

No	Action Point	Allocation	Timeframe	Update
1	<u>Introduction and Apologies</u>			<p>Apologies received from: Emma Nasta, Carol Pilson, David Rowen, Adam Tuck and David Wyatt.</p> <p>Present: Dino Biagioni, Stephen Buddle, Marcel Cooper, Gareth Edwards, Matthew Hall, Nick Harding, Councillor Dee Laws, John Maxey, Nick Seaton, Tim Slater, Councillor Will Sutton, Ann Wardle, Reiss Sacker, Austin CAA, Michael T, Laura Church, Peter Harley, Jordan Trundle, George Wilkinson, I White, Freya McDonald and Christian Cooper.</p>

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2	<p><u>Review of Action Schedule from Last Meeting held on 25 January 2023</u></p>			<p>The notes of the previous meeting were approved.</p> <p>The actions from the previous meeting were discussed.</p> <p>In relation to Item 4, John Maxey advised he has been in contact with Homes England and has a contact called Carlton Robert James from their infrastructure team and he has already suggested to Councillor Mrs Laws that a meeting could be set up with Homes England and the CPCA to talk about what the situation is with regards to funding for Highway improvements in Fenland because there could be the an opportunity to be able to get some funding from Homes England as an alternative.</p> <p>Nick Harding replied he will contact other colleagues to attend that meeting as well.</p>

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3	<u>Local Plan update</u>			<p>Nick Harding shared a timetable to show the submission to the Secretary of State with the original timetable of April 2023, but there has been slippage with regards to the call for sites, however, this is under review and it is likely that Regulation 19 will be in July 2023, and with Peterborough withdrawing their assistance, there is doubt whether this deadline will be reached in time for the next consultation. A paper has been put together and there is the need to see if a group of officers can get together to progress the plan further, having contacted other authorities to see if they could assist and they could not, the only other option is to get local planners in or contractors to help with this plan and those two options are being worked on and costed which will go through Fenland District Council's Management Team then considered by members.</p> <p>John Maxey asked what are the likely timescales.? Nick Harding responded that the Management Team will come back this month then it will be presented to members after the election in June 2023.</p> <p>John Maxey asked if this would be 9-12 months? Nick Harding responded that the plan is to assemble an in-house team, this might involve agency staff to get this going but that discussion and decision will be made with members at that point in time and it does depend on whether existing work is stopped on the existing version of the emerging local plan until decisions are made by the Government to start again with regards to future arrangements for planning production nationally.</p> <p>Councillor Sutton stated that as Government are not dictating numbers, does a housing needs assessment need to be undertaken before this</p>

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4	<u>Staffing Update</u>			<p>Nick Harding gave an update with regard to loss of services was provided by Peterborough City Council. He further reported Nick Tollitt and Angela Watson from Enforcement have left and been replaced with 2 agency workers Martin Brimstone and Charles Swayne. The vacancies are out to advert and Sam Falco is starting in May for Conservation.</p> <p>Nick Harding reported that PCC no longer supply plan and policy support, ecology, Section 106 viability and management or housing strategy.</p> <p>Ecology is being provided by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). CCC are lending some time with their Ecologist with the advent of biodiversity net gain and the plan is to share a post between the 2 councils, but this is not finalised yet and will involve a budget increase which will need approval. Every authority is impacted by biodiversity as there is a nationwide shortage of Ecologists.</p> <p>The proposal for S106 viability/monitoring and Policy & Housing Strategy is being reviewed and costings are being put to FDC Management Team and will then go to Committee for approval. Opportunities for working with other authorities explored but not viable. It is hoped to continue using Mike Freeman on Section 106 as a casual employee but just awaiting approval on this. There is a plan for inhouse housing strategy to help with future projects.</p> <p>Nick reported there is a 21-day backlog. Each week a validation backlog update is provided on the Council's web site: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/15139/Planning-process This is provided on a weekly update as to how</p>

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5	<p><u>Update from Central Government regarding Planning Issues</u></p>			<p>Consultations: Stronger performance of Local Planning Authorities supported through an increase in planning fees, permitted development changes, EIA arrangements, Infrastructure Levy arrangements.</p> <p>Invitation to participate in shaping future changes to the planning system.</p> <p>Nick Harding presented the Government consultation on increasing planning fees, with information on the increased planning fees binge found on the training slide in the link below: Technical consultation: Stronger performance of local planning authorities supported through an increase in planning fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Consultation until 25th April 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the funding shortfall for the planning application service is currently estimated to be in the region of £225 million annually (approximately 33%). Proposes fee increases: • Major applications by 35% • Non-Major applications by 25% • PLUS, annual indexation of fees in line with inflation • PLUS, undisclosed revision to fees for application variations • Asks if the increased income should be ringfenced for spending on the LA planning service. • Asks if the retrospective application fee should be double the normal fee (not for householder applications) • Thinking about no longer allowing for a completely 'free go' • In return for fee increases the performance targets for councils and 26-week planning guarantee will be tightened (by how much)

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6	<u>Any Other Business</u>			<p>John Maxey stated there has been several emails regarding a Fenland planning application at Chatteris in relation to the level of affordable housing and contributions that Fenland will accept. Nick Harding responded that the presentation will be updated to show the forum the recommendation of the viability assessment for affordable housing.</p> <p>Councillor Laws commented that the Election is coming up and if she is not elected again this has been a very informative forum and hopes it continues.</p> <p>It was confirmed the next meeting date is 12 July 2023.</p>

Finish: Time Not Specified