Burgin replied there are no plans as

present but it is something he would take away from the meeting and investigate.

- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated she could understand why local parish councils do not want to spend money on 20mph speed limits in their local village when the Police are unable to enforce the speed restrictions and she asked what advice can be given around this area? Simon Burgin responded that the impact of 20mph speed limits from the county perspective is that any reduction is a benefit to the community as it is a lot less harmful in a collision than undertaking 30mph and above and the data shows that in other areas where this speed limit is in place there has been a 40% drop in collision cases within 20mph zone areas. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked if any of the data presented has picked up an increase in speeding after the driver has come out of the 20mph speed zone? Simon Burgin responded as this is a new scheme there is not any data yet but there is data being gathered and this will be available within the next two years. He stated historically there is evidence that drivers do speed up and get frustrated in any restricted situation, be it traffic lights or speed cameras, the speed camera installed in this area are set for 30mph and not capable of being set any lower so when the 20mph limits are put in the old speed cameras will be taken out.
- Councillor Mrs Davis stated she would like to know what the next step is for the Stonea Boots Bridge road because changes have been made to the road and the local railway crossing but accidents are still happening. Simon Burgin stated this site has had significant road changes and the Road Safety Partnership are waiting for Network Rail to sign off permission for speed cameras to be placed on their poles near the railway line, once this is achieved the road can be monitored. Councillor Mrs Davis stated there was another accident at the weekend and she was aware of a further hazard with a layby close to Manea which frequently has farm machinery, and lorries parked there, this was agreed at a development meeting that this was not supposed to be happening as it can cause a distraction close to the corner where the layby is situated. Simon Burgin stated he will take this away with him and investigate it after the meeting.
- Councillor Woollard asked if E-bikes will be banned from cycle routes and classified as an electric or petrol engine alongside motorbikes? Simon Burgin responded at the moment there is no provision but as far as the law is concerned, they are illegal and should not be used anywhere in a public space unless part of a legitimate scheme such as the one running in Cambridge. He stated that this is a policing issue, with currently E-scooters if caught being confiscated and destroyed, there will soon be an update from the Department of Transport as to whether they will be allowed and if so, what the speed limits and age restriction will be so until then the Police can only advise until further guidelines are introduced.
- Councillor Nawaz asked for it to be confirmed that E-scooters are illegal unless part of a designated scheme? Simon Burgin confirmed this to be correct.
- Councillor Nawaz stated parking on pavements can make it difficult for pedestrians and disabled people to pass when walking and asked where does the law stand in this situation? Simon Burgin responded parking on the pavement is an offence unless it is to do with a designated scheme where there will be signage showing the car parked at an angle with the pavement parking aligned and clearly marked.
- Councillor Nawaz asked if anymore could be undertaken concerning drink driving and speeding? Simon Burgin stated the drink driving legislation has been around for a long time and this does come down to driver responsibility, if there are series of accidents happening at particular hot spot areas then the road will be assessed, and the speed limit taken into consideration.
- Councillor Gerstner stated he felt the sheer number of E-scooters on the roads is out of control and the Police cannot manage the situation anymore. Simon Burgin agreed stating that until the Department of Transport have finished undertaking all of the reviews and a decision has been made to make them legal all the Police can do is educate or worst case scenario confiscate and destroy.
- Councillor Roy stated that in the presentation it was touched on about speed cameras and the Speed Watch Scheme, and asked what the process is if a speeding driver gets caught

on several cameras across different borders within the same day and is there any data sharing between the counties? Simon Burgin stated he was not aware of any data sharing between the Speed Watch Scheme, but this could be something that could be investigated by the Police as this is a national scheme.

**Members noted the information reported to them and recommended that the definition of a 'cluster site' be amended such that the current definition of 'a junction or 100 metre length where there has been 6 or more injury collisions of any severity, or 3 or more serious or fatal injury collisions' also includes non-injury incidents where a defined threshold of 12 incidents is met meaning that it is also an accident blackspot.**

## **OSC10/24 UPDATE ON CPCA GROWTH SERVICE AND IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FENLAND**

Members received a presentation from Steve Clarke, Domenico Crillo, Alexis McLeod and Preshalin Govender from the CPCA, together with Anna Goodall and Simon Jackson from Fenland District Council.

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

- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated she would like to understand from the slide where it said there was 57% of the Fenland postcode learners employed, what percentage was this taken from overall and what about the homeschooled pupils, the excluded pupils and the privately educated pupils in real terms? Alexis McLeod responded the 57% of postcode learners that were employed shows that a percentage of the 44 were recruited into wave four giving an indication of the upturn in employers using boot camps to upskill existing members of staff in a balanced way and to recruit talent for the future, with the percentages coming from states schools who score themselves using the Gatsby Framework, this is the way Careers Enterprise Company and the DFE have designed the funding. Councillor Sennitt Clough requested some dialogue to be sent out after the meeting.
- Councillor Gerstner asked if there was any benchmarking exercises carried out between them and other combined authorities? Steve Clarke responded there is on certain programmes, there is a growth hub nationally which shows rankings around levels of engagement and levels of success. Domenico Crillo added that although there is no ranking on performance in terms of combined authorities the team is part of the Mayoral Network and the Mayoral Ten which includes all ten combined authorities coming together with the mayors and senior management on a regular basis.
- Councillor Imafidon asked how much the total grants were and for which towns in the Fenland area? Steve Clarke responded he did not have the information for the towns, but the biggest grant award was £150,000 of which there were two awarded and the smallest grant given was £20,000 with a range in between the 12 SME CapEX grants awarded
- Councillor Imafidon asked which areas of the CPCA received grants? Steve Clarke answered the Capital Grant programme was awarded across the whole Combined Authority of which Fenland did very well.
- Councillor Booth stated in the presentation 40 apprenticeships were created and asked would these apprenticeships have been created anyway by companies as part of organic growth and are these apprenticeships being promoted within the Combined Authority? Alexis McLeod responded that the apprenticeships that were recorded in previous deliveries are all supported by diagnostics and action plans that were taken directly from the employers, with levy transfers being championed to SMEs that are struggling to access additional funding to pay for the cost of apprenticeships. She added that there are webinars and workshops in partnership with various business leaders, plus marketing campaigns that have specific targets through social media like Linkin and other various routes. Councillor Booth stated that he observed that 40 does not seem that many apprenticeships across the whole of the Fenland area but he was pleased to hear the additional work that was being put in place. He asked for clarification on the education percentage of 57% who were

employed and does that mean that the others were unemployed and did those others go on to gain employment as a result of undertaking those courses? Alexis McLeod responded the 57% specifically relates to the boot camp delivery which is targeted over a 6-8 week programme which was designed to directly move people either into workplaces or progress within workplaces specifically linked with the training, the training programme has proven to have the highest progression rate and success in the country and the pathway that is being built is from education into employment and beyond, starting with engagement with schools building on aspiration and inspiration then working with young people to ensure those opportunities exist. Councillor Booth showed his appreciation for the progression being made.

- Councillor Nawaz stated he would like to have some extra information on general job distribution and apprenticeships in the Whittlesey area. Steve Clarke responded that the mapping of where the activity outcomes are happening is something that is being developed under the Growth Works contract and in house using GPS mapping and collating data. Domenico Crillo added that there is work happening with Social Enterprises to help develop the demand locally to help provide a service with local businesses.
- Councillor Roy stated percentages are an indication of the region as a whole but as a local councillor it would be helpful to have the information for individual wards and where that help and support is going as he is aware that a lot of home grown talent goes off to higher education at universities and cities and then never return back to the area, asking what sort of encouragement is put in place to entice these higher educated young people back into the area. Alexis McLeod responded that the controls are limited in terms of how to encourage young people to return to the area they grew up in but there are plans in place to engage schools and local business to showcase to young people what exists on the doorstep for local careers opportunities and to start building relationships with local businesses around education and what could be on offer in the area, the surrounding area and across the wider region to encourage the young people to stay in the region after their education has finished, which is a work in progress and something the CPCA feels very strongly about. Domenico Crillo added that the CPCA has invested in a new university in Peterborough which has had a positive impact on residents offering young people another choice and opportunity. Councillor Roy added it would be helpful to have the mapping data for the local wards as local councillors would have a better idea of what schools and businesses are engaged and who are not.
- Councillor Booth stated he would like to know more about the future funds available and the rural levelling up fund and asked if this was for social enterprises or just for businesses and will it be a streamline application process? Steve Clarke responded the programme business case is being worked up presently, the plan is that the other fund, the strategic growth, will work together rather than launching separately but will have slightly different criteria and it will work around delivering growth to villages, for example employment space creation or a community asset that could be repurposed for social enterprise. Councillor Booth asked when the funding will be available? Steve Clarke responded he would like to think Christmas time but could not make a commitment, as soon as the funding is available the local CPCA in the rural districts will be informed and be able to engage interest from the local parish councillors.
- Councillor Nawaz asked if Peterborough University will be providing courses in agriculture considering where it is located within the Fens? Steve Clarke stated Peterborough University has been the CPCA biggest project to date and Anglian Ruskin who run the university have included Agri Tech and are building on introducing other skills, with phase three having a new science laboratory opening which will create other opportunities for learning. Alexis McLeod added that colleges are in active dialogue with careers staff at the University of Peterborough exploring ways to connect the business community and the graduate community to proactively increase those connections.
- Councillor Nawaz asked if there will be possibility of an agricultural campus with the view to apprenticeships or research? Steve Clarke responded he could not comment on the viability of such a project, however, the College of East Anglia does offer a variety of courses along

a similar vein which the CPCA has supported in the past. Councillor Nawaz questioned the accessibility of getting to Wisbech. Steve Clarke confirmed that was a different department within the CPCA and was unable to comment.

**Members noted the update on CPCA Growth Service and the impact on Economic Development in Fenland for information.**

*(Councillors Booth and Imafidon left the meeting following this item)*

### **OSC11/24 PROGRESS IN DELIVERING THE ECONOMY CORPORATE OBJECTIVES TO INCLUDE PLANNING 2023/24**

Members considered the progress of delivering the Economy Corporate Objective, including Planning, presented by Councillor Chris Boden, Mark Greenwood, Anna Goodall, Simon Jackson, Councillor Mrs Laws, Matthew Leigh, Carol Pilson and Ann Wardel.

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

- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated she would like to understand why no business has benefited from the business rate relief scheme that is in place, is this due to lack of advertising or lack of suitability? Councillor Boden responded the discretionary business rate relief is a mechanism which can be used to try to attract businesses into Fenland which otherwise would not come to the Fenland area, it is a useful tool which can be used by the Economic Growth Officers in those circumstances. He added that the danger of setting this up was if it is used as a blanket policy anyone could apply for it, even those who were not going to come into the Fenland area, which is why it was made into a discretionary policy to be used sparingly and appropriately and to date no businesses have come to fruition but the tool is there and will be used when necessary. Simon Jackson added there are new businesses coming into Fenland and everything is looked at on a case-by-case basis.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough stated she receives questions about hiring the Boathouse on a regular basis at weekends, but she understands that it is not open for hire at the weekends? Mark Greenwood responded that due to staffing issues it is difficult to staff the Boathouse at weekends which is also the same for South Fens. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked if this could be clarified with residents as there seems to be some confusion around the hiring of the venues. Mark Greenwood stated he would take that away and make availability clearer.
- Councillor Nawas stated he would like a breakdown of the 59 companies and why they did not come to the Fenland area. Simon Jackson responded that a breakdown can be provided but some are commercially sensitive. He added that enquiries come through directly to Fenland District Council or via other routes like the Government using its networks with other embassies around the world and there is also some proactive marketing through the CPCA. Simon Jackson stated that in terms of servicing these enquires, the biggest problem is there is not a lot of land available with the infrastructure and road networks needed to house these projects which then pushes these businesses to look outside of the Fenland area, when developments do become available companies are contacted and local buildings are occupied very quickly. Anna Goodall added the types of businesses coming into the Fenland area translate into investment into the area.
- Councillor Nawaz stated he would like to understand what the UKREiiF exhibition and soft-landing package is, and the proposition created for a target market per annum is this per one year or per every year? Simon Jackson responded UKREiiF is a UK exhibition seminar helping leaders, investors, developers and Governments, which get together annually to see people who would normally not get together to promote the area they represent. He stated that the CPCA use this as an opportunity to flag wave the Fenland area and use this to promote what the Fenland area can offer regarding new business opportunities, with a soft-landing meaning it is a way of helping a business who may have no footprints in Europe or the UK to connect with authorities who can help launch their business with the right connection of people in the right area. Anna Goodall added it is a very competitive market

and this is a way of attracting business and investment into the area so anything that can be done do make Fenland stand out in a positive way and provide a good experience will be achieved through the soft-landing approach. Simon Jackson stated that any proactive marketing experience needs to be specific to the customer who are being attracted to the area by ways of a proposition, looking at the customer's needs and what the Fenland area can supply to make that business work and thrive.

- Councillor Roy stated he had noticed that in London there are a lot of Cloud based and IT based businesses that are looking to relocate their office space and asked how effective the promotion for Fenland is to the smaller business markets as the land prices offered in this area are highly competitive? He asked for more details about the enforcement of 392 pending cases and how it is being addressed? Councillor Mrs Laws stated Planning Enforcement have worked on lowering those numbers shown in the presentation and some of these are historic cases and some have pending court cases which do take time. Matthew Leigh added that Planning Enforcement is complex and when it comes to dealing with commercial premises and enterprises it can be challenging, with there being a need to look proactively at individual cases and resolve the breach planning control to close further cases. Simon Jackson stated in terms of the Cloud based companies who are looking to relocate to the Fenland area, there are not strong enough office places to offer companies who wish to relocate, however, there is communication happening with companies on Linkin to build a picture of what Fenland can offer businesses for the future expansion of the area.
- Councillor Mrs Davis asked why the South Fens Business Centre is only 63% occupied and what might be making this unattractive to businesses? Mark Greenwood responded there is flexibility with the rent rate that can be charged to encourage businesses into the building, which has also helped to encourage tenants to stay who were thinking of leaving but in some cases smaller companies do decide to work from home to cut cost to their business outlay, however, the Boathouse is 96% full with the last few places under offer which will bring the Boathouse to 100% occupancy. He stated that there is a dedicated marketing budget in place for South Fens and the advertising is ongoing as to what can be offered and what is available, however, the one issue with South Fens is the connection, but now high-speed fibre optic is being fitted in the area this should speed up communication and connection.
- Councillor Barber stated there is a piece within the presentation on page 8 about communicating with smaller businesses around business rates bills and services offered, but in her experience business bills are paid via a Direct Debit each month and she felt it would be more beneficial to send the services offered from the Council on a separate letter rather than with the bill to encourage more response. Simon Jackson responded that the business rates bills gave the team an opportunity to get some extra messages out, this is also carried out with the Council Tax bills as well, which is only part of what the team have to offer in terms of communication, with there being regular press releases published and a Fenland for Business website. He added that the aim is to have a strong customer relationship management system in place to enable stronger engagement with local businesses, it has taken a few years to build but there are now around 25,000 businesses in the Customer Relation Management System (CRM), as a minimum that system enables the team to send out monthly newsletters to every business registered, but the CRM system does allow the team to engage with every single business logged to the opt in scheme on a one to one basis to identify the needs and aspirations of each business and help them grow. Anna Goodall added there is a monitoring system in place and there have been some positives that have come back, especially with promoting the grant system.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough asked Councillor Mrs Laws for an update on the Whittlesey Butter Cross project? Councillor Mrs Laws responded that following an on-site discussion which included herself and Phil Hughes, the following improvements are planned to this space:
  - removing the step around the Market Place is unrealistic, which is a surface on the Market Place where the Butter Cross monument is and at present there is a step up which is not very distinctive and several members of the public have had falls, trips and in some cases a broken bones

- public events are held on the Market Place which can consist of around 200 people at any one time
- removal of the phone box, which is not in use
- the salt bin will be repositioned next to the George Public House
- removal of the galvanised bike rack outside of Betfred
- adding a different colour to every third block to highlight the potential trip hazard in the area not painted yellow around the monument
- the benches will be refurbished and painted as will the wheat stalks
- the bike racks will be galvanized and painted black along with the traffic signage and the planters
- broken drop bollards will be replaced with lightweight lockable bollards
- removal of the temporary fencing
- a storage unit will be located adjacent to the litterbin beside the George Public House.

Councillor Mrs Laws stated that the Market place is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and the phone box is owned by BT but everything else is owned by Fenland District Council and with this plan in place the work should be completed by 2025 as an enhancement and improvement to the historic area and within a Conservation Area in Whittlesey. Councillor Sennitt Clough stated she understood the funding needed spending by March 2025 or does the project just have to commence at this time? Councillor Mrs Laws confirmed the funding needed to be spent by March 2025. Councillor Sennitt Clough asked how sound is the structure of the Butter Cross monument? Councillor Mrs Laws responded this is something that is being investigated, the structure is safe, but work will need to be carried out within the next few years and grant funding is being investigated to achieve this.

- Councillor Mrs Laws provided an update on Planning stating the Council successfully recruited to the vacant Planning Policy Manager and Planning Policy Officer positions which will allow the Council to progress the local plan producing a process timetable to take the Council through to examination, with officers currently working on the consultation response to lead members and are awaiting the results of the national consultation whilst continuing to develop the local plan in the background. She assured members that planning will be engaged and updating as they move through the process, and they will resurrect the working party, which will involve members from parishes and the districts. Councillor Mrs Laws stated that planning recruitment has been successful since committee introduced the retention payments, with there being no further resignations from the planning team and the posts that have been recruited to are Matthew Leigh - Head of Planning, two Senior Planners, a S106 Officer and a new Enforcement Officer and there are vacancies for the following posts, which are currently covered by contractors, Senior Enforcement Officer, Tree Officer, Senior Planner and Principal Planner, with the advert for the vacancies remaining live on the Council's website and are marketed via social media frequently. She stated that Matthew Leigh is working on some emerging plans and ideas of how to continue to reduce the agency staff within the service which will be cost effective. Councillor Mrs Laws advised that the performance statistics are:
  - Majors 87.50% accumulative within 13 weeks
  - Minors 86.9% accumulative within 8 weeks
  - Others 86.2% accumulative within that period
  - Majors 84.62% on a 24 month rolling period within 13 weeks
  - Minors 75.84% on a 24 month rolling period within 8 weeks
  - Majors allowed at appeal following refusal 3.80%
  - Minors allowed at appeal following refusal 0.64%.
- Councillor Barber asked what does Others cover? Councillor Mrs Laws responded that these are smaller items, such as sheds and brick walls.
- Councillor Gerstner asked Councillor Boden if there was any update as to when the consultants for the outline business case for the relief road may be delivered? Councillor Boden confirmed there has been no update and the position is the same as it has been previously, there is yet to be a public consultation and once this has happened a report will



be produced by Spring 2025.

- Councillor Nawaz stated he would like to understand why there is a 10% drop at the Wisbech Boat Harbour? Carol Pilson responded there has been a lot of work being undertaken with the Transformation Team around how boats are organised in the Yacht Harbour so the figure seen has been fluctuating recently but this means more paying customers can occupy the births that are available rather than having non-paying customers taking up space within the Yacht Harbour.
- Councillor Sennitt Clough referred to the CPCA putting some funding towards Whittlesey railway station and asked for an update and if the two station adopters in Whittlesey could be part of the dialogue around improvements to the railway station? Anna Goodall responded she would pass the question on and request a response be sent to members after the meeting.

**Members noted the update on delivering the Economy Corporate Objective, including Planning.**

### **OSC12/24 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

Members considered the update on previous actions.

It was noted that a report from Clarion was received 26 June 2024 regarding oil fire burners. Councillor Booth requested to know, despite the report received, how many boilers are oil?

### **OSC13/24 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered the Future Work Programme and no changes were made.

1.55 pm

Chairman