

Public Document Pack

COUNCIL

A meeting of Council will be held at Council Chamber, Fenland Hall, County Road, March on MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2022 at 4.00 PM and I request you to attend accordingly for transaction of the following business:

Whilst this meeting will be held in public, we encourage members of the public to view the meeting via our YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/ju_yhpld-UM

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Previous Minutes (Pages 3 - 10)

To confirm and sign the minutes of 3 October 2022.
- 3 Civic Engagements Update. (Pages 11 - 12)

For Information.
- 4 To receive any announcements from the Chairman of the Council and/or the Head of Paid Service.
- 5 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.
- 6 To receive questions from, and provide answers to, councillors in relation to matters which, in the opinion of the Chairman, accord with the provisions of Procedure Rules 8.4 and 8.6.
- 7 To receive reports from and ask questions of Cabinet members with portfolio holder responsibilities, in accordance with Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2. (Pages 13 - 62)
- 8 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review 2022/23 (Pages 63 - 72)

To review the Council's Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2022/23.
- 9 FDC Formal Response to Fens Reservoir Consultation (Pages 73 - 88)

To inform and seek agreement from Council on the FDC formal consultation response to the proposed Fens Reservoir to be located north of Chatteris.
- 10 Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation (Pages 89 - 100)

To present an action plan for approval by Council further to the carbon

reduction and climate adaptation Council Motion of 11th July 2022.

11 Polling District and Polling Places Review (Pages 101 - 142)

To consider the outcome of the recent review of polling districts and places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review.

Fenland Hall
March



Chief Executive

Friday, 2 December 2022

NOTE The Council may, by resolution, as exemplified below, exclude the public from a meeting during the consideration of any item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100 I of the Local Government Act, 1972

"Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for Item No./Minute No. on the grounds that the item involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act"

COUNCIL



MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2022 - 4.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A Miscandlon (Chairman), Councillor N Meekins (Vice-Chairman), Councillor I Benney, Councillor Mrs S Bligh, Councillor C Boden, Councillor G Booth, Councillor S Clark, Councillor D Connor, Councillor M Cornwell, Councillor Mrs M Davis, Councillor D Divine, Councillor Mrs J French, Councillor K French, Councillor Miss S Hoy, Councillor A Lynn, Councillor C Marks, Councillor D Mason, Councillor A Maul, Councillor Mrs K Mayor, Councillor P Murphy, Councillor D Patrick, Councillor M Purser, Councillor W Rackley, Councillor C Seaton, Councillor S Tierney, Councillor S Wallwork, Councillor S Wilkes and Councillor F Yeulett

APOLOGIES: Councillor J Clark, Councillor S Count, Councillor A Hay, Councillor M Humphrey, Councillor Mrs D Laws, Councillor J Mockett, Councillor R Skoulding, Councillor W Sutton and Councillor R Wicks

C24/22 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 11 July were confirmed and signed subject to the following comment:

- Councillor Booth said it should be noted that where it states he left the meeting at 5.40pm, he had explained it was to attend a meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council, and that is also why Councillor Bligh was not present.

C25/22 CIVIC ENGAGEMENTS UPDATE.

Councillor Miscandlon drew members' attention to the civic activities undertaken by himself in the weeks preceding Full Council.

C26/22 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND/OR THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE.

Councillor Miscandlon reflected on the momentous national events of the past few weeks following the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September and the proclamation of HM King Charles III Accession to the throne on 10th September.

He stated he had the honour of reading the local proclamation for the new King and on 16th September attended a Community Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church in March to commemorate the life and legacy of Her Majesty. He added that for 70 years she reigned with warmth, dignity, and humanity. Her unrivalled service and devotion to our great nation and the wider Commonwealth, through decades of unprecedented change, was remarkable and she will be greatly missed. Councillor Miscandlon added that King Charles III will continue to serve the country with the same absolute dedication and unfaltering duty as did our beloved Queen.

Members joined Councillor Miscandlon in observing a minute's silence for HM the Queen.

Councillor Miscandlon then paid his respects to former Whittlesey councillor Ralph Butcher who

had recently passed away, saying he was a much-loved and admired character who gave over five decades to working in public life. Ralph was first elected as a councillor in 1971, joining Fenland District Council in 2003, and as well as being Chairman from 2009 and 2011 was a member of various committees over the years.

Councillor Miscandlon said that Ralph would be most remembered for his tireless championing to get the long-awaited Kings Dyke Crossing scheme built in Wisbech, which has since been renamed the Ralph Butcher Causeway in his honour. Councillor Miscandlon reflected that he would remember Ralph as a tenacious, hard working and one of a kind councillor who will be very missed.

Members joined Councillor Miscandlon in observing a minute's silence for Ralph Butcher.

C27/22 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM, AND PROVIDE ANSWERS TO, COUNCILLORS IN RELATION TO MATTERS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF PROCEDURE RULES 8.4 AND 8.6.

Councillor Miscandlon stated that no questions had been submitted under Procedure Rule 8.6 and asked if there were any questions under Procedure Rule. 8.4 from Councillor Cornwell as Leader of the Opposition.

1. Councillor Cornwell said he would like to know the anticipated effect on the Council's budgets given the unprecedented energy price increases and requested a summary of how prepared the Council is to deal with the many community issues arising from expected high levels of fuel poverty in Fenland. Councillor Boden responded that he could not provide an answer or even a realistic prediction in respect of the effects of fuel price changes on the Council's budget for this or future years. Firstly, we have yet to fully understand the implications of additional money from the Government which will be made available to reduce fuel costs for local government functions. Secondly, we do not know what fuel prices are likely to be at any point in the future. Councillor Boden added that although he cannot provide any figures, in practice we will need to be prudent and cautious, and when approaching budget time advice will be sought from officers as to the likely effects on our direct and indirect costs. Regarding the effect on our businesses and residents, support is being given for residential use fuel costs, particularly those with the greatest need, but undoubtedly there will be an increase in the number of people who will face difficulties. Responsibility for this largely lies with the County Council but our Housing Team will undoubtedly be receiving a greater number of enquiries in term of living conditions and potential additional homelessness. If required we may need to look at staffing levels but at this time it is difficult to predict the degree of extra demand there will be.
2. Councillor Cornwell thanked Councillor Boden, saying he could understand the difficulty but would have expected some form of risk assessments to be underway within the Council to at least try to prepare for situations as they arise. Every household within Fenland is going to go through a tough time and this will surely impact on the services this Council delivers, particularly housing. He stated that less house building is going on and therefore he wondered if that service is being affected by extra demands such as the homes for Ukrainians scheme and immigration. If fuel poverty is going to be an element that leads to homelessness, how prepared are we as a Council?
3. Councillor Boden responded that he agreed with mostly all that Councillor Cornwell had said. The Portfolio Holders Report gives information about the trend already experienced this year towards a greater demand on our homelessness service. However, the report also states what has been done and will be done to increase capacity on that. He is not aware that there will be any impact caused by the Ukrainian refugee scheme, and the decamping of individuals awaiting asylum from hotels into local communities' scheme has not started yet. However, the draft proposals he has seen regarding this, and immigration generally, would mean a significant tightening of the private sector rental market which would have the impact suggested by Councillor Cornwell. It could then mean that individuals who would previously have been able

to find accommodation will be unable to do so. Members and officers have already made representations about this scheme, as have other local authorities, and much continues behind the scenes regarding this. Although the Council is doing what it can, admittedly there are gaps through which some people will inevitably fall so we are facing pressure on that and a reduction in private sector housing. There is not much further he can say other than it would be unreasonable to take more than our fair share of those individuals who are being decamped from hotels or who are seeking asylum.

C28/22 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM AND ASK QUESTIONS OF CABINET MEMBERS WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULES 8.1 AND 8.2.

Members asked questions of Portfolio Holders in accordance with Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2 as follows:

1. Councillor Bligh addressed Councillor Boden saying she is aware of a small community grant fund of £500 available from Fenland District Council and asked if this has been exhausted or if any monies are still available. Councillor Boden said the fund does exist although it has almost run out, but he is trying to eke out what remains to those wards which have not yet received any money from it in the last three years and would welcome any applications received.
2. Councillor Bligh addressed Councillor Hoy saying she is concerned about the number of empty properties owned by Clarion, particularly given the previous comments regarding homelessness. She stated that empty properties can encourage anti-social behaviour, and this is happening in Thorney Toll which has about seven empty Clarion homes in a small area. Councillor Bligh asked if Councillor Hoy could help by ensuring Clarion refill their homes. Councillor Hoy thanked Councillor Bligh for advance notice of the issue so she had been able to ask about the Thorney Toll situation and although she could not say much publicly, she will ask officers to update Councillor Bligh as she understands there are plans for a scheme there. Also, representatives from Clarion are coming to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in January so members can ask for an update on that and other schemes then. Regarding the number of empty homes, this was discussed at the last meeting of Council, and we had the number across all providers not just Clarion, being about 40 out of 400 empty homes across the district. A large proportion of that number belongs to Roman Court in Leverington, which members are aware is due to be demolished, so the numbers will come down, but Councillor Hoy agreed with Councillor Bligh that this is something we need to keep an eye on because those empty homes do need to be filled. Councillor Bligh thanked Councillor Hoy for her support which is appreciated.
3. Councillor Bligh thanked Councillor Murphy for mentioning the Guyhirn play equipment in his portfolio holder report and that it is having a complete overhaul. She would also like to thank the officers involved and put on record her thanks to Galliford Try Highways England and C R Civil Engineering without whom the entire project would have fallen flat on its face as they removed the existing play equipment.
4. Councillor Patrick asked Councillor Boden if he is aware that Wisbech is considered the most dangerous middle-sized town to live in within Cambridgeshire with a crime rate much higher than both the local and national average. He also asked what actions will be taken if any to try and help reduce crime in Wisbech. Councillor Boden said he is not sure about the definition 'most dangerous middle-sized town in Cambridgeshire' as it seems a subjective comment, but ultimately it does not matter because it has been recognised that there is too much crime and antisocial behaviour in Wisbech. Additional resource is coming in, specifically in Medworth Ward which covers most of the town centre, to enable more action concerning this. Responsibility for maintaining order does lie with the police, with whom we have regular discussions, and we will continue to challenge both them and the Police and Crime Commissioner about the situation in Wisbech. The statistics are startling when compared with March, Whittlesey and Chatteris and shows there is a significantly disproportionate problem in Wisbech, but this is not new, and Councillor Patrick will be aware of a number of initiatives

which can be taken to reduce the problem which exists. Ultimately it does depend on more policing although the Council is directing some additional support into the town centre. Councillor Boden added that he does not want to underplay the seriousness of the situation and how it affects Wisbech residents, but neither should this Council give the impression that Wisbech is a lawless place which people should not live in or visit or where people are fearful all the time; there are a great deal many more places that are worse in the country. However, we must take action to try and reduce the amount of illegal activity and antisocial behaviour that exists within the town. Councillor Boden added that Councillor Patrick is right to draw attention to the fact that the situation in Wisbech is significantly worse than the three other Fenland towns combined but he does not want to overplay that either.

5. Councillor Yeulett asked Councillor Seaton about the March to Wisbech Railway Line, noting that a report was due this Summer, and he asked if this was ongoing or had been kicked into the grass. Councillor Seaton advised that unfortunately several meetings have been cancelled but the CPCA are meeting on 16th October; Wisbech Rail is on the agenda although he has not yet seen a paper. Councillor Seaton assured Councillor Yeulett that this is still ongoing, the CPCA are still working on it, and he will be able to report to Councillor Yeulett and Council after that meeting should it go ahead.
6. Councillor Yeulett asked Councillor Benney if he can give any information on a proposal for a commercial park in March. Councillor Benney said there is a local businessman looking to do some development work in March and he put him in contact with the Economic Growth team and senior officers some time ago. Currently there is some sensitivity around commercialism, with negotiations ongoing between the businessman and landowner which are in their infancy. Although Councillor Benney would like to talk about the benefits of this proposal, he cannot currently give any further information due to the sensitivity of the subject. If the proposal goes ahead, it will be very good for March, and he will then be happy to share further information with members and keep them informed as things progress.
7. Councillor Yeulett addressed Councillor Mrs French on the March Area Transport Strategy (MATS) and asked if the dates reference procurement to complete in December and start date around March 2023 are still on schedule. Councillor Mrs French responded that funds have been drawn down from the Combined Authority from County Council and the marketplace will be started in January/February with the agreement of the market traders and will last about 6-8 weeks. Regarding the MATS work, members are aware that March recently had a series of gas leaks and new gas pipes are going to have to be laid across the town before the MATS work can start around summertime. It is anticipated that the work renewing the gas pipes will commence on 31st March 2023. Councillor Yeulett expressed his concern about all the different utility companies digging up the town and stated he hoped the MATS work or funding would not be delayed because of the gas pipes having to be renewed. Councillor Mrs French gave her assurance to Councillor Yeulett that the work needed to be done and advised that the MATS team at County Council and FDC officers working on the High Street project have been working with the utility companies. The gas pipe work will take two to three months to complete but will not delay or affect the funding through the Combined Authority and this is still on track.
8. Councillor Booth addressed Councillor Hoy in reference to Councillor Bligh's earlier question and stated that he raised the issue about Thorney Toll at the last meeting of Council. He had a response from Clarion on 26th August, but Councillor Hoy's response had indicated something different to what he had received so it would be interesting to find out what they are proposing when they come to the Overview & Scrutiny meeting. Clarion had asked him to keep confidential the information he had received, but it sounds like things have been moved on further since then. With reference to the number of empty properties in the Portfolio Holders Report, this is something he has raised several times, and it highlights when there is a turnover of potential properties. He said this is why the information is so important because we can keep track of whether we are on top of this issue or not. It is good to see 32 properties coming back into use but if, for example, we have 50 going out of use the net position is worse. Councillor Hoy agreed it is important to keep track of this and that is why the figures are now in the report as something to keep an eye on. Regarding the Thorney Toll issue, Councillor Hoy said there is nothing cloak and dagger going on it is just that she had just literally received an update and is

only saying what she knows and is sure that Councillor Booth will be able to have that update also.

9. Councillor Booth asked Councillor Murphy about recycling rates. He referred to the 27% recycling rate stated in the Portfolio Holders Report and asked why the Council does not use the DEFRA reporting rate, which we have to report to central government every year and is actually a higher rate. Councillor Murphy responded that it is done this way currently because it is easier for all the councils in RECAP. There was a RECAP meeting last week where Councillor Murphy found there to be uncertainty because of what is happening with government and food waste. Therefore, there is a difference in the way councils operate. Some councils collect food waste, some do not, or it goes in a general rubbish bin and is not counted. Councillor Murphy stated that he is hoping that in the next year or two all councils will be dealing with food waste in the same way. Also, there was a meeting with Recoup in Peterborough last week which was attended by the heads of Morrisons and Tesco, and they are trying different ways of recycling, but they are also dealing with it differently. Ultimately it is all down to Government to tell us what they want so that we can all get on an even keel.
10. Councillor Cornwell asked Councillor Hoy what can be done to speed up the recovery of fines owed by private landlords as the report indicates that there is a significant sum outstanding. Councillor Hoy responded that there are a number of measures that can be taken such as bailiff action and additional charges but some of the issues mentioned in the Portfolio Holders Report are long term. What has been done over the last six months is that when tenants have been found to be subletting then they have been fined too, which is only right because a landlord should not have to pay the price for that. The problem is they then do a 'moonlight flit' and disappear leaving that money most likely unrecoverable. However, Councillor Hoy is confident that although it is a slow process, most of the money will be recovered.
11. Councillor Cornwell addressed Councillor Mrs French regarding the Civil Parking Enforcement report and said he was surprised to see that there are problems with 86% of TROs being incorrect. He finds it incredible that a county council can operate at that level of incorrectness. He asked what steps are being taken to improve the situation. Councillor Mrs French agreed she was appalled with that figure and to find there were so many errors and these need to be corrected before going further down the line. She added that there is now another stumbling block in that County Council want an additional £150k on top of what has already been agreed which she finds ridiculous. However, Cambridge Greater Partnership are prepared, and this is going through the Combined Authority currently to put in the £150k but we do have the Fenland Walking Cycling and Mobility Aid Strategy which was agreed at Cabinet today and a lot of the lining is covered in that. Councillor Mrs French stated that she has been asking County Council for over a year to fulfil their statutory duty and get the white lines painted but sadly the Highway Committee are dragging their heels. A license should have been submitted to Government in October, but it is appalling that they have put that back to April next year, therefore she feels she has been banging her head against a brick wall for the last 12 months and it is not for the want of trying. This was discussed at the MATs meeting, and finally they have agreed as a matter of urgency they will repaint the zebra crossing outside St Peters Church and the keep clear sign outside the Fire Station which she has been asking about for 14 months.
12. Councillor Booth addressed Councillor Mrs French and said that the report refers to Capital streetlights replacement works but it does not make any reference to the parish council street lighting that is being undertaken, which is also being delayed by shortage of personnel of the provider, Fenland District Council. Although updates have been requested, any information is very slow in forthcoming. He asked if she could ensure that service is improved as parish councils are trying to get their street lighting stock up to a certain standard and are not getting a good response. He wonders if this is the right provider given that they have such key person dependencies that if someone is not around, they cannot provide that information. Councillor Mrs French thanked Councillor Booth and said that she would take this up with officers and get back to him.

Members considered the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report presented by Councillor Mason as Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Mason gave his grateful thanks to all members, officers and Member Services for their assistance in compiling this report.

Proposed by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Purser and Council AGREED to acknowledge the broad scope of the work undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel during 2021/22.

C30/22 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Members considered the Constitutional Amendments report presented by Councillor Boden.

Councillor Cornwell said that in respect of the proposal to move the Motion deadline, another option would be to change the day of the Council meeting; if it is moved to a day other than Monday there is no need to change the Constitution. Councillor Boden responded that the day of the meeting and day of the submission of the Motion is irrelevant as regardless of which day of the week it is, the same position applies that there is a 5pm deadline to submit a Motion and the Agenda must be published by 6pm at the very latest the same evening.

Proposed by Councillor Boden, seconded by Councillor Connor and Council AGREED to note and ratify the changes that the Monitoring Officer has made to the Constitution in exercise of the authority delegated to her under Part 3, Table 4, paragraph 47 of the Constitution and to agree the proposed amendments to paragraph 10.1 of the Standing Orders as recommended by Cabinet so that motions on notice are required to be submitted by 12 noon as opposed to 5pm.

C31/22 DISCRETIONARY POLICY TO STIMULATE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Members considered the Discretionary Policy to Stimulate Commercial Development Report presented by Councillor Benney.

- Councillor Cornwell said he can see where this report is coming from and understands the intention but asked if we are not at risk of ending up with a situation similar to what happened in Chatteris, where buildings were developed but the Council had no income from them and one of our saving graces was that we were able to get business rates out of those properties, he is thinking particularly about Tesco. Councillor Benney responded that he could understand the question, but the risk is not the Council's, this would be to the commercial markets to take that risk whether they build or not. If they do, we are currently getting nothing in terms of council rates on green or brownfield land but after this 12-month period we will then get the commercial rates back on that, or once that building is let to its first tenant. Councillor Cornwell thanked Councillor Benney.
- Councillor Boden agreed the proposal is time limited, and in two ways. The first is that the grant will only be available for a maximum of 12 months or until the first occupation takes place but secondly it is also a 12-month pilot. This is because the Council wants to encourage more developers to build more speculatively primarily, but not exclusively, for small and micro businesses. There is a massive shortage of capacity within Fenland to provide this sort of accommodation which has led to businesses leaving Fenland because we cannot give them the accommodation they require. This provides the Economic Growth Team with an additional tool to encourage the necessary development to take place.
- Councillor Yeulett stated that he welcomes this and anything that will provide an incentive for businesses to grow; after all it is better to get 5% of something rather than 5% of nothing.
- Councillor Booth said he should point out for the public record that he is an employee of the company that Councillor Cornwell mentioned but this is a forward-looking policy, so he does not

believe he has to declare an interest only having recently joined them. To follow up on Councillor Boden's point about time-limiting, there is not a time limit if looking at occupation by the first tenant because in theory that could go on for some time. It does have the deadline of 31st March 2024 so he assumes it would be 2025 in theory, so is that correct? Councillor Benney said it would be from when the building is complete, i.e., 12 months from the date of building completion or from the first tenant moving in. Councillor Booth said he accepts this as long as that is clear and what people are intending.

- Councillor Booth added that he welcomes this also, but it is a pity that there is not better information in the Financial Implications because it says there will be no financial implications, but if this policy works then it will generate more revenue for the Council. Also, it would have been good to get an idea of the number of enquiries the Council currently gets to give an idea, it is speculation, but it reinforces the reasons for it. Secondly, the Local Plan currently does not have designated sites. The Plan that is out for consultation currently does have designated sites. He wondered if we need to make it clear about the difference between the two local plans.
- Councillor Benney said in respect of the first point, it will have a positive effect after 12 months to bring this forward, but it is risk to the Council, currently it is negative cost to us. In terms of the local plan, yes there are different areas within the plan designated for industrial use but there is also the windfall policy and that would be down to Planning Committee to decide whether that was deemed policy compliant, so it would be down to FDC to set the environment.
- Councillor Booth said Councillor Benney was not here when the existing local plan was adopted many years ago when it was confirmed that the Council has no windfall policy in the current local plan. In the new local emerging plan we will have designated sites, the problem with the existing local plan is it is more policy-led and more down to individual interpretation.
- Councillor Mason asked if there is anything in the policy that prevents a tenant moving in for 12 months on favourable terms and then moving out and into another property on favourable terms. Councillor Benney responded that if a tenant moves in it is the landlord who gets the benefit rather than the tenant and if they build a second industrial unit, that policy will still apply. Councillor Mason said that seemed like the Council would not benefit. Councillor Boden explained that what is being proposed is the postponement of the start of a liability for payment of NNDR; once that postponement has finished, either at the cessation of the 12-month period or a tenant moves in, then from then onwards the property will be subject to NNDR. The tenant will be almost irrelevant in this because it is not they who will be benefitting from the policy, it will be the developer of the property who would otherwise have a liability as soon as the property is completed to a certain stage. If the tenant moves out, there is still the liability for NNDR, but it would just pass to the property owner, so there is no additional potential liability to the Council.
- Councillor Connor said this is an excellent report and what is not to like about it. Hopefully it will bring more prosperity to Fenland.

Proposed by Councillor Benney, seconded by Councillor Boden and Council AGREED to adopt the proposed Discretionary Business Rate Policy – Commercial Development for an initial pilot period of 12 months.

C32/22 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The confidential minutes of the meeting of 11 July 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Fenland District Council Fenland Hall County Road March Cambridgeshire PE15 8NQ
 Tel 01354 622281 DX 30955 March Minicom 01354 622215 www.fenland.gov.uk

Civic Engagements

From October 4,2022 to December 2, 2022

October 4, 2022	Peterborough City Council -Sausage Supper Attended by the Vice Chairman
October 9,2022	Mayor Of March Civic Service Attended by the Vice Chairman
October 16, 2022	South Holland Civic Service Attended by the Vice Chairman
October 29, 2022	United States Air Force Ball Attended by the Chairman
October 30, 2022	Mayor of Whittlesey Civic Service Attended by the Chairman
November 1, 2002	Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid Launch Attended by the Chairman
November 4, 2022	Mayor of Hunstanton Civic Reception Attended by the Chairman
November 9, 2022	Pride of Fenland Attended by the Chairman
November 10, 2002	Neale Wade Remembrance Assembly Attended by the Chairman South Holland District Council Quiz Night Attended by the Chairman
November 11, 2022	Veterans Day Service - Madingley Cemetery Attended by the Chairman
November 13, 2022	Remembrance Day Events Attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman
November 17, 2022	RAF Alconbury Annual Thanksgiving Service and Pie Social Attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman
December 2, 2022	Fenland District Council Community Carol Service Attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman

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Cabinet and Corporate Management Team

Portfolio Holder Briefing Report

December 2022

**(For performance in August, September, October
and November 2022)**

Cabinet Members



**Councillor
Chris Boden**

Leader of the Council
& Portfolio Holder for
Finance



**Councillor
Ian Benney**

Portfolio Holder for
Economic Growth



**Councillor
Sam Clark**

Portfolio Holder for
Health



**Councillor
Steve Count**

Portfolio Holder for
Licensing &
Community Safety



**Councillor
Mrs Jan French**

Deputy Leader of the
Council



**Councillor
Miss Sam Hoy**

Portfolio Holder for
Housing



**Councillor
Mrs Dee Laws**

Portfolio Holder for
Planning



**Councillor
Peter Murphy**

Portfolio Holder for
Open Spaces, Street
Scene & Waste
Management



**Councillor
Chris Seaton**

Portfolio Holder for
Social Mobility &
Heritage



**Councillor Steve
Tierney**

Portfolio Holder for
Transformation,
Communication &
Environment

Communities

Projects from Business Plan:

Work with landlords to improve housing conditions and management standards in the district's private sector, including using the Council's enforcement powers (Cllr Sam Hoy)

The Council has undertaken 21 positive interventions in response to new requests for service for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) across the district.

The Council has also inspected 67 properties as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and investigated 93 complaints from tenants occupying privately rented accommodation in the same period. Council officers intervened to remove Category 1 hazards (serious faults) and Category 2 hazards (less serious faults) from properties to make them safe for the residents.

The geographical spread is as follows:

Town	HMOs investigated	Ukraine Homes / Privately Rented Homes investigated
Wisbech	15	60
March	4	32
Chatteris	0	24
Whittlesey	0	12
Villages	2	32

Village breakdown:

Benwick = 2
Coates = 1
Coldham = 1
Christchurch = 2
Doddington = 2
Elm = 2
Gorefield = 1
Guyhirn = 2
Leverington = 6
Manea = 1
Newton = 2
Parson Drove = 4
Turves = 1
Tydd = 1
WSM = 4

Enforcement:

- Between 01/4/22-31/10/22 Officers have served:
 - 7 Improvement/Prohibition notices.
 - 5 Notices of Intent to fine landlords / agents in relation to breaches of Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR)
 - 6 Notices Of Intent to serve a Civil Penalty Notices
 - The above fines total £62k and £23,386 (Apr-Sept) has been collected informally, with the remaining debt being recovered pursuant of the corporate debt policy and referrals to the High Court Sheriff service.

Other

- Further to powers relating to Minimum Energy Efficiency regulations being delegated to PSH officers, searches for non-compliance are currently being undertaken in preparation for enforcement notices to be issued.
- As of 4 October 2022, the team has welcomed the addition of 2 x My Fenland officers to provide 1 x FTE post to support all areas of the team's administration, including dealing with Service Requests, issuing standard letters, incoming emails and post etc. This resource will allow PSH officers to focus on more enforcement activity in the district and is a more efficient use of their experience and technical knowledge.
- Officers continue to inspect properties to identify health and safety compliance.
- Officers continue to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Fenland. Inspection of hosts properties, delivery of sustenance payments and welfare checks continue on a weekly basis and are being carried out in a timely fashion. Due to breakdown between hosts and guests, the team are also witnessing a number of rematches within the district which often require an immediate response to prevent guests becoming homeless.
- The Council is working closely with CCC who receive the money for the Homes for Ukraine scheme from central government to ensure that the Council's costs are recovered.

Support property owners to bring long-term empty homes back into use, helping to address the district's housing needs (Cllr Sam Hoy)

Represents total number of properties brough back into use through officer involvement from 1 April 2022 to 31 October 2022

	LTE 6-23MTHS	LTEP 24MTHS +
Total Officer involvement	36	12
Total for the period	1.4.22 – 31.3.23	48

Case Example:

- Property Empty from 4.8.21 following death of owner.
- Probate not granted so not paying Council Tax and no contact details for Next Of Kin (NOK).
- Neighbours expressed concern about the overgrown garden and issues with rats. Officer visited neighbours and gathered intelligence.
- Using intelligence, officer contacted tracing company who were able to identify NOK and a will. NOK agreed for tracing company to assist them in obtaining probate and property will be sold. They shared officer's concerns regarding the overgrown garden/rats with NOK who arranged for this to be cleared and area baited.

Premium charges and Suspensions:

Owners are reporting that the increased costs of materials and accessing them have led to delays in projects. The uncertain financial market has also made some owners reflect on their next steps.

The premium suspension, which is offered to newly purchased properties, empty for 2 or more years continues to make a positive impact:

- 12 Suspensions have been awarded with 6 completed.
- 2 Properties; a 5yr empty and a 10yr empty have been renovated and will have new owners in December/January.
- The rest are due to complete in April 2023.

Comments from those awarded a suspension:

"We are pleased with the support with regards to the premium suspension as if we had to factor this in as an additional cost line, we may have not been able to proceed with the purchase. We are investors with a portfolio of single lets and HMOs in Wisbech and we are proud to say we have a good relationship with lots of colleagues at Fenland Council and would like to continue this in the future."

Prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping through working with individuals, families, landlords, housing associations and providers to meet the housing needs of residents in crisis (Cllr Sam Hoy)

The Housing Options team has successfully prevented 171 households from becoming homeless since April 2022 (up to end of Oct 2022). Housing advice has been given to 808 households where no duties were owed. Total homeless presentations for this period were 1211

The proportion of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through Housing Options work is currently 57% (up to end of October 2022 -171 preventions divided by 299 households where duties were owed).

The team continues to be focussed on homeless prevention and supporting those in need within the Fenland community.

We anticipate that there will be a further uplift in the number of households requiring housing advice as the cost-of-living crisis continues into the winter period.

Deliver four Golden Age Fairs across the district (Cllr Sam Clark)

A Golden Age Fair took place on Friday 30th September at The King Edward Centre in Chatteris. The Golden Age Team and 22 partners took part in the event with a great turn of 140 older people visiting our partners gaining vital information. The following partners attended; Rosmini Centre, Citizens Advice Rural Cambs, Cambridgeshire Libraries, Camsight, People and Animals, Careline, Alzheimers Society, Caring Together, Breathe Easy, Care Network, the local Social Prescriber, FACT, Living Sport, Community Safety, Healthy You, East of England Ambulance Service, How are you? Fenland, Cambridgeshire Skills, Anglian Water, Age UK, Versus Arthritis and Papworth Trust.

Our next event will be at the Rosmini Centre on 14th December 2022 between 10am – 1pm

Other Projects:

Leisure Update (Cllr Sam Clark)

Freedom Leisure

The Leisure Operators Base Trading Account (LOBTA) is the original document that Freedom used to project income and expenditure in their bid to manage the leisure facilities in Fenland. It indicates the anticipated contract financial position in each year of the contract. In September 2022, based on information for the financial year to date, Freedom projects an annual deficit of £18,000 - before excess utility cost increases. The LOBTA position projected a surplus of £43,000. This projection, although £61,000 in deficit to the LOBTA, indicates that operationally the contract is running well and recovering from the previous 2 years of Covid 19.

Freedom has resumed paying FDC the contract fee since April 2022 and performance of the leisure centres, particularly swimming lessons is excellent. Freedom now has more than 3,200 children learning to swim in Fenland leisure centres every week.

Whilst operational performance and income generation is good, the financial impact of excess energy costs is considerable. The energy crisis that the country is currently experiencing has added exceptional unavoidable costs into the contract with Freedom. It was anticipated that the Government's support to businesses on increased energy costs would keep costs down, however that has not been sufficient. Whilst Government has set the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) to support businesses, the impact of the scheme is limited, especially for high energy services such as leisure centres, particularly those with swimming pools.

In the final 6 months of 2022/23 Freedom estimates excess energy costs of £281,254. The predicted excess energy costs for 2023/24 are estimated to be in excess of £600,000. These costs are estimations based on previous energy use. It should also be noted that the 2023/24 estimation assumes a continuation of the Government's EBRS scheme. This continuation has not been confirmed by Government at this time. Nor do we know the trajectory of energy costs into the future.

Freedom is not in a unique position. Excess energy costs are affecting the whole leisure sector regardless of whether services are delivered in house or through a contract partner. Therefore, Freedom and other leisure providers have been actively lobbying the Government through the LGA, District Councils Network, UK Active, Swim England and directly to Fenland's local MP Stephen Barclay, highlighting the severe financial difficulty that the leisure sector is facing and the potential consequences and threat of closure of leisure facilities in future without additional financial support.

Without a significant reduction in wholesale energy costs or significant Government intervention to support vulnerable industries, excess energy costs will continue to be a significant issue in 2023 / 24 and discussions regarding this situation are ongoing with Freedom.

Freedom and Fenland have been working together to consider options to mitigate energy costs, with Cabinet recently approving some measures of support, whilst also noting other actions that Freedom is taking.

These are exceptionally difficult times in the leisure sector, but in the partnership that FDC has with Freedom, it is thought that the Council is in as positive a position as possible, despite the challenges both Freedom and Fenland are facing financially.

Active Fenland team update

Lauren Bremner has returned to work following her maternity leave, boosting the team's capacity. Lauren manages the team on a part-time basis, with delivery being carried out by Heidi Lemon and Hettie West who are both funded by external organisations.

The team manages delivery through several workstreams.

Heathy You

Summer sessions were popular, including completely full classes of Junior Tennis and Running. Active Fenland has worked with Neale Wade school and a tennis provider to support demand. Further sessions are planned for indoor sessions in January to attract more new participants.

A brand-new session in partnership with Wisbech Tennis Club has been launched - Family FUNdamentals- a ball-based fundamental skill and fine motor skill development session with involvement from both parents and children.

Active Fenland's Wisbech Wellbeing Walk is proving very popular with up to 18 attendees a week. A total of 27 new people attended in September alone and our volunteer walk leader is enjoying leading the group saying that she "couldn't imagine her Fridays without it".

The Active Fenland team is still receiving regular requests for the Active at Home booklet created during the lock down and these are advertised regularly.

The Active Fenland team has delivered in three schools since September to raise awareness of healthy eating and physical activity. The team also delivered a family activity event which also provided a lunch at Lime Avenue in Wisbech, with 50 people attending.

Four yoga classes have restarted since the summer break and a strength and balance session has also proved popular.

Participants at the Forever Fit sessions for older people have enjoyed the Heathy You team attending to provide health MOTs.

A cycling session was launched called Breeze Ride for ladies who struggle with

confidence cycling on the roads - the instructor is continuing the sessions herself following the initial course, ensuring that the course is fully sustainable.

A new free Let's Run Girls group is being delivered in Wisbech as part of a county-wide initiative.

Active Fenland delivers Tea Dances every few months. The second Tea Dance this year has been delivered with over 40 people attending.

To ensure that the Active Fenland team is working in a co-ordinated way with other providers, there has been engagement sessions with around 20 local partners to develop local mapping, awareness, and knowledge in order to gain deeper understanding of local provision, identifying subsequent gaps in provision in the district. New sessions including more walk groups, tea dances, tennis and running are all planned before the end of the year. There are also plans for a family Christmas event at Lime Avenue in Wisbech.

Healthy Weight

The Healthy Weight Project is funded by a third party and recruitment for a part time co-ordinator has been completed. Project delivery will commence in January. Additional jogging groups and beginners' classes for like-minded people will be some of the first projects set up, alongside a monthly healthy eating and nutrition workshop. A healthy eating and wellbeing information booklet has been started to give to each participant who enters the programme.

Integrated Care System (ICS) – support to improve local people's health

The ICS has committed funding for a 2-year project to support activities that improve people's health in the district, co-ordinated by the Active Fenland team. Active Fenland has joined the "JOY app" which is social prescribing software used by Health professionals to signpost people directly to activities available in their local area.

Partner events have been attended to create links into the ICS project such as the Tea dance, Heritage walks and the One Community Event by FENCAT. Work to develop new Ramblers groups has been completed including community consultation in Whittlesey. This included links with the U3A, local social prescribers and MIND. A Street Pride litter pick has been led by the ICS project leader to link to local groups and promote the walks.

Four exercises referral courses will be funded by the ICS project and the instructors and course dates have been identified.

A new partner signposting initiative has been created to include both Active Fenland and Freedom options which will go to GPs and Health Providers to tie together what is available to the local community.

Active Fenland - Other Activities

Falls prevention sessions and strength and balance classes will be delivered throughout

the district starting in November. These will be delivered with the Freedom Centres and Doddington and Wisbech Hospitals. Groups will be held at a community level to create a wide reach, with clients at risk of falls or reduced mobility able to self-refer. GPs and Health providers can signpost their patients and the sessions will receive referrals from those who have had a fall and been part of a fall's recovery pathway.

Pride In Fenland Awards (Cllr Sam Clark)

The Pride in Fenland Awards were held on 9th November 2022 at Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre and a total of 81 nominations were received. Volunteers were judged in the following categories;

- Young person/Youth Group,
- Community group
- Individual Volunteer
- Volunteer Fundraiser
- Recreational and Environmental Volunteer
- Special Judges Award
- Lifetime Volunteer Award

The evening was a superb event compered by Cllr Sam Clark and Cllr Maureen Davis with inspiring and emotional stories of how volunteers and community groups have had a huge impact in the Fenland Community.

Health & Wellbeing Update (including Covid-19 Outbreak Plan implementation) (Cllr Sam Clark)

Covid -19 vaccination programme update

The autumn covid-19 booster programme commenced on 12th September. Alongside this programme there has been an ongoing 'evergreen offer' making first, second and third vaccinations available to those who have not yet accessed a vaccine.

With the start of the Autumn roll out, the Vaccination Centre at the Horsefair in Wisbech resumed 7 day opening; 08:30am – 4pm, 7.30pm on a Monday.

Vaccinations can also be accessed at community pharmacies and primary care network delivery, such as at GP surgeries.

In addition to localised communications activity there has been national media coverage of the autumn booster programme.

All patients eligible for an Autumn Booster have now been invited (centrally from NHS England via SMS or letter)

Between 12th September – 23rd October 27,140 autumn boosters have been administered across our sites in Fenland.

Outreach sessions have been going well in Fenland – 334 vaccines administered across 11 sessions since 1st September 2022. Sessions are booked up until mid-December.

The following outreach sessions and extra clinics have also taken place or are planned:

30-Sep-22	Friday	King Edward Community Centre	Indoor Pop Up	10am - 2pm
04-Oct-22	Tuesday	Eastrea Centre	Vehicle	10am - 12pm
04-Oct-22	Tuesday	Whittlesey Market Place	Vehicle	1pm - 4pm
11-Oct-22	Tuesday	Rosmini Centre	Indoor Pop Up	9am - 12pm
11-Oct-22	Tuesday	Ferry Project	Indoor Pop Up	13:00 -15:30
18-Oct-22	Tuesday	March - City Rd Car Park	Vehicle	11am - 4pm
25-Oct-22	Tuesday	King Edward Community Centre	Indoor Pop Up	10:30am - 4:30pm
01-Nov-22	Tuesday	Whittlesey Christian Church Centre	Indoor Pop Up	11am - 4pm
08-Nov-22	Tuesday	Rosmini Centre	Indoor Pop Up	9am - 12pm
12-Nov-22	Saturday	Doddington Hospital	Clinic	8am-6pm
15-Nov-22	Tuesday	St Peters Hall	Indoor Pop Up	1.15pm - 4.30pm
19-11-22	Saturday	Doddington Hospital	Clinic	8am-6pm
26-Nov-22	Saturday	King Edward Community Centre	Indoor Pop Up	9.30am - 4pm

04-Dec-22	Sunday	March Library (Xmas Market)	Indoor Pop Up	09:30 - 15:30
06-Dec-22	Tuesday	Whittlesey Christian Church Centre	Indoor Pop Up	11am - 4pm

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership

The joint board met on 15th October. The agenda pack can be found here: [Joint Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board/ICP | CPICS Website](#)

The joint board received papers covering, heating and health, pharmaceutical needs assessment and an update regarding the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Throughout September the Integrated Care Boards have been reviewing the agreed priorities for the areas of North Fenland Primary Care Network and South Fenland Primary Care Network. The 2 Boards hosted partnership engagement sessions in October.

The agreed priorities for North Fenland are Mental Health, Smoking and Engagement.

For South Fenland these are Access to Services, Prevention and Mental Health.

The Boards meet monthly to develop activities to address the agreed priorities and report into the Joint Health and Wellbeing and Integrated Care Partnership.

Key PIs:

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 22/23	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP1	Total number of private rented homes where positive action has been taken to address safety issues	277	250	181	
CELP2	NEW INDICATOR The proportion (%) of households presenting to the Council as homeless whose housing circumstances were resolved through Housing options work (%)	57%	57%	57%	
CELP3	Number of empty properties brought back into use	77	50	48	
CELP4	Amount of New Homes Bonus achieved as a result of bringing empty homes back into use	£93,099	£45,000	N/A (December 22)	N/A
CELP6	Number of Active Health local sessions per year that improve community health	504	500	196	
CELP19	Satisfaction with our leisure centres (Net Promoter Score)	85%	85%		
CELP20	Value of Arts Council Grants achieved in Fenland	N/A	£40,000		

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments

Environment

Projects from Business Plan:

Continue to deliver environmental enforcement using fixed penalty notices and the court process for serious offences (Cllr Peter Murphy)

During August, we responded to 38 reports of fly tipping. Most of the waste was household related. During September, we had a total of 36 reports. These are considerably lower than the same months last year which saw August 2021 at 115 and September 2021 at 99. October figures are currently not available and will be reported in the next briefing.

Enforcement actions during this time resulted in:

- 1 Fixed Penalty Notice of £400 for fly tipping in Wisbech.
- 2 cases pending at Peterborough Magistrates court for a breach in householders' duty of care.

As a direct result of information and fly tipping evidence being passed on to the police, 2 people have been charged after Police discovered a cannabis factory with a street value of £634,000 linked to a business in Norfolk Street.

The team also look for ways to prevent fly tipping issues on the ground. We have identified a location in New Drove, Wisbech which had received 17 fly tipped instances since January. The majority of which were large amounts requiring officers several visits to remove. Due to the location being very rural it is attractive to fly tippers.

A successful bid to the Police and Crime Commissioners Community Fund has provided £1500 towards further prevention measures, including more robust signs and the removal of 5 tonnes of waste.

An action day is planned for December whereby information will be shared with residents on the issue of fly tipping, prevention and enforcement.

Additional enforcement work carried out saw 5 Parking Fixed Penalty Notices issued to cars for parking on the market in March on a market day.

A total of 36 vehicles have been reported as abandoned from the 1st of August – 1st November. Most of these were not deemed abandoned but we did require 4 to be removed by our contractor. The remainder had Notices served on them but were all removed by persons unknown following the Notice.

As part of our work supporting local businesses through our Tidy Fenland Voluntary Code of Practice, we have been visiting town centre businesses in Fenland. During this

period, we have been to 15 premises and spoken with management staff to check on trade waste compliance. This resulted in 7 signing up to the Code and happy to display our poster. One business was referred for a follow up visit due to concerns. Four businesses were given cigarette bins to prevent excess litter.

Street Scene has also been supporting the Council's wider colleagues in Operation Luscomb which is a partnership approach led by the Police to tackle street drinking in Wisbech. We have carried out a joint patrol with the Police in key areas and have been feeding back on the ground observations to partners during this time.

Deliver the Four Seasons events programme in partnership with our four market towns (Cllr Peter Murphy)

September was a very successful month for Whittlesey Festival Committee. An open evening was held at Whittlesey Town Council to celebrate the festival over the past decade and to invite members of the public to volunteer at next year's event, which will be the first back since the pandemic.

We were delighted to receive 8 brand new volunteers as well as those who have supported the festival previously. Key roles have now been filled including secretary and treasurer, and two businesses also came forward to offer expertise, equipment and donations. This was a wonderful turn out that will enable the event to flourish again in 2023.

In October, online bookings were launched for Fenland's Christmas Markets. Bookings have been very busy with support offered as customers learn this new digital process.

Community groups supported to deliver environmental projects including Street Pride, Friends of and Green Dog Walkers (Cllr Peter Murphy)

A total of 17 events were held in August by community groups to improve the environment. This included regular work parties as well as six students from March town undertaking two litter picks around the town as part of their National Citizens Service course programme.

In September, there were 16 regular work parties held. Three key events to highlight are that from Friends of March Railway Station, Friends of Wisbech General Cemetery and Friends of Octagon Graveyard in Wisbech who all held open days to coincide with Heritage Weekend which is organised by the National Trust to showcase to the community recent works.

This month also saw the results from the Anglia In Bloom judging. Benwick in Bloom

received a Silver Gilt in the village category with Chatteris obtaining Gold in the town category.

An impressive 21 events were held in October which included regular work parties. Following on from their success at Anglia In Bloom, Chatteris went on to receive a Gold in the Britain In Bloom competition.

Also this month, volunteers attended the annual Celebration Evening. The Council appreciates and values the ongoing work of all its volunteers and this event is our way of saying 'thank you' and celebrating groups' achievements. Representatives from Street Pride, In Bloom, friend's groups and 'getting it sorted' recycling champions all attended which reflects the increasing co-operation between them.

Each group received a certificate of thanks in appreciation of their continuing efforts over the past year to improve their local street scene and open spaces.

Special certificates were also awarded for several projects to the following groups:

- Parson Drove Street Pride (Best Nature) & Whittlesey In Bloom and Friends of Whittlesey Cemetery (Highly Commended – Best Nature)
- Friends of Octagon Graveyard, Wisbech (Best Partnership) & March Street Pride / In Bloom (Highly Commended – Best Partnership)
- Chatteris In Bloom / Street Pride (Best Street Scene) & Tydd St Giles Street Pride (Highly Commended – Best Street Scene)
- Gorefield Street Pride (Best Youth) & Wisbech In Bloom & Friends of Rings End Nature Reserve (Highly Commended – Best Youth)
- Murrow Street Pride & Friends of March Railway Station (Best Promotional Project)
- Benwick Street Pride / In Bloom (Best Reduce, Reuse, Recycling) & Wimblington Street Pride (Highly Commended – Best Reduce, Reuse, Recycling)
- Leverington Street Pride, Newton-in-the-Isle Street Pride, Manea Street Pride & Waterlees In Bloom/Street Pride (Best Clean Up)

November is also set to be a busy month for the groups. Murrow Street Pride are putting on a bingo evening and Benwick are hosting a Christmas Fayre. Both events are a great way to promote the groups but also fundraise to help with future activities.

Deliver the Recycling Action Plan (Cllr Peter Murphy)

Refuse crews delivered around 45,000 Christmas calendars in early November to customers green bins. These, alongside the Fenland Bin App allow customers to see the changes in collections over the festive period, along with details on what can be

recycled in blue bins and advertises the forthcoming garden waste subscriptions.

Recycling crews check blue bins prior to collection and do not collect them where incorrect materials are obvious. So far this year they have rejected 1,795 blue bins. These customers then receive information on how to get their recycling correct in future.

More detailed inspections of blue bins have taken place across 2,000 properties so far, with 30% (667) receiving a 'Thank You' tag for recycling that was very good, with information on how to improve recycling delivered to all properties.

To date this year the percentage of good quality materials collected in blue bins is 92%, with the remaining 8% made up largely of food waste and liquids in containers.

This means that each household in Fenland has so far this year presented an average of 100 kilograms of good quality materials for recycling, and a total of 4,458 tonnes.

As a result, within the first 6 months of the year the recycling service has generated £300,000 of income from recycling materials and recycling credits from the County Council (£240,000).

There continues to be a need to reduce the amount of food and liquid waste that is contained in customers' blue bins and encourage customers to rinse and empty containers prior to recycling them to tackle the increasing levels of these contaminants.

Deliver a competitive trade waste service (Cllr Peter Murphy & Cllr Tierney)

The Fenland Commercial Waste service continues to work effectively and efficiently and attract new customers to increase income. The team have attracted 57 new customers so far this year, with a total of 615 commercial customers served, the total income so far this year is £350,000. This is £50,000 ahead of the same point last year.

Monitor and respond to the DEFRA Waste & Resources Strategy consultation with RECAP partners (Cllrs Peter Murphy & Steve Tierney)

Update expected from Defra in December.

Review the current arrangements for parking enforcement in Fenland (Cllr Jan French)

Officers from Fenland, South Cambs District Council (SCDC) and Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) meet monthly with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) via a Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) joint working group to collectively move the implementation of CPE forward and to track progress.

All three Districts have now undertaken their district wide site survey works to record sign and line defects associated with existing traffic regulation orders in each of the respective administrative areas. This information has been forwarded to the County Councils Policy and Regulation Team for review and the next stage is for each defect to be looked at in detail to determine the necessary corrective works required to ensure the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is compliant and can be enforced against.

Reviewing this data is required in order to develop work packages to inform the estimated cost of the corrective sign and line works. Due to the enormity of this task the County Council have advised it cannot be facilitated with the County Councils existing resources. Milestone have been commissioned to carry out this work, after CCC secured an additional of £150k of funding for CPE projects.

Milestone have provisionally prepared an indicative work program with an estimated task completion date of April 2024 assuming works commence in January 2023. This work package completion date is currently beyond the FDC / CPCA CPE funding agreement deadline of March 2024 and in any case would need to be completed at least 6 months in advance of the funding deadline in order to complete the corrective works on the ground. Another means of accelerating the works package will need to be found unless the CPCA funding deadline can be extended further. In the meantime FDC continues to progress the CPE implementation works where possible and current progress to date and the current focus can be seen below:

- 1) The Traffic Regulation Order survey works for Fenland was undertaken at the end of 2021 for all 210 On-Street parking and waiting restrictions within the Fenland DC administrative area. 1228 anomalies were found which equates to 86% of all the existing TRO's in the Fenland area requiring some form of corrective works. The survey works were completed in four phases and the collated data passed to Cambridgeshire County Councils Policy and Regulation Team for review in Q1 of 2022.
- 2) Cambridgeshire County Council have advised that the preparation of the design package works for the TRO corrections will be prepared by Milestone Infrastructure due to limited County Council internal resources. Other external service providers (Atkins and WSP) were approached via the County Councils professional service contract to price the work package works but declined to bid due to current work commitments.
- 3) A preliminary draft CPE Off Street Parking Places Order has been compiled for all

FDC owned/managed parking facilities. This will continue to be developed by the FDC project team in preparation for the implementation of CPE. Each of the Councils car parks will need to be allocated as either short or long stay facilities and all associated signing and lining works tendered and carried out prior to the CPE implementation date.

- 4) A second draft of the FDC/CCC agency and service level agreement has been drafted by Cambridgeshire County Council. However, it is understood that, following a number of unacceptable risks being highlighted during the development of this document, further revisions will need to be made. It is therefore proposed that the draft document is developed further by Cambridgeshire County Council's legal representatives before being shared with the FDC project team for FDC legal team review and member approval. The agreement will set out delegated authority to FDC and define responsibility for things such as sign and line maintenance, PCN income and operational deficit along with resolution of contractual issues associated with enforcement. The agreement will also need to set out how changes in legislation will be dealt with such as pavement parking and moving traffic contraventions.
- 5) All statutory consultees and partner organisations were formally consulted on the implementation of CPE within Fenland in April 2022. Consultees were given one month to register their comments or objections and whilst no objections were received, some organisations integral to the CPE implementation process did not respond. These organisations have now formally been written to and the responses collated. The collective feedback will be used to finalise the CPE application to the Department for Transport in 2023.
- 6) A draft application to the Department for Transport for a Civil/Special Enforcement Area Designation Order for the introduction of CPE in Fenland has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with FDC. Statutory consultee feedback will be used to finalise the application which is currently intended to be put forward to the DfT in March 2023 providing the FDC/CCC Agency Agreement has been suitably developed and approved by both Councils.
- 7) Following liaison with all neighbouring local authorities to ascertain what CPE enforcement and administrative services could be provided to Fenland, three Local Authorities have expressed an interest. These offers and the potential to enter into a section 101 shared service agreement will be explored in greater detail by the CPE project team following the development of the FDC/CCC agency agreement.

Whilst the timeline required to implement CPE in Fenland was originally estimated to take 2 years, several factors including available County Council and Contractor resources have now inadvertently resulted in project slippage. Currently it is estimated that the CPE designation order is unlikely to be brought into effect until Q3 of 2024 unless an acceptable means accelerating the programme can be found.

Deliver the CCTV shared service with Peterborough City Council (Cllr Steve Count)

The CCTV shared service has maintained its 100% service function across a 24/7 period.

From 1st April to 31st October 2022, the CCTV service has been able to respond to 863 incidents across our four market towns including incidents relating to anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, violent crime, illegal drug use, possession of weapons and theft.

As a result of CCTV intervention from 1st April to 31st October 2022 has led to 66 arrests being made by Cambridgeshire Police. This highlights the work CCTV services do to support the council and partners in responding to crime and disorder and helping to make our communities safer and reduce the fear of crime.

The CCTV service also continues to be pro-active in delivering services that helps reduce crime & disorder and anti-social behaviour by delivering regular camera patrols of our four market towns and other key locations. Since April and up to 31st October 2022, the CCTV team have delivered 2,453 patrols. All patrols are conducted across the 24/7 period ensuring that no matter what time of day and night our local communities are being protected and that any issues or concerns are being identified as early as possible.

The CCTV service also provides the councils 'out of hours' telephone contact services for example, homelessness, stray and lost dogs, cleansing incidents, dangerous buildings and structures, environmental complaints, to name but a few areas. From April to October the CCTV service has responded to over 223 service requests from our out of hours telephone contact service.

The CCTV service is currently recruiting a new temporary fixed term CCTV operator post to support the ongoing Safer Streets 4 work. The new fixed term post will be fully funded by the Safer Streets 4 grant and will be fulfilled until September 2023.

Other Projects:

Open Spaces and Grounds Maintenance Contract Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)

An unusual season for the Grounds Maintenance team with heavy rain early on, searing heat in the middle and mild wet weather at the end. As a result, cutting continued into November but with most staff now dispersed for the winter the remainder (8) are diligently deployed on the shrub rounds and addressing the many hedge-related issues amongst other ad hoc tasks. The contract now rolls into a new year, our 8th with Tivoli, and the strength of the partnership continues to improve.

This month the new play area in Doddington commences and follows the completed projects in Guyhirn and Cricketers Way, Chatteris both of which have been popularly received.

The Splash pad at Wisbech Park opened only briefly (approx. 4 weeks Aug-Sep) but the public response to the project was universally positive. The pad reopens in May 2023.

Elsewhere, painting of aging play equipment has progressed in 5 locations, the bandstand was refurbished at West End Park, new trees are soon to be planted also in Wisbech Park, albeit some will have to come down following a recent inspection. Work on the felling is due to start imminently.

Also in Wisbech, the rose garden in Mount Pleasant cemetery has received attention and the area is now unrecognisable with many dead plants removed and a significant number of replacements about to be planted. The surrounding hedge will be thinned and the pathways jet washed and repaired where necessary. The Community Payback team have also been busy in the area with clearance work progressing well over the latter part of the summer.

In Whittlesey, the wildflower meadow at the Manor has been cut back in preparation for 2023 and progress to install a BMX pump track at West End Park, whilst slow, is nearing commencement. Tivoli and FDC contribution to the Gold award for Chatteris in Bloom was also noted

Street Lighting (Cllr Jan French)

Street Light Repairs & Maintenance

A total of 38 streetlight faults were reported and attended to during the months of August, September and October by FDC's streetlight maintenance contractor on behalf of FDC, Clarion Housing Association and seven of the Parish Councils. Only 15 of the reported faults related to District Council streetlights.

Capital Street Light Replacement Works

Limited progress was made in August, September and October on the outstanding programmed Capital replacement works. Some delays in materials are still being experienced and long lead in times for UKPN connectivity works remain. However, a large proportion of programme slippage has been attributed to a shortage in FDC's streetlight contractor resources. A new contracts manager has now been appointed by Cable Test Ltd and it is envisaged that the remainder of the works already commissioned will be concluded by the end of the financial year.

FDC Car Park Maintenance (Cllr Jan French)

Car Park asset inspections were undertaken at the end of October. Defects are currently being quantified and repair works will be undertaken over the coming months. Prices are awaited for repairs to the Somers Road Car Park recycling centre which unfortunately sustained fire damage in June following a suspected arson attack on the adjacent BT building. Repair works to the asphalt surface and boundary fence along with the relocation of the recycling centre to another location within the car park is scheduled to take place at the end of the year.

Following consultation with the community safety team and local constabulary, replacement of the broken vehicle stop kerbs in Furrowfields Road Car Park, Chatteris which were installed to prevent the repeated car related ASB are scheduled to be replaced in January.

General ground maintenance and gully cleaning works will also be undertaken over the next few months throughout FDC public car park sites.

Getting it Sorted Volunteers Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)

The 41 trained volunteers continue to be active in their communities, schools and events, along with education on their patch and producing regular email updates to all 2,000 customers who have registered to receive them. So far this year the volunteers have completed a total of 350 volunteer hours and spoken directly to 1,540 customers, visited 17 schools or groups, and organised 12 events.

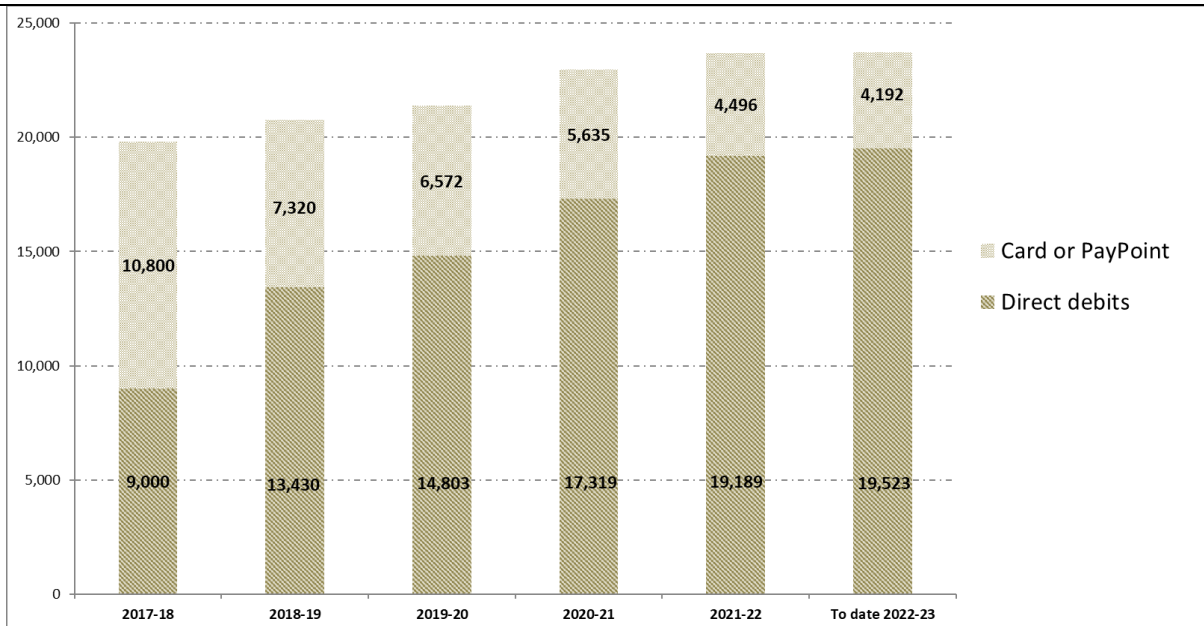
The Getting IT Sorted website (www.gettingitsorted.org) continues to be a well-used resource with 6,700 searches so far this year. The recycling information promoted through the Getting It Sorted Facebook page has achieved a reach of 9,334 people so far.

The volunteers have been involved in Golden Age fairs, landlord forums, supporting houses of multiple occupation, local primary schools and running local events.

The most recent Getting It Sorted schools and young people's [recycling competition](#) was recently launched by Cllr Murphy.

Garden Waste Service Update (Cllr Peter Murphy)

The Fenland Garden Waste Service continues to grow but faces pressure from increasing service, resource and fuel costs.



Subscription Payment by Payment Type 2017- (Oct) 2022

Customers are increasingly taking advantage of the reduced price direct debit, and as a result reducing the burden on administration and customer services. This year we have 82% (19,523) of customers paying by direct debit, 15% (3,690) by card online or by phone and 2% (502) via PayPoint at local shops and post offices.

Total income this year is just over £930,000. With increasing costs of supplies, fuel and resources are forecast to match this income, but there is an increasing risk that as costs rise that subscription income may not cover service costs moving forwards.

As a result, the coming season will see a slight increase in subscription costs to cover these growing costs. Direct debits will be £39 next season, with cash and card sales £47 for 2023/24. These costs remain the lowest in the Eastern Region.

Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Update (Cllr Steve Count)

CSP Workforce Development

Training themes for CSP Workforce Development sessions are linked to the priorities within the CSP action plan. Frontline staff from statutory and the voluntary sectors who work across Fenland are invited to attend these free training sessions.

Those attending include staff from housing providers, FDC teams, police, probation, traveller teams, young people workers, family workers, children centres, food banks, volunteers, schools, healthcare workers, faith groups, community organisations and citizens advice.

Prevent Training

CSP has in partnership with Eastern Region Special Operations Unit worked on facilitating two Prevent training events in Fenland. Planned for the 03/11/2022 and 07/12/2022.

The training will cover:

- Introduction to the Prevent Team
- Current UK threat level and looking at potential threats, including what to look out for
- A basic understanding of some of the ideologies
- What is Prevent and Channel? An overview of the process following a referral.
- How to make a referral to Prevent
- Some background into online platforms being used to exploit vulnerable people.

Rural Engagement

The CSP continue to engage with rural communities. We have attended a Book Café in Murrow, Wisbech St Marys Good Companion club and a coffee morning in Walsoken. We have contacted rural parishes again to make them aware of our willingness to hold similar events where there is a good opportunity of local residents being in attendance, either at existing events or times/locations of increased footfall.



The sessions held have been supported by the local police team who are more than willing to attend, operational demand allowing.

Community Safety and Police advised on rural residents on scams, reporting neighbourhood and environmental issues, signpost to support with energy costs, roadside memorials, electric scooters, speeding, rough sleeping, drug activity, out of control dogs and littering.

Community Engagement March/Project Edward

On 20 October, the Fenland Community Safety partnership supported a multi-agency Vison Zero Project Edward road safety event. With support of other teams within FDC we secured three venues and provided large scale resources on the day to ensure all partners were able to safely engage with residents in what was challenging weather conditions.



Community Safety Newsletter 12th Edition

The CSP newsletter reports back on the activity of the CSP and will be published this November. This will be available on the CSP webpage and be distributed to partners in the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Hard copies are available in local libraires. In this edition you will find updates on workforce development sessions, engagement events, CAPASP. Plus, support and advice and reporting links on a range of concerns for the Fenland community to refer to.

Street Drinking Update (Cllr Steve Count)

With the introduction of the police led partnership approach Operation Luscombe there does appear to have been a reduction in instances of visible street drinking. This is based upon initial observations from patrols by police.

One area where the joint working approach has been successful is in the Old Market. Community Safety worked closely with the Wisbech Neighbourhood Police Team and their Op Luscombe Officer to understand the issues impacting the area and to identify any perpetrators. This followed several reports from residents and businesses of street drinking related nuisance and begging.

Alleged perpetrators have been provided with Op Luscombe referrals. We have received positive feedback from the original informant who has indicated a clear reduction in problems being experienced.

Key PIs:

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 22/23	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP8	Rapid or Village Response requests actioned the same or next day	95%	90%	96%	
CELP9	% of inspected streets meeting our cleansing standards (including graffiti and flyposting)	99%	93%	99%	
CELP10	% of household waste recycled through the blue bin service (1 month in arrears)	27.5%	28%	27%	
CELP11	Customer satisfaction with refuse and recycling services	96.3%	90%	TBC	
CELP12	Customer satisfaction with our garden waste service	98.75%	85%	TBC	
CELP13	Number of Street Pride, Green Dog Walkers, and Friends Of community environmental events supported	191	204	144	
CELP14	% of those asked who are satisfied with events	97%	96%	97.5	

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments

Economy

Projects from Business Plan:

Continue to review council land and property assets to ensure they are fit for purpose and optimised to deliver better public services, improve efficiency and release surplus land for residential and commercial development as outlined in our Commercial Investment Strategy (Cllr Ian Benney)

Following the completion of sales of the first group of three sites, a further nine sites have had planning applications submitted prior to disposal. The sites are at Eastwood, Grounds Ave, Hurst Ave, Drybread Rd, Crown Ave, Upwell Rd, Gibside Ave, Mile Tree Lane and Riverside gardens.

Work continues with the Estates Dept and Portfolio holder to bring forward a set of Tranche 2 properties for members to consider for disposal.

Due to higher than forecast tender returns from the initial tender process, the tender process has now been suspended and bidders notified of this decision. Estates colleagues continue to work with the design team and Combined Authority to identify a solution that will enable a suitable commercial scheme to be delivered.

Continue to lobby for improvements to our transport infrastructure, including the A47 economic corridor (Cllr Chris Seaton)

Wisbech Access Strategy

There is no specific update on this project

This is a CPCA funded project being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council. The latest information about the project can be found on the County Council website from the following link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-funding-bids-and-studies/wisbech-access-strategy>

A Wisbech Access Strategy report was presented to CPCA Business Board in July 2021 and CPCA Board in September 2021. The report required a strategic decision on the way forward linked to timescales and budgets. It was agreed that funding would be made available to complete the detailed design and the land acquisition for the 3 schemes – A47 Broad End Road, A47 Elm High Road and A1101 Ramnoth Road/Weasenham Lane. The work is progressing alongside a full business case project. These projects are now very near to completion in late 2022. A copy of the main accompanying paper for the meetings mentioned above can be found from the following link:

https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1529/Committee/62/Default.aspx

The next step for these 3 projects is to secure funding for their construction.

Kings Dyke Level Crossing

There is no specific update on this project

The deliverer of this project is through Cambridgeshire County Council, Growth Deal Funding by the former Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Transforming Cities Fund. In July 2022, the new Kings Dyke bridge opened to traffic. Please see the link below for further details and images.

[King's Dyke bridge opens after 50-year bid to replace level crossing - BBC News](#)

The County Council website includes significant detail about this project including technical reports and questions and answers. This webpage can be accessed from the following link. [Kings Dyke Crossing](#).

March Area Transport Study

This is a CPCA funded project being delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council. It includes a range of transport projects across March to address transport issues and to facilitate new housing and employment growth.

The main project is currently in detailed design stage and full business case project work which is due to complete in late 2022. Papers confirming the outcome of the previous Outline Business Case (OBC) work including recommendations to draw down funding for detailed design and the final business case, were part of CCC, CPCA and FDC meetings in November and December 2021.

A copy of the OBC report can be found on the County Council website from the following link:

[Council and committee meetings - Cambridgeshire County Council > Meetings \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

In October 2022 a further paper went to CPCA Board. This has secured the drawdown of £962,000 to allow utility and procurement works to commence. This is not new funding but an accelerated approach for schemes in St Peters Road, Peas Hill and Twenty Foot Road.

The MATS project also includes a Walking and Cycling Strategy. £562,800 was also approved at the October 2022 CPCA Board meeting. This funding allows for schemes in the Walking and Cycling Strategy to be progressed in 3 phases. The phase one schemes which are primarily lining and signing will be constructed and completed in full. Phase 2a schemes require further investigation and design work to determine the solution to be built. Phase 2b schemes require option development work as well as further investigation and design work. This funding will enable 28 projects to be

progressed as set out above. Phases 2A and 2B will require further funding in the future for their construction.

A copy of the October 2022 CPCA Board meeting paper setting out more details and information including for the 28 schemes can be found from the link below:

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2117/Committee/63/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

The full technical details and feasibility study work associated with the March Area Transport Strategy can be found on the County Council website from the link below

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-funding-bids-and-studies/march-transport-study>

March to Wisbech Railway Line

This is a CPCA funded project with current study and assessment work being undertaken by Network Rail. The outcome of the study work is to be discussed at the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee in mid-November 2022. The study is expected to focus on light railway and heavy railway options. A link to the papers and information for the CPCA meeting can be found from the link below:

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2139/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

In March 2021 CPCA gave an update to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on the Wisbech railway project. This included a recommendation to draw down an additional £300,000 for the further study work mentioned above. The work was to look to align the Wisbech Railway work with the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement project and in the short term a Wisbech to March service. A copy of the March 2021 CPCA report can be found in the link below.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1973/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

A47 Dualling (CPCA Project)

There is no specific update on this project.

It was reported in late 2020 that National Highways (formally Highways England) Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) announcement did not include the A47 dualling project. Discussions between CPCA, National Highways and Government in early 2021 have since continued and negotiations are ongoing. In February 2021 National Highways agreed to undertake a review of the stage 0 work completed by CPCA. This review is to determine if there is any further work needed with a view to National Highways

adopting the development work into their own programme. It was also agreed that the work will also consider proposals from East Tilney to A47/A17 junction in Norfolk. We are awaiting the outcome of this project.

The above information was reported to the CPCA Transport and Infrastructure Committee in March 2021. A link to the paper from that meeting is below.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1973/Committee/67/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Support the delivery of interventions listed within the four market town 'Growing Fenland' socio-economic masterplans (Cllr Ian Benney)

All £4m of CPCA funding has now been allocated to Growing Fenland projects. Updates on the projects are shown below:

Chatteris

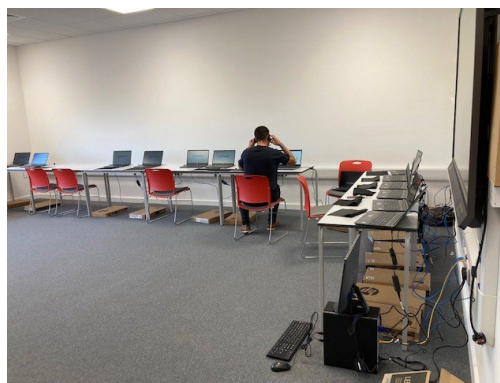
Chatteris Town Renaissance Fund (£92k)

The Chatteris Town Renaissance Fund project is progressing well and continues to consider and process applications for business grants as a result of the continued promotion of the scheme.

The street furniture refurbishment work is now complete.

Chatteris Skills Development (£36,179)

All of the ICT equipment is now being configured, ready for use. West Suffolk College have started marketing Adult Education courses that will be delivered from the North Cambs Training Centre either on the premises, virtually or remotely, using the equipment.



Chatteris Museum & Community Space (£771,821)

Chatteris Town Council have now purchased 2 Park Street (the former Barclays Bank) and building work is well underway. Listed building consents are being applied for on a regular basis so that agreement can be given on suitable works. New security, fire alarm and CCTV systems are being installed.

Allowing for the Christmas break and any hold-ups which may arise whilst waiting for building supplies and building consent, it is hoped that the building will be ready for re-occupation on 1 April 2023.

Planning permission to extend and convert 14 Church Lane has been agreed in principle, pending further agreements being approved.

March

Match funding for March Future High Street Project (£900k)

Please click on the link to see the update for [March Future High Street Project](#) elsewhere in this document.

Whittlesey

Whittlesey Interactive Highway Signs (£57,500)

Project complete (please [click here](#) for further information).

Whittlesey Heritage Walk (£218,169)

The Whittlesey Heritage Walk was officially opened on 20 October. The new interactive walk will help to encourage people to explore the fascinating and often undiscovered history of town. Walkers will be guided by new signage and wayfinding information boards, and they can also use a walk brochure or an interactive app to help them along the route.

Leading explorers on a circular route of the historic town, the Whittlesey Heritage Walk has options to follow a longer or shorter trail, each beginning and ending in the Market Place, with its late 17th century open market house, the Butter Cross.

The routes take in much-loved landmarks, places of interest, and examples of well-preserved architecture spanning several centuries, highlighting fascinating facts and intriguing histories along the way.



There is also the option to add on a scenic riverside walk or follow routes to the Kings Dyke Nature Reserve, Lattersey Nature Reserve, and Whittlesea Railway Station.

To complete the Whittlesey Heritage Walk, visitors can:

- Head to the Market Place, Whittlesey, and follow the directions on the information boards at various points along the routes.
- **Download the Whittlesey Heritage Walk brochure**. Copies of the brochure are also available for those without internet access from the Whittlesey Town Council offices in Queen Street (**check their website for opening hours**)

- Get a guided tour of the walk on mobile with the **Love Exploring app**. The app, which is free to download, uses an interactive map to guide explorers round the walk and provides interesting insights into the town's hidden histories.



Families and youngsters will particularly enjoy the Love Exploring app's Augmented Reality and GEO-Location features, providing fun and games along the route. There are also plans in the pipeline to develop an Augmented Reality version of Whittlesey's famous Straw Bear to add to the app.

For further information, please see the information page on the Council's website [Whittlesey Heritage Walk - Fenland District Council](#).

Whittlesey Heritage Visitor Centre (£500k)

As part of the Growing Fenland work for the town of Whittlesey, the town team requested £500,000 to develop a heritage centre for the town. This facility was to be situated on Forterra land, adjacent to a local nature reserve about ¾ of a mile outside the

town. Substantial work has been undertaken by third party consultants prior to the Growing Fenland project regarding this project.

Following the Combined Authority's (CPCA) approval of the grant to Whittlesey Town Council to support the development of the Heritage Centre, the Town Council put together a project working group consisting of three elected Members. Work on the design of the facility has been underway since 2021 until March 2022. Whilst a design now exists, there is a substantial gap in funding between the expected cost of the new building and the funding available. Other funders have been considered with no success – the funding gap is too large and requires a national funder such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. With the current climate in the construction market, alongside the abnormal inflation seen in the UK, any build project would need to add in a substantial inflationary contingency, as well as contingencies for unforeseen issues encountered during the build. These considerations increase the funding gap further.

The project team has considered the location and the gap in funding, alongside market conditions and believe that continuing with the project at this time is unlikely to produce a facility in a timely, affordable manner. The project will not give good value for money to the taxpayer and work on the heritage centre has been suspended since early summer 2022.

The CPCA has asked for a paper to consider alternative options that the remedial funding from the heritage centre project could be used for in Whittlesey. A report was prepared that listed several items at the Manor site. However, as the Whittlesey Town Team (the group nominated to determine suitable projects for the CPCA Town Fund,

taking regard of the Whittlesey Growing Fenland market town report) had not discussed this paper, it has been put to one side. Town Team meetings to discuss the funding have been held to develop a paper to CPCA that has Town Team approval.

Following the meeting of the Town Team on 26 October, the Team has settled on several community focussed projects that they wish the funding to be allocated to. These projects either reflect priorities within the Growing Fenland Whittlesey market town report or issues that are important to the community and have arisen since that report was originally developed.

Costs estimated for the improvements specified are as follows;

£260,000	Strategic Outline Business Case – Whittlesey Relief Road
£55,000	Community basketball / tennis / netball, improvements incl. site investment appraisal
£20,000	Market Place improvements
£10,000	Library display, with anticipated match funding from NLHF / Arts Council
£110,000	Additional solar PV on swimming pool building
£455,000	Total

It should be noted that of these projects the only one that is scalable is the solar PV project. As this is the case, the Town Team in Whittlesey has asked that once procurement of the 4 initial projects is complete, the remaining funding will then be used for the solar PV. With the current disruption that inflation and supply chain issues are causing across many industries, the team is keen to ensure that once firm costs from quotations are available for the 4 initial projects, that the grant funding is flexible enough to accommodate fluctuations in costs that are above estimates.

Whittlesey Business Capital Grants Scheme (£124,331)

Remaining payments are being finalised. A further update will be included in the next joint Portfolio Holder report.

Wisbech

Wisbech Market Place Enhancement Scheme (£200k)

Project complete. For further details please [click here](#).

Wisbech Footfall Counters (£19,500)

Project complete.

Wisbech Replacement Shopwatch Radio Scheme (£33,800)

This funding has been received in full by the Town Council but none of the money has yet been spent.

A meeting between the Wisbech Town Council Clerk and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, for the purpose of developing a Service Level Agreement in relation to the council "handing-over" the radio scheme to the Chamber of

Commerce, has taken place. The Town Clerk is in the process of finalising the Service Level Agreement. A representative of the Chamber of Commerce (who is also a member of Wisbech Town Council) has been involved in discussions with the supplier of the equipment regarding some of the pre-installation technical issues. The delay in implementing this scheme is because of the need to secure access to the radio repeater system, which is installed at Exchange Square (the former FDC offices in Wisbech) alongside the CCTV relays. Aarron Locks, the Manager of the joint FDC and Peterborough City Council CCTV service is currently negotiating with the new owners of Exchange Square an agreement to continue to use that space for both the radio repeater system and the CCTV relays. It is understood that that an agreement is close to being reached. As soon as that situation has been resolved, Wisbech Town Council is ready to procure the equipment and issue it to the Chamber of Commerce. This project has been incorporated within the Safer Wisbech Action Plan.

Wisbech Splash Pad (£147,500)

Project completed. Please click on the link below for further information:

[Wisbech Splashpad Officially Opens - Fenland District Council](#)

Wisbech Park Community Hub (£299,200)

The planning application for the community hub has been approved and procurement paperwork is being developed with new architects. Power and water are already in place as a result of the splashpad facility's development.

The project team expects to go out to tender in December, with returns due in January. Subject to tender returns and affordability, start on site is anticipated in March 2023.

Wisbech Business Capital Grants Scheme (£200,000)

Remaining payments are being finalised. A further update will be included in the next joint Portfolio Holder report.

District Wide

Civil Parking Enforcement (£400k)

Please click on the link to see the update for [Civil Parking Enforcement](#) elsewhere in this document¹⁸.

Continue to prepare a new Local Plan document, which will determine how the district will grow in the future (Cllr Dee Laws)

The community consultation closed in October 2022 and the representations are in the process of being analysed. A revised plan (with a summary of the representations and recommendations on whether or not the Plan should be changed to accommodate them) will be brought before members (by July 2023 at the latest) for approval prior to another round of community consultation.

Deliver railway projects with CPCA support through the Manea, March and Whittlesea Stations Project Boards (Cllr Chris Seaton)

Manea Station

The car park is nearing completion. The car park is expected to be open in late 2022.

March Station

The platform 1 building project and the refurbished and extended station car park are now complete. The official opening event took place in May 2022.

Whittlesea Station

The second strategic outline business case and options appraisal work is now complete. The Project Board have reviewed the recommendations and have confirmed the next steps for an Outline Business Case (OBC) Project. A high-level proposal for the OBC project has been completed and submitted to CPCA for consideration as part of their funding assessment process. Funding will need to be secured for any future work.

Work with partners to deliver property improvements and the activity plan as part of the National Lottery Heritage Funded Wisbech High Street Project (Cllr Chris Seaton)

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) scheme has continued to progress positively.

Individual property updates are as follows:

13-17 Wisbech High Street - now complete with a certificate of completion received by the NLHF Officer.

18 Wisbech High Street - has completed 60% of the works to their property with completion programmed for this quarter

19 Wisbech High Street - have now formally completed their grant application with works expected to take place in 2023.

31 Wisbech High Street - formally completed an application for funding which was approved, works commenced on November 4th and will be completed by November 19th.

24 Wisbech High Street - FDC are currently in a pre-contractual agreement with ETEC (chosen contractor) to generate a formal target cost for the works. Once received, this cost will be reviewed by the team ahead of commencement onsite in the new year. Start date currently targeted for end of January 2023.

11-12 Wisbech High Street – Officers are currently exploring two options for development of 11-12 following the departure of the previous private investor. One option is for the creation of a temporary Façade at the site which would plug the gap in the Highstreet but not add any real world usage. The second option continues to work with an external investor and funding partners to create a development similar to that which currently has planning permission. Updates on this will be provided under separate cover at forthcoming Cabinet meetings.

Fenland District Council is also in the process of requesting a further formal extension to the grant funding agreement with the NLHF as funding continues to be allocated and projects progressed. Initial conversations with the NLHF indicate that this should not be an issue.

Activity plan

We have worked with partners at Lincoln Conservation, six artist workshop providers, St Peter's Church Hall and Etcetera Community Hub Studio. We have co-ordinated seven free traditional heritage skills workshop as part of the Wisbech High Street Project activity plan.

We have promoted, organised and been point of contact for the public attending and we have liaised with venues and supported with on the day delivery. Each of these events have been successful with new people joining each workshop and learning about the history of their town, local buildings and interesting opportunities to learn traditional skills. We have received positive feedback from those attending:

24/31 participants were local to Wisbech

14/31 participants have engaged with the project before

31/31 participants said that they learnt something

Comments included:

- “very educational!”
- “excellent and informative day”
- “amazing workshop loved learning a new skill”
- “fantastic event, full day that felt like 10 minutes my favourite day ever!”
- “absolutely great - hope more funding will be made available to bring much needed creative activities to Fenland via the Council”
- “thank you so much for the opportunity...fantastic day, will be telling everyone about this”

Other Projects:

Economic Growth Team Activity (Cllr Ian Benney)

Investment Zones

Four Expressions of Interest (Eoi) have been submitted to the Combined Authority (CPCA) for Investment Zones in Fenland for:

- Whittlesey Science & Technology Park (ex-brickworks site)
- Nene Waterfront, Wisbech
- Advanced Manufacturing Park, Chatteris (Stainless Metalcraft)
- South Wisbech (previous location for potential enterprise zone).

The CPCA have forwarded all the Eoi's to DLUHC and we await their decision as to whether we are to take any to full application.

Shared Prosperity Fund

The CPCA have received the detailed Annex 2 proposals. The amount we have been allocated to bid for is £1.25m over three years.

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

We are currently considering a joint submission with the other three local authorities eligible to bid for REPF. The amount we have been allocated to bid for is £436k over two years. The CPCA will submit a joint proposal to DLUHC by end November.

The REPF provides capital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

Events

A half day Skills & Employment event was held at The Boathouse featuring eight exhibitors, including DWP, North Cambs Training Centre and Growth Works Skills. A total of 14 major businesses attended and we received very positive feedback from them all about how they will make use of the information and take part in follow up meetings to help them with their recruitment and retention of staff. For those major employers that could not attend we have held a number of onsite meetings along with Growth Works with Skills. Interest from the employers is focussed on upskilling the existing workforce and apprenticeships.

ADAS, who established an office in Chatteris earlier this year, held an Innovation in Post-harvest Management of Fresh Produce event attended by food and agriculture businesses. The company offer consultancy services to and work with food businesses

to attract government funded research grants for development projects.

Discretionary Business Rates Scheme

Cabinet & Council in October approved a new discretionary business rates scheme aimed at encouraging developers to build new business units with the potential of not having to pay business rates for up to 12 months until the unit is occupied.

Other updates

Working with the Council's communications team, we have redesigned the Fenland for Business website and will continue to develop it including utilising video content.

We welcomed Cherrie Gatty, My Fenland Technical Officer, to the team who in addition to her My Fenland duties will provide much needed support to the Economic Growth Team. Her first objective is to cleanse and add to the data the team hold on local businesses and provide contact and other information on businesses we are targeting to attract into Fenland.

Future High Streets Fund (Cllr Ian Benney, Cllr Chris Seaton & Cllr Jan French)

Broad Street/Riverside:

Projects were put out to tender in early October with the team now focussed on responding to queries from any contractors regarding works. The tender response deadline for contractors is now set as the 25th November. To date we have received confirmation from 2 of the 4 contractors on the framework that they intend to provide a target cost for the works. FDC now have confirmation of all funding required to deliver this scheme from The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). FDC is programmed to contract a delivery partner in January 2023 via the CCC framework.

Members were consulted regarding the location of the recently included toilet block as part of the Riverside scheme on Monday 14th November. The chosen location will now be passed onto the design firm for re-design.

Marketplace

Marketplace works are progressing well towards delivery. Materials have now been purchased for the development of the site. Arrangements to relocate market traders onto City Road car park are now in place with all traders contacted regarding the temporary change.

The final Market Day will take place on January 7th with the marketplace closed for works thereafter for circa 10 weeks.

Purchase of development sites:

Fenland District Council has now made formal offers on both the Collingwood's and

Barclays sites within the town. It was agreed at the last meeting to progress the legal process at risk (pending DLUHC approval) to continue this process. FDC have now moved forward into the legal process via our Property Management Team. DLUHC have not responded with approval to date regarding the allocation of funding for these purposes following a Project Amendment Request submitted on the 17th October 2022.

Planning:

At the previous Member Steering Group meeting it was agreed to progress with planning applications in relation to works being planned for Broad Street and the Riverside. Planning applications for the schemes were submitted on 14th October 2022 and are now under review by the Planning Department.

Programme dates:

Programme key dates are as follows:

The March Market Place will commence Monday the 9th of January for 10 weeks (weather dependent) following a final Market trading day on the site on the 7th January.

Broad Street and Riverside works will be split. Cadent Gas are anticipated to begin works mid-February with the Future Highstreet Fund and MATS work beginning thereafter (estimated to be May) for one year.

The public toilet works will be completed following all other works in 2024 and will be delivered by FDC's engineering department as a separate project to the Future Highstreet Fund and MATS projects.

Promote and develop our Business Premises at South Fens, The Boathouse and Light Industrial Estates to encourage investment, business and job creation and skills diversification (Cllr Ian Benney)

The Estates Department continue to work with tenants of all sites to ensure the properties remain occupied and profitable. As of October, all industrial units are fully occupied whilst the Boathouse is at 88.8% occupancy and the South Fens Business Centre is at 71%.

The Boathouse occupancy is lower for this period as two tenants have had funding withdrawn and have therefore vacated. However new tenants have been identified and ongoing work to secure the new leases is progressing

The process of reviewing the occupancies of the industrial units continues with offices taking action to renew expired leases across all sites before moving onto rent reviews which have not been actioned. To date the work has resulted in rent increases to the benefit of FDC of 25.87% on the estates actioned as well as the management benefit

of the agreements being on new standardised modern lease terms

Affordable Homes (Cllr Sam Hoy)

The new affordable home completions total has reduced from a forecast of 170 units to a total of 61 units expected during 2022/2023. This is due to the following:

- Elm High Road, Wisbech was expecting 79 units to handover during 2022/23 but these have now all slipped into 2023/24
- Bassenhally Phase 3, Whittlesey was expecting 27 units to handover during 2022/23 but some of these completions have slipped. We are currently forecasting 7 units for 2022/23 and the remainder during 2023/24
- Wisbech Road, March was expecting 10 units to handover during 2022/23 but these have now slipped into 2023/24
- Kingswood Park is still showing 27 units forecast for handover during 2022/23 but these are at risk of slipping into next financial year, due to the original Contractor going into administration. This means Sanctuary need to reappoint the contractors to finish up and complete the units and retest all the installations.

Environmental Health inspection and business support programme (Cllr Sam Hoy)

Fresh social media campaign

As part of our work to support businesses, a fresh series of social media posts commenced this last quarter. Each time business achieves a score of 5 in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme we offer to publicise this score. The monthly social media posts are going well and receiving many views.

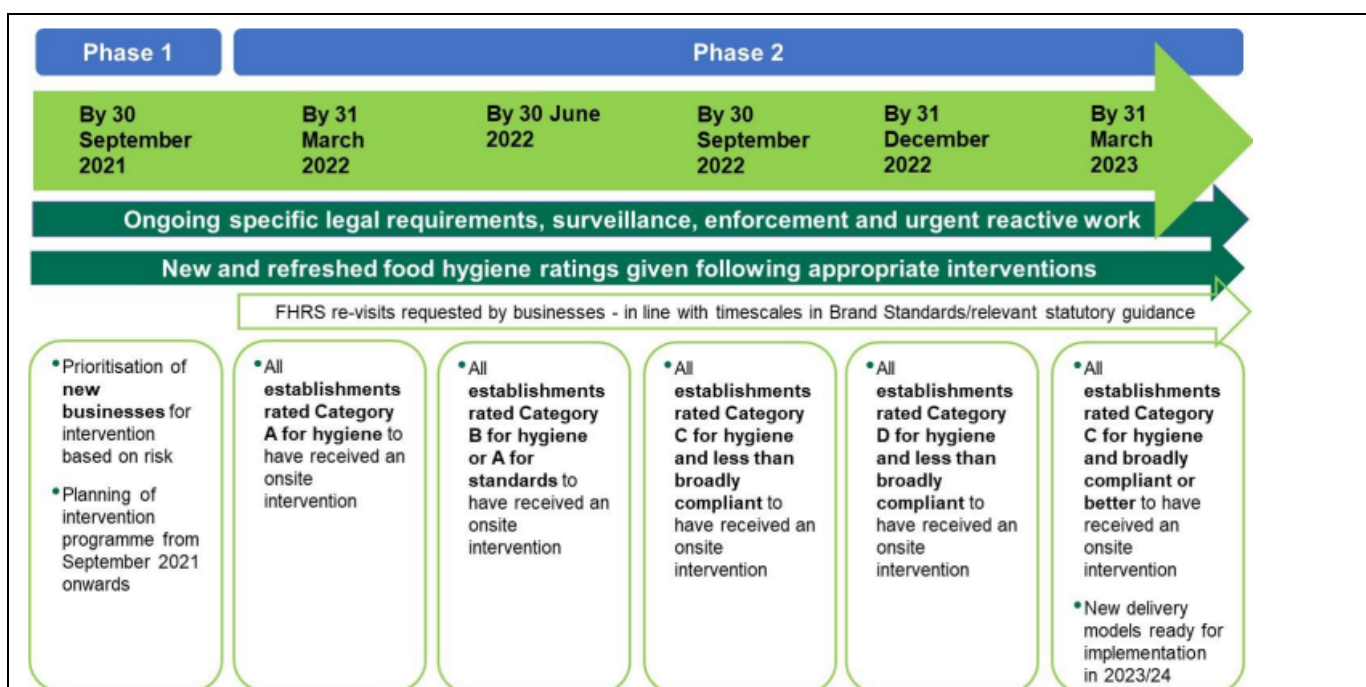
The list of successful businesses is published on our website and the social media post contains the link that leads to this.

[Food Hygiene Rating Scheme - Fenland District Council](#)

Statutory inspection programme

In October, the Food Standards Agency requested information in relation to the Council's progress to meet the Agency's recovery plan. This plan allows some flexibility to the normal inspection programme due to councils continuing to 'catch up' following the COVID pandemic and businesses being closed or restricted in terms of their activities.

Our feedback was positive and that we continue to meet the requirements and timescales of the plan below:



Inspections completed

From August to 8th Nov 2022, the team carried out 113 food safety interventions. There were 6 formal interventions required with most businesses achieving high ratings through the food hygiene rating scheme.

Month	Number inspected	Number rated 4 or above
August	25	25
September	52	49
October	33	26
November	3 (to date of reporting)	3
Total	113	103

The Council continues to receive complaints about food and food premises and take appropriate action. There were 38 reports of food safety or hygiene issues from August to November 8th.

Health and Safety at work inspection programme

Progress against this statutory plan has continued throughout the reporting period. This service plan sets out the regulatory requirements for health and safety in the workplace.

Of particular focus has been those businesses offering skin piercing and beauty treatments. During this period there have been 4 new tattoo businesses licensed.

Key PIs:

Key PI	Description	Baseline	Target 21/22	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
CELP15	% of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks (or within extension of time)	92%	70%	82%	
CELP16	% of minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within extension of time)	72%	70%	62%	
CELP17	% of other planning applications determined in 8 weeks (or within extension of time)	84%	80%	82%	
EGA1	% occupancy of our business estates	91.2%	92%	94.4%	
MS1	% occupancy of Wisbech Yacht Harbour (85 berths)	94%	95%	95%	
CELP18	% of businesses who said they were supported and treated fairly	100%	96%	100%	

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments
Performance in relation to Minor applications, whilst below target, has improved since the figures were last reported. There has been a 3% improvement since the previous month. Performance on Major and Other applications exceeds our performance target. The team remain under considerable pressure with caseloads higher than benchmark levels and turnover of agency staff as we have been unable to fill all the vacant post we have in the team. There also remains the vacant conservation post which is impacting on Development Management staff.

Quality Organisation

Projects from Business Plan:

Deliver our Commercial Investment Strategy (Cllrs Chris Boden & Ian Benney)

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 of a commercial investment in Wisbech and a house in March. These acquisitions were approved at Investment Board meetings held on 16th March 2021 and 3rd December 2021 respectively. Further utilisation will be needed when the funding position of Fenland Future Ltd is fully agreed.

The Commercial Investment in Wisbech has delivered a rental income of £230k for the year to March 2022. Rental income continues to be on track for 2022/23. As we used our own funds to acquire this asset there is no external cost of capital and the loss of interest foregone on our funds is minimal at present. This acquisition has enhanced the Councils revenue position and has had a positive impact on the MTFs as presented to Full Council in February 2022.

Fenland Future Ltd has applied for Outline Planning permission on the two Council owned sites identified for development in their Business Plan. Work now progresses on options for the delivery methodology to be utilised in delivering the developments. Financing, SLA and Indemnity agreements were approved by the Investment Board in July 2022.

Deliver the Transformation project to modernise customer service arrangements across the district (Cllr Steve Tierney)

The Corporate Transformation programme, under the Council for the Future priority, continues to focus on modernising the way we deliver all aspects of services to our customers. The project aim of **“improving customer experience and making it even easier for people to interact with the council”** continues to be at the heart of service design as well as ensuring we exploit the use of technology to increase customer choice regarding accessing services at the same time as working efficiently and effectively, building resilience whilst driving down costs.

Key achievements to date have included

- **5** admin services brought together creating a single point of contact for customers

- **29** staff in new roles
- **99.5%** of customer queries resolved at first point of contact
- **Over 18,000** payments made via PayPoint
- Over **£2.5m** in payments made via PayPoint
- Launch of Paypoint payments in relation to Turf Lane Traveller site- November 2022
- New ways of working has released **2 days** per week chargeable support to Hunts DC
- **136** process mapped across services
- **33** processes redesigned
- **8** service teams supported by Technical Officers
- **17** customer digital journeys launched including Licensing and Environmental Health
- **8** new online website forms launched
- Automated trade Waste Invoices
- **£203k** savings 2021/22

The Transformation Programme works with services across the Council

Current projects include

Planning Service – Process mapping and business process redesign, maximising the use of technology and efficient working practices. The Initial phase 1 recommendations have been shared with key members and the service, with implementation commencing January 2023.

Cemeteries – business process mapping/ process redesign, maximising the use of technology, building resilience

Markets and Events – Launching Digital Journey's enabling customers to book and pay for the service via one single electronic process

Economic Growth – Providing support to business at the first point of contact, releasing specialist Officer time to work more proactively with businesses with high growth potential

Private Sector Housing – Business process redesign releasing specialist officer capacity

Tree Management Software

Estates Software

Housing Options

Better Online Services Project (Cllr Steve Tierney)

Better Online Services Project aims to “**Develop the Council's website to provide residents and businesses with even better online services**”

Our aim is to have an inviting and user-friendly website for our residents and businesses: www.fenland.gov.uk. We aim to have a suite of online forms and digital

journeys that enable residents and customers to self-serve via the website, with little or no back-office intervention.

Our progress between April 2022 and September 2022:

Better Online Services - April to September 2022

Our Aim

Our aim is to develop the Council's website to provide residents and businesses with even better online services.



FDC Website

-  **157,000 visits** to www.fenland.gov.uk
-  **11,500 webforms** completed online
-  **Regular** update and front-page news story promotions to maintain user engagement
-  **Accessibility** improvements undertaken to increase compliance with WCAG 2.1AA
-  **Wisbech 2020 Vision** website brought back in house, with content hosted on the FDC website
-  **Development work** for the Fenland for Business website. This will bring an externally hosted website back in house.
-  **Launch of** 'Operation London Bridge' homepage template following the death of Her Majesty the Queen

Online Forms

-  Our website offers over **48 online forms** (an increase of 6 since March 2022)
-  **11,500** webforms completed online from April 2022 to September 2022
-  **Launch** of new online forms relating to Internment bookings, Commercial Waste enquiries, Noise complaints, Smoke complaints and the Local Plan consultation
-  **Updates** undertaken to Garden Waste form to improve the user journey
-  **Process mapping** work completed, and order placed for a Bulky Waste Collection form. Like our Missed Bin Reporting and Environmental Service Requests forms, it will be fully integrated with Bartec to provide real-time information to crews and reduce back-office resourcing

Digital Journeys

-  **2 Idox** Digital Journey forms for Licensing and Events. These enable customers to supply information or apply for a license via our website on a 24/7 basis
-  **Launch** of Noise Reporting, Smell Reporting and Event Application forms via Goss linking to Idox system, reducing the amount of back-office intervention required

Social Media

-  **Links** to regular Council news, events and information to our 8,838 Twitter followers and 6,100 Facebook followers



Identify and deliver projects that support us to become a 'Council For the Future' (CFF)
(Cllr Chris Boden & Cllr Steve Tierney)

Please see update included in the Council's Annual report for 2021/22.

Other Projects:

Communications Update (Cllr Steve Tierney)

News update:

The number of news stories added to the FDC website and distributed as press releases to local media:

- August – 11
- September – 10
- October - 9

Monthly update on FDC social media sites:

The number of social media updates added to the FDC twitter and Facebook accounts:

- August: Twitter = 99
Facebook = 95
- September: Twitter = 90
Facebook = 84
- October: Twitter = 130
Facebook = 115

We currently have 6,240 followers on Facebook and 8,844 followers on twitter.

Consultation Summary:

- Whittlesey Neighbourhood Plan Examination – 8 July – 1 September 2022
- Draft Local Plan – closed 19 October 2022
- March Railway Station Redevelopment Survey – September 2022
- Polling District Review - closes 11 November 2022
- Draft Planning Local Validation List – closes 14 November 2022
- Fens Reservoir (Anglian Watch & Cambridge Water) – closes 21 December 2022

Other Updates:

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) update (Cllr Chris Boden)

Information relating to the CPCA can be found on their website:

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

Mayoral decisions can be found [here](#).

Office decisions can be found [here](#).

The papers for recent meetings can be found by clicking on the links below:

CPCA COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING	LINK
Combined Authority Board	19.10.22	CMIS > Meetings
Audit & Governance Committee	30.09.22	CMIS > Meetings
Employment Committee	24.06.22	CMIS > Meetings
Housing & Communities Committee	14.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	17.10.22	CMIS > Meetings
Skills Committee	07.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Employment & Skills Board	18.10.22	CMIS > Meetings
Transport & Infrastructure Committee	16.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Business Board	14.11.22	CMIS > Meetings

Forthcoming CPCA meetings include:

CPCA COMMITTEE	DATE OF MEETING	LINK
Combined Authority Board	30.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Combined Authority Board	25.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Audit & Governance Committee	02.12.22	CMIS > Meetings
Audit & Governance Committee	13.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Audit & Governance Committee	27.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Employment Committee	30.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Housing & Communities Committee	16.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	28.11.22	CMIS > Meetings
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	23.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Skills Committee	09.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Employment & Skills Board	06.12.22	CMIS > Meetings
Transport & Infrastructure Committee	18.01.23	CMIS > Meetings
Business Board	09.01.23	CMIS > Meetings



Key PIs:

Key PI	Description	Target 21/22	Cumulative Target	Cumulative Performance	Variance (RAG)
PRC1	% of customer queries resolved at first point of contact	Rolling monthly target of 85% per month	85%	99%	
PRC2	% of customers satisfied with our service (March 2022)	90%		93%	
PRC3	% of contact centre calls answered within 20 seconds	Rolling monthly target rising to 46.5% by March 2023	35%	51%	
PRC4	% of contact centre calls handled	Rolling monthly target rising to 80% by March 2023	65%	89.6%	
ARP1	Days taken to process Council Tax Support new claims and changes	7.00 days	7.00	6.73	
ARP 2	Days taken to process Housing Benefit new claims and changes	6.00 days	8.00	7.93	
ARP3	In year % of Council Tax collected	95.72%	65.46%	65.72%	
ARP4	Council Tax net collection fund receipts	£64,734,624	£43,103,532	£43,234,699	
ARP5	% of NNDR collected	96.70%	63.65%	63.18%	
ARP6	NNDR net collection fund receipts	£24,017,406	£4,466,095	£15,457,406	
PRC5	Number of online forms submitted via FDC website	22,000		13,022	

Key:	
	Within 5% of target
	5-10% below target
	10% or more below target

Comments

Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	12 December 2022	
Report Title:	Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review 2022/23	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to review the Council's Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2022/23.

2 Key issues

- The Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2022/23 as presented to Cabinet on 12 December 2022 is attached.
- The report highlights all the key activities carried out within the Treasury Management function during the first six months of 2022/23. All activities have been conducted in accordance with the approved strategy and policies.
- Prudential indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the capital position have been revised.

3 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the report.

Agenda Item No:	7	
Committee:	Cabinet	
Date:	12 December 2022	
Report Title:	Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review 2022/23	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

The purpose of this report is to review the Council's Treasury Management activity for the first six months of 2022/23 and to provide members with an update on matters pertinent to future updates to the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

2 Key issues

- The Council has operated within its Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), Annual Investment Strategy, treasury limits and prudential indicators set by Council for the first six months of 2022/23.
- Forecasts are that Bank Rate will increase from its current rate of 3% to a peak of 4.50% in Q2, 2023 before subsequently decreasing back to 2.5% in Q3 of 2025.
- PWLB certainty rates are forecast to remain high in the near-term, given the extent to which market expectations are already priced in and then to fall back once inflation starts to fall through 2023.
- The Prudential indicators for capital expenditure and capital financing requirement (CFR) have been adjusted reflecting the updates to the capital programme since February 2022.
- No new external borrowing has been taken out to date in 2022/23. The current Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes that some external borrowing will be required over the three-and-a-half-year period to 31 March 2026.
- Investment income received from temporary investments (call accounts and fixed term deposits) for the first six months of 2022/23 was £164k. Due to the rise in investment returns as a consequence of Bank Rate increases, the projected outturn for 2022/23 has been revised to £500k against an original budget of £100k.
- Projected Income from property funds for 2022/23 is forecast at £130,000 against an original budget of £150,000.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the report.

Wards Affected	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder, Finance
Report Originator(s)	Peter Catchpole, Chief Finance Officer and Corporate Director Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
Contact Officer(s)	Peter Catchpole, Chief Finance Officer and Corporate Director Mark Saunders, Chief Accountant
Background Paper (s)	Link Asset Services template Council Report - 24 February 2022 - General Fund Budget 2022/23 and Capital Programme 2022-25 Cabinet Report – 11 July 2022 - Capital Programme Update Cabinet Report – 12 December 2022 – Draft Budget 2023/24 and Medium-Term Strategy

Report:

1 Context

- 1.1 The Council's responsibilities in relation to Treasury Management are defined as part of the Local Government Act 2003 ('the Act'). The Act requires the Council to have regard to the Treasury Management Code published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA).
- 1.2 Additionally, there is a statutory requirement for the Council to comply with the Prudential Code. There is a close interaction between the Treasury Management Code and the Prudential Code. The Prudential Code establishes a framework for the Council to self-regulate the affordability, prudence and sustainability of its capital expenditure and borrowing plans whilst the Treasury Management Code is concerned with how the Council uses its Treasury Management function to progress the future plans developed with reference to the Prudential Code.
- 1.3 The 2017 Prudential Code includes a requirement for local authorities to provide a Capital Strategy, a summary document approved by full Council covering capital expenditure and financing, treasury management and non-treasury investments
- 1.4 The Council's Capital Strategy for 2022/23 was approved by Full Council on the 24 February 2022.

Treasury Management

- 1.5 Treasury management is defined as "The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."
- 1.6 The Council complies with the requirements of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017 & 2021).
- 1.7 The primary requirements of the Code applicable to the 2022/23 financial year are as follows:
 - Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement, which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
 - Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices, which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
 - Receipt by Full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year.
 - Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
 - Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies (including Mid-year Review Report) to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Audit and Risk Management Committee.
- 1.8 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management and covers the following:
 - an economic update for the first six months of 2022/23 taking account of expert analysis provided by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Link Asset Services;

- a review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- the Council’s capital plans;
- a review of the Council’s investment portfolio for 2022/23;
- a report of the Council’s borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
- a report of debt rescheduling during 2022/23;
- a review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.

2 Economic Update

- 2.1 The second quarter of 2022/23 saw signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell, inflation increased with domestic price pressures showing little sign of abating in the near-term, and bank base rate was raised to 3%. The unemployment rate has fallen to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply.
- 2.2 In September and October 2022 there had been a step change in government policy and the fiscal loosening from its proposed tax cuts were likely to add to existing domestic inflationary pressures and could have potentially left a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Gilt yields had increased, and sterling had fallen following the “fiscal event” of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23rd September 2022 adding further upward pressure to interest rates.
- 2.3 However, following the reversal of the Truss/Kwarteng fiscal policies and Rishi Sunak’s appointment as the UK’s new Prime Minister has ushered in a period of calm in UK financial markets. Much of the extra political risk percentages on gilts that emerged in the wake of the mini-budget on 23rd September appears to have unravelled.
- 2.4 The new Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, delivered his Autumn Statement on 17th November announcing a fiscal tightening package peaking at £55bn per year, or just over 2% of GDP, in 2027/28, suggesting that after a period in which fiscal policy has provided the economy with support, it is about to become a major drag.
- 2.5 Market interest rate expectations have been pared back in recent weeks as fiscal policy has become tighter and although tighter fiscal policy may go some way to reducing the upward pressure on interest rates, stickier inflation means that Bank Rate is still expected to peak at around 4.50 – 4.75% next year.
- 2.6 The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee has increased interest rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis to date.

3 Interest Rate Forecast

- 3.1 The Council’s treasury advisor, Link Group, provided the following forecasts on 8th November 2022 (PWLB rates are certainty rates, gilt yields plus 80bps):

Link Group Interest Rate View 08.11.22													
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20

- 3.2 As shown in the forecast table above, the forecast in Bank Rate is that it will increase from its current rate of 3% to a peak of 4.50% in Q2, 2023 before subsequently decreasing back to 2.5% in Q3 of 2025.
- 3.3 Gilt Yields/PWLB Rates - The general situation is for volatility in bond yields to endure as investor fears for inflation and/or recession ebb and flow. The overall longer-run trend is for gilt yields and PWLB rates to remain high in the near-term, given the extent to which market expectations are already priced in and then to fall back once inflation starts to fall through 2023. PWLB rates and interest rates will both be kept under review by officers to inform the Council's strategy

4 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update

- 4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23 was approved by Council on 24 February 2022. There are no policy changes to the TMSS.
- 4.2 Changes are required to some of the prudential indicators as a result of the forecast 2022/23 capital outturn. The following table compare the previous prudential indicators (agreed on 24th February) against the latest revised indicators.

Prudential Indicator	2022/23 Previous £000	2022/23 Revised £000
Capital Programme	16,039	13,203
Capital Financing Requirement	16,185	11,100

5 The Council's Capital Position

- 5.1 This part of the report is structured to update:
- the Council's capital expenditure plans;
 - how these plans are being financed;
 - the impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
 - compliance with limits in place for borrowing activity.
- 5.2 At its meeting on 11 July 2022 the Cabinet approved revised estimates for the 2022/23 capital programme and the financing of that programme. The revised estimate addressed amendments to the programme since February, including re-profiling schemes from 2021/22, the allocation of further capital funds for the redevelopment of 24 High Street, Wisbech and a re-assessment of resources available in the period 2022-25. An updated programme is being considered at this meeting as part of the Draft Budget Report at a separate agenda item. The tables in this report reflect this updated programme.
- 5.3 From February 2020 the programme has reflected the Council's decision to allocate £25m to take forward schemes in accordance with the Council's Commercial and Investment Strategy. Members will be aware that the Investment Board approved the purchase of an investment and residential property in previous years. The remaining allocation has been profiled to reflect the anticipating timing of future projects, including those due to be delivered by Fenland Future Limited. However, the Investment Board retains the discretion to vary when the available funds are utilised over the life of the programme.

5.4 The table below compares the revised estimates with the original capital programme which was incorporated into the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS).

Capital Programme	2022/23 Original Estimate £000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £000
Capital Programme (Excluding Commercial and Investment Strategy Schemes)	13,567	12,203
Commercial and Investment Strategy Schemes	2,472	1,000
Forecast Expenditure	16,039	13,203
Financed by:		
Capital Grants	6,722	8,445
Section 106's & Contributions	115	196
Capital Receipts	215	265
Capital Reserves	200	255
Total Financing	7,252	9,161
Borrowing Requirement	8,787	4,042

5.5 The table below shows the anticipated CFR at 31 March 2023, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period; this is termed the Operational Boundary. The revised estimated CFR is significantly lower than the original budget forecast (see paragraph 5.2 above).

Prudential Indicators	2022/23 Original Estimate £000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £000
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March 2023	16,185	11,100
External Debt / Operational Boundary		
Borrowing	14,500	14,500
Other Long Term Liabilities Finance Leases	1,000	1,000
Commercial Activities/ Non Financial Investments	21,302	2,000
Total Debt 31 March	36,802	17,500

- 5.6 The Council has made provision to repay all 'borrowing' liabilities through increased Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) in the General Fund revenue budget.
- 5.7 Within the prudential indicators there are a number of key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2022/23 and the next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need. The policy permits borrowing in advance of need where it is prudent to do so. Members should note that the current limits and estimates set out below have been determined with reference to the existing capital programme.

Limits to Borrowing Activity	2022/23 Original Estimate £000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £000
Gross Borrowing (Excluding Commercial and Investment Strategy Schemes)	14,349	10,868
Plus Other Long Term Liabilities Finance Leases	23	23
Commercial Activities/ Non Financial Investments	2,472	1,000
Anticipated Gross Borrowing as at 31 March 2023	16,844	11,891
Anticipated Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March 2023	16,185	11,100

- 5.8 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit, which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level for borrowing which, while not desired could be afforded in the short term but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised Limit For External Debt	2022/23 Original Estimate £000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £000
Debt	19,500	19,500
Plus Other Long Term Liabilities Finance Leases	1,000	1,000
Commercial Activities/ Non Financial Investments	21,302	1,000
Total Borrowing	41,802	21,500

5.9 The Corporate Director & Chief Finance Officer reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current year in complying with the above prudential indicators.

6 Investment Portfolio

- 6.1 In accordance with the Treasury Management Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite.
- 6.2 The current forecasts for bank rate are shown in paragraph 3.1 above.
- 6.3 Following the Governments fiscal event on 23 September 2022, both Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Fitch have placed the UK sovereign debt rating on a Negative Outlook reflecting a downside bias to the current ratings in light of expectations of weaker finances and the economic outlook
- 6.4 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.
- 6.5 The Council held £34.250m of investments, including property funds at 30th September 2022 (35.850m at 31st March 2022). The investment portfolio yield from temporary investments (call and fixed term deposits) for the first 6 months of the year was 1.10% (7 day backward looking average Sonia Rate 1.19%).
- 6.6 It should be noted that the value of investments remains high due to the distorting impact on working capital of some of the mechanisms government introduced in 2021/22 to mitigate the liquidity impact of the pandemic on local authorities and revenue and capital grants paid in advance of the 2022/23 financial year. Some of this funding has not been spent in the first six months of this year. However, it is expected that a significant proportion of this grant funding and the unravelling of the working capital previously advanced will be spent or repaid in the next 6 months and consequently investment balances will be lower by the end of this financial year.
- 6.7 The Council has achieved investment income of £164k to 30th September 2022. The 2022/23 projected outturn is £500k against a budget of £100k. With the Bank of England base rate rising steadily since December 2021 coupled with the recent volatile market conditions driven by global political events interest rates and therefore income returns have increased significantly.

- 6.8 £4m of the Council's investments are held in externally managed pooled property funds where short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability. These funds are currently generating an average income return of 3.1% which is used to support services in year.
- 6.9 As the Council's externally managed funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's medium to long-term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three to five-year period total returns are expected to exceed cash interest rates. The 2022/23 projected outturn for property fund income is £130k against a budget of £150k.
- 6.10 The Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2022/23.

7 Borrowing Strategy

- 7.1 The Council's estimated CFR for 2022/23 is £11.100m (including finance lease borrowing facilities). The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.
- 7.2 No new external borrowing has been undertaken during 2022/23 to date. The Council has utilised surplus cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost-effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that any upside risk to gilt yields prevails.
- 7.3 The current Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes that some external borrowing will be required over the three-and-a-half-year period to 31 March 2026. Assumptions about the level of external interest payable are included within the budget. Responsibility for deciding when to borrow externally, together with details of the amount to borrow and the term and type of any loan, rests with the Chief Finance Officer. The Chief Finance Officer's decision will be informed by advice from the Council's treasury management advisors and information regarding the progress of schemes set out in the capital programme. Any borrowing decisions will be reported to Cabinet through the annual treasury management report.

8 Debt Rescheduling

- 8.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate and following the various increases in the margins added to gilt yields which have impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken in the current financial year
- 8.2 However, now that the whole of the yield curve has shifted higher there may be better opportunities in the future, although only prudent and affordable debt rescheduling will be considered.

Agenda Item No:	9	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	12 December 2022	
Report Title:	FDC Formal Response to Fens Reservoir Consultation	

Cover sheet:

1 Purpose / Summary

- The purpose of this report is to inform and seek agreement from Council on the FDC formal consultation response to the proposed Fens Reservoir to be located north of Chatteris.

2 Key Issues

- Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in October 2022 that they are proposing to build a large new reservoir (a little smaller than Grafham Water) in an area north of Chatteris and east of the A141.
- The reservoir is needed to enable sufficient water supplies for future growth in the region in the face of a changing climate and to avoid damage to the natural environment.
- A non-statutory public consultation is currently underway to seek views on the proposed reservoir which closes on 21st December 2022. A link to the consultation can be found here: [Welcome - Anglian Water - Fens Reservoir](#)
- The details of the reservoir's design and associated facilities are at the very earliest stages of development and consequently this is a high-level consultation.
- Two further (formal) consultations are planned for 2024 and 2025 prior to the submission of an application for a Development Consent Order to the Secretary of State. The size of the reservoir is such that it is a National Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP) to be determined independently by the Planning Inspectorate rather than FDC's Planning Committee.
- If approved and constructed it is forecast that the reservoir will be operational by around 2040.
- The reservoir will be a major investment in the district which has the potential to have significant benefits for local people, businesses and the natural environment as well as a catalyst for future growth.
- This report therefore briefly explains the background to the need for the reservoir and some of the key issues arising from it and the potential impacts on the district and residents.
- FDC's formal response is subject to Cabinet's approval of this report and the attached documents comprising answers to the set consultation

questions and a letter (currently in draft form) from the Leader of the Council and relevant Portfolio Holders.

- Appendix 1 sets out FDC's formal response to the set questions asked.
- Appendix 2 comprises a draft letter from the Leader of the Council.

3 Recommendations

- That subject to earlier approval from Cabinet, Council approves Fenland District Council's formal response to the Fens Reservoir consultation and the draft letter from the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth.
- Where any changes might be required that these be delegated to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth.

Wards Affected	All, but particularly Manea, Doddington and Wimblington, Slade Lode, Birch, Wenneye, and The Mills.
Forward Plan Reference	<i>[Insert Reference No. From Forward Plan. (It is a legal requirement to include key executive decisions on the forward plan for 28 days before the decision requested in this report is taken).</i>
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Chris Boden - Leader of the Council Cllr Dee Laws - Portfolio Holder for Planning Cllr Ian Benney – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth
Report Originator(s)	Gareth Martin - Senior Development Officer - Planning Policy Nick Harding - Head of Planning Jo Blackmore - Head of Corporate Support
Contact Officer(s)	Carol Pilson - Corporate Director Gareth Martin - Senior Development Officer - Planning Policy Nick Harding - Head of Planning Jo Blackmore - Head of Corporate Support
Background Papers	

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 Anglia Water and Cambridge Water have been seeking a site in the northern part of Cambridgeshire and western part of Norfolk to locate a new reservoir which will cover approximately 5 sq. km (a little smaller than Grafham Water).
- 1.2 The reservoir is needed to guarantee water supplies in the future taking into account projected population growth, the changing climate and future agricultural demand, and the need to ensure that the environment, including river ecological systems, are not adversely affected.
- 1.3 Development of the reservoir is being speedily progressed through the RAPID process where three water regulators (OFWAT, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate) work to ensure new infrastructure best meets the needs of its customers. There are five 'gates' to the process with Gate 2 having been reached in November 2022.
- 1.4 The need for a reservoir in this area is recognised in the emerging draft Regional Water Resources Plan for Eastern England being produced by Water Resources East. The purpose of the plan is to better understand and address the environmental and water resource needs of the region. In addition to a reservoir in the Fens, a new reservoir is also proposed in South Lincolnshire.
- 1.5 A total of 81 potential sites in the area were initially considered. This list was subsequently reduced to 16 and then finally to a shortlist of 4 locations. Two of these were in East Cambridgeshire, one in Norfolk and the fourth within Fenland, north of Chatteris.
- 1.6 The main criteria for selection included the underlying geology and construction costs but also a range of other matters such as potential benefits to local communities and the environment. The criteria were produced in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including FDC, through the Fens Water Partnership and following Member briefings. The Fens Water Partnership has been in discussions with the proponents of the scheme over the past two years to agree the best site for the reservoir.
- 1.7 In October this year, the site north of Chatteris was announced as the preferred site. The main body of water is to be east of the A141, north of the Forty Foot (or Vermuden's) Drain, west of the Sixteen Foot Drain and south of Block Fen Drove with supporting infrastructure and facilities provided to the south and north of the main site and along the Forty Foot Drain as far as the Ouse Washes.
- 1.8 This consultation is non-statutory, but Anglian Water and Cambridge Water are keen to hear the views of local people and organisations, particularly regarding:
 - the principle of development in the area
 - what are considered to be the main effects of this development
 - how any detrimental effects may be lessened
 - opportunities that the reservoir might bring to the area.

2 Considerations

- 2.1 The location of the reservoir will directly impact a number of residents and businesses as they will be required to move permanently from the site. Businesses directly affected include the North London Sky Diving Centre and a number of farms. The proponents have contacted all landowners and are in discussions about purchasing the land in line with the statutory processes.
- 2.2 Whilst it is regrettable that these homes and business will be lost, the location of any significant new infrastructure inevitably impacts on one or more landowners and this needs to be balanced against the wider benefits of the scheme.
- 2.3 The height of the proposed reservoir embankments will impact on the Fenland landscape. In pre-consultation discussions through the Fens Water Partnership, the likely heights of embankments were reported to be between 10-15 metres. The current consultation specifies potential heights of up to 20 metres. However, it will only be through detailed design work that the heights of the embankments will be finally established.
- 2.4 It should be possible to lessen any impact on the landscape by ensuring the embankments slope gently upwards rather than being constructed as a solid vertical barrier. In addition, if the shape of the reservoir were to have a more naturalistic form rather than the predominantly straight-line structure suggested in the consultation, this would also reduce its impact on the landscape. In addition, suitable strategic tree planting is likely to reduce its visual impact.
- 2.5 The likely disruption during construction will also need to be considered. Construction is currently programmed to last for around ten years, from 2029 to 2039. This has the potential to have an impact on the surrounding highway network although the site is adjacent to the A141 which should provide relatively easy access. To lessen the impact on road traffic, it will be important that all key infrastructure improvements in the area are provided at the earliest stages of construction.
- 2.6 The nearby location of the Whitemoor Yard Rail Recycling Centre in March with its proximity to the A141 provides an ideal opportunity to transfer materials and equipment to the reservoir. There is also potential to explore the opportunity to transfer materials and equipment to the site in an environmentally friendly way via the major waterway network adjacent to the site.
- 2.7 Despite these adverse impacts, the reservoir has many potential benefits and could have a significantly positive impact on the district. It offers an unprecedented opportunity for place making which, if fully realised, could be transformational for the district.
- 2.8 In addition to providing a guaranteed water supply resource for this area and Cambridge, the development of the reservoir could see improvements in the ecological status of rivers and other water bodies in the region and provide opportunities for Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain as required by the Environment Act 2021. It could assist with carbon

sequestration and, depending on its design, it could be constructed and operated in ways that will contribute to achieving Net Zero.

- 2.9 The reservoir has the potential to become a major visitor attraction in the region, similar to Rutland Water and Grafham Water, and to provide a recreational resource for local residents and visitors to the area. There are likely to be many opportunities for a range of leisure activities which could positively contribute to the health and well-being of local people. Provision of a visitor centre and education facilities would become another valuable resource for local people providing leisure, educational and employment opportunities. However, it will be important to ensure that access to this resource is retained in perpetuity for local people irrespective of a change in ownership or other circumstances.
- 2.10 As a visitor attraction, the reservoir should help stimulate the local hospitality industry as well as other businesses. In its construction phase the reservoir has the potential to provide employment for local people and in its operational phase training opportunities in water management. As details of the reservoir are worked up, it will be important to lobby the proponents to secure these benefits for local residents.
- 2.11 The reservoir should provide significant improvements to the local infrastructure. In addition to necessary highway improvements, residents of local settlements should be able to access the site safely and conveniently by walking and cycling with details being developed with the proponents.
- 2.12 The site of the reservoir is directly on the route of the potential rapid transit system from St Ives to Chatteris and March. An investigation study is included in the draft Fenland Transport Strategy recently subject to public consultation - see maps on pages 66 and 68, and Action TS015 on page 67 at this link: [ATS \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com)
- 2.13 The reservoir is likely to provide additional weight to the case for the rapid transit system which not only will help rebalance the lack of public transport infrastructure in the district and the historic isolation and social deprivation issues that have resulted, but will also provide a direct, sustainable public transport infrastructure option for visitors to the area.
- 2.14 Finally, the reservoir has the potential to be the catalyst for growth in both housing and employment in Fenland.
- 2.15 The announcement of the preferred site occurred after the draft Local Plan had been published for consultation and is therefore not mentioned in the plan. However, in moving to the submission stage of the Local Plan next year, policies will be included setting out the Council's objectives for the site which will be subject to further scrutiny by Cabinet and Council.
- 2.16 FDC officers have worked successfully in partnership with Anglian Water, Cambridge Water and other stakeholders to date and will continue to do so to ensure that the full potential of the reservoir for the district and local people is realised.

3 Effect on corporate objectives

- 3.1 The potential benefits that the reservoir can bring are fully aligned with the Council's corporate objectives which, amongst other things, embrace growth for the area to improve the health, well-being, and provide development opportunities for Fenland residents.

4 Community impact

- 4.1 The reservoir is likely to have a significant impact on Fenland's residents in the short and long term as highlighted above with the potential for many long-term benefits.

5 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 FDC recognises that the reservoir could bring many potential benefits to the district and be transformational for the local area whilst recognising the regrettable permanent loss of homes and businesses.
- 5.2 It is recommended that Council members support the proposed site location and will seek, in future partnership working, to ensure that the likely impacts are successfully addressed, and the full benefits realised.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The details of FDC's proposed consultation response to the set questions are set out in Appendix 1.

7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 No alternative options considered.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal Implications

- 6.1.1 There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

6.3 Equality Implications

There are no specific equality implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Fens Reservoir – FDC response to non-statutory public consultation October – December 2022 – DRAFT

1. Do you have any comments about the pink area we have identified or the effects of us using it?

Fenland District Council (FDC) is supportive in principle of the broad areas (both pink and grey) identified for the reservoir and associated infrastructure.

FDC welcomes the choice of the Chatteris site for the reservoir over the other three shortlisted sites and considers that it has great potential to provide major long-term benefits for the district.

FDC is supportive of the location of the reservoir near the market town of Chatteris and the villages of Doddington and Wimblington which will enable easy access for local people but without causing detriment to these settlements. It also acknowledges that residents in March to the north and Manea to the east should also be able to access the reservoir by active travel modes.

However, FDC is mindful that there will be significant effects in terms of a loss of homes and businesses, an adverse impact on the landscape due to the potentially high embankments of the reservoir, and disturbance during the long construction period.

2. Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?

Yes, Fenland District Council considers there are many ways in which the proposals for the reservoir can be improved and harmful effects reduced.

The details of the reservoir's design in this consultation are very limited and it is therefore very difficult to comment on specific issues. FDC accepts that the details will emerge as the scheme develops and would welcome ongoing dialogue about these through continuing joint working with Anglian Water (AW) and Cambridge Water (CW) including through the Fens Water Partnership. FDC are very keen to work with AW and CW and other stakeholders to ensure that adverse effects are limited and the optimum benefits from the reservoir are realised.

FDC accepts that a number of homes and businesses will by necessity be extinguished. FDC would only support the reservoir in this location should these homeowners and businesses be compensated in full for their losses in accordance with all legal requirements.

It is noted that the reservoir embankments may be up to 20 metres in height. This is significantly taller than the heights discussed in pre-consultation meetings and workshops where heights were given at around 10-15 metres.

Nonetheless the impacts of the height of the reservoir embankments should be able to be successfully addressed through good design.

This can happen by ensuring that there is a variety in the shape of the reservoir i.e. a more naturalistic shape (or shapes) which can be more easily visually blended into the landscape rather than the simple generally square box shape shown in the consultation diagrams, which as proposed will have a negative impact on visual amenity and the wide, open landscape. A more natural shape would also be more visually interesting and create better opportunities for recreation and nature.

In addition, ensuring that the embankments slope gently rather than being a sudden vertical barrier with a 'Great Wall of China' effect, will also assist in successfully assimilating the reservoir into the landscape.

Finally suitable tree planting in particular locations should also assist in reducing the visual impact on the landscape.

Good planning for the construction phase should help reduce any adverse impacts. Necessary highway infrastructure should be provided at the earliest stages of consultation to reduce impacts on the highway network.

Consideration should be given to making maximum use of the nearby Whitemoor Yard Rail Recycling Centre in March with its easy access to the A141 for transferring materials and equipment to the reservoir.

The major waterway network adjacent to the site also provides a potential opportunity to transfer materials and equipment to the site in an environmentally friendly way and this should be explored.

During the construction phase as much supporting infrastructure which could be used as a visitor attraction should be provided at the earliest opportunity. For instance, an education/visitor centre/viewing area from the outset (even if temporary structures) would help inform people about progress. This will help in ensuring continual support for the project and be interesting and inspiring for local people, and particularly the young.

3. Do you have any comments about the grey area we have identified or the effects of us using it?

In terms of the grey areas shown on the consultation maps all of the comments made by Fenland District Council to Questions 1 and 2 (pink area) are also relevant.

FDC has no objections in principle to the grey areas being used for facilities in association with the main reservoir site.

The majority of the land shown in grey falls within Flood Zone 3a (High Risk) of the Environment Agency's Flood Map (Rivers and Sea). As such care will be needed on the types of buildings and facilities that can be provided in these locations in accordance with national and local flood risk guidance.

Buildings and facilities should also take into account of the relatively flat, open nature of the area and how these might be successfully assimilated into the landscape.

Care is also required to not have any adverse impact on the adjacent Wimblington Common Gravel Pits (County Wildlife Site) north of Block Fen Drove.

A number of public footpaths traverse the site (both grey and pink areas) and currently effectively form a continuous loop around the whole area. Wherever not needed for construction purposes, these should be incorporated into a new public rights of way (active travel) network which allows circumnavigation of the reservoir and associated facilities in its entirety.

Where facilities are to be provided to the south of the Forty Foot Drain a sufficient number of foot /cycle bridges should be provided over the Forty Foot to allow safe and convenient access to the main reservoir site.

It is noted that the associated facilities will be required along the Forty Foot Drain as far as Welches Dam adjacent to the the Ouse Washes. FDC would want to see the existing public rights of way along the Forty Foot Drain retained and upgraded for all types of active travel purposes (walking, cycling, horse riding).

Welches Dam itself will need upgrading and repair and FDC would be seeking for this to be re-instated for use by navigation craft.

There is also an opportunity to provide a marina adjacent to the reservoir along the Forty Foot, potentially on the south side of the drain to enable easy access to facilities in Chatteris.

It will be important to ensure all supporting infrastructure and facilities are realistically funded and delivered prior to the operation of the reservoir.

Furthermore, providing an education/visitor centre/viewing area from the outset will be important to inform people about the construction of the reservoir as it happens. These will help ensure interest and support from local people.

4. Are there ways you think we can improve or reduce any of these effects?

Yes, Fenland District Council's response to Question 3 explains how the effects can be improved or reduced and in summary are:

- Ensure developments take heed of and are compatible with national and local flood risk policy and guidance.
- Avoid adverse impacts on the wide-open landscape through sensitive design and location of buildings and facilities.
- Link to, but do not adversely affect surrounding businesses, tourist destinations and protected nature areas.

- Provide active travel routes to fully circumnavigate the reservoir and associated facilities.
- Provide all necessary supporting infrastructure to link the grey and pink areas to include foot/cycle bridges in appropriate locations.
- Upgrade Welches Dam to be fully operational and useable by navigation craft.
- Ensure all associated infrastructure is realistically funded and delivered prior to the operation of the reservoir.
- Provide an education/visitor centre/viewing area from the outset during the construction of the reservoir to ensure interest and support from local people.

5. Is there anything else you think we should know about the areas we have identified?

The archaeological value of the area is currently unknown, but due to the geology and ground conditions the Fens are rich in archaeological deposits. Flexibility should therefore be built into the design and construction phases to ensure that any finds can be properly recorded and wherever possible retained in situ as standalone features and/or incorporated into the visitor/heritage centre.

6. As part of this consultation we have provided a very early concept design for the reservoir to help stimulate thought and discussion. This will be developed further as the project progresses taking into account your feedback, so we are keen to understand your initial views. Do you have any comments on the early concept design at this stage?

As proposed the early concept design is not inspiring. At the outset of the project Fenland District Council was advised that the ambition of Anglian Water and Cambridge Water was that the reservoir should be innovative and exciting and the design exemplary and ground-breaking. However, FDC considers that the proposed concept design does not satisfy these ambitions.

A more naturalistic design would be much preferred and would help reduce the visual impact of the projected heights of the reservoir embankments on the landscape. FDC would welcome opportunities to discuss the design with AW and CW and other stakeholders through the Fens Water Partnership as further details emerge.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the vast majority of the local landscape is man-made through the historic drainage and farming of the traditional fen and comprises many straight features (roads and drains), the reservoir provides an ideal opportunity to introduce a more naturalistic feature within this flat, straight-lined landscape.

A more natural shape would provide a more interesting and exciting feature within the landscape, captivate the imagination, and provide greater opportunities for recreation and nature. In FDC's view a variety in the landscape would be warmly welcomed in this location. A straight-lined design justified by what predominates in the landscape at the present time and particularity with embankments of potentially

up to 20 metres in height might contribute to the utilitarian functioning of the reservoir but do little to stimulate the imagination of people or entice repeat visitors. It would run the risk of being an uninspiring and disappointing body of water to visit.

7. Below are some of the features we could potentially include as we develop the proposals for the reservoir. Are there any you have a preference for? (Tick all that apply)

- Wildlife enhancement and conservation (such as for birds and other species)
- Ecological enhancements (such as wetland areas and woodlands)
- Recreational water sports (such as sailing, angling and wind surfing)
- Education facilities (such as nature trails, visitor centres)
- Social and recreational facilities (such as picnic areas, playgrounds)
- Landscape enhancements (such as tree planting)
- Green infrastructure (including cycle paths, EV charging and renewables)
- Creating a recognised visitor destination for local people and tourists
- Local enterprise and economic opportunities
- Water for wider sector uses (such as agriculture and commercial use)
- Other

All of the above are potential opportunities which Fenland District Council hopes will be fully realised. FDC would support other water-based activities such as swimming and scuba-diving as well as camping and caravanning. In developing proposals FDC would want the following to also be taken into consideration:

- Overall, the reservoir should be a lasting positive legacy for the area.
- As a recreational facility it should be available in perpetuity for local people and visitors from elsewhere to use, irrespective of any changes in ownership or other circumstances.
- Provide education and training opportunities for local people in water management.
- Provide employment for local people during construction and as a visitor attraction.
- Provide a heritage centre to explain the history of the Fens and the development of the water management network (both drainage and potable supply) to the current day.
- Be mindful of the historic struggles and achievements in creating the Fens landscape and give reference to these in such things as the design of facilities, the visitors centre and in public art installations.
- Provide upgrades to the local highway infrastructure where relevant.
- Provide active travel routes to circumnavigate the reservoir and associated facilities, including new bridges where required.
- Make the reservoir as widely and easily accessible as possible by active travel modes (walking, cycling, horse riding etc) particularly to local settlements including March and Manea by new and safe (off-road with safe crossings) walking and cycling routes and with links to existing pedestrian cycle pathways such as the route from Ely to Sutton along the A142.
- Provide new, and link to existing equestrian routes

- Provide tourist facilities to include an adjacent marina accessed from the extensive drainage and navigation network operated by the Middle Level Commissioners and the Environment Agency.
- Link to the existing tourist attractions and businesses in the locality e.g. the Skylark holiday accommodation, and nearby Stonea Iron Age camp to the north of the site.
- In its construction utilise the adjacent extensive waterway network for the movement of materials wherever possible. Also utilise Whitemoor Yard Rail Recycling Centre in March for the import and export of materials.
- Incorporate renewable energy opportunities into the reservoir's design.
- Seek opportunities to utilise the extensive size and surrounding area of the reservoir in water quality improvements.
- Be mindful of the opportunity to link to and provide a dedicated stopping off point to the potential Rapid Transit System proposed to link St Ives with Chatteris and March and potentially onto Wisbech. A study to investigate such a project is now included in the draft Fenland Transport Strategy being produced jointly by Cambridgeshire County Council, FDC and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. If found feasible it is almost certain that the route would pass by the reservoir. See maps on pages 66 and 68, and Action TS015 on page 67 at this link: [ATS \(amazonaws.com\)](https://www.amazonaws.com)
- Be mindful of the role the reservoir might play in emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Net Gain as required by the Environment Act 2021.
- When considering water supply sources for the reservoir, subsequent supply elsewhere, and how flood risk management might be improved, take a 'whole system' approach to solutions taking into account the entire river and drainage system in the region and the impacts the reservoir might have on these elements. In this way the interrelationship of these elements can be fully understood, and informed solutions achieved.
- Explore how and where carbon sequestration and peat restoration can be incorporated into the reservoir's design and the associated facilities to be provided.

8. Do you have any have any additional feedback about our proposals that you have not included above?

Doubling Nature

The proposed reservoir is a very significant step for the doubling nature here in Fenland and could be an excellent opportunity to provide more wildlife corridors to other locally important County Wildlife Sites such as the local fishing lakes near Skylarks and internationally important sites with designations of RAMSAR, SPA SAC SSSI that are nearby. There are also opportunities to improve access to tourism in a new way in Fenland and increase nationally and internationally important wildlife populations.

Invasive Species in the area

Mitten crabs are slowly working their way here. This site could provide a wildlife corridor to Doddington/ Wimblington village and Chatteris and plague residents. They undermine flood defences, damage fishing equipment, and eat nearly everything in their path, and they nip. They are edible so perhaps they could be served in a restaurant there.

What will be done to prevent the introduction of other invasive species from recreational activities to Fenland?

Will Fishermen/ boaters/ recreational water sporters have a place to decontaminate their equipment before and after use to help stop the spread of Crassula helmsii, zebra mussels and killer shrimp and others to Fenland? If not, the problem species could financially cripple the site and wider area costing millions to de-clog pipes for water and sewage, filtering equipment, ditches and rivers. It is nearly impossible to keep under control once on a site, not to mention the ecological impact of the pests and the spread to other places.

Transport

From a Transport perspective, FDC supports the development of the Fen Reservoir in principle and welcome the opportunities it can provide for Fenland. It is suggested that there is potential for a range of transport opportunities across several modes of travel.

Walking & Cycling

We would like to draw your attention to the Fenland Walking, Cycling and Mobility Aid Improvement Strategy that was adopted by FDC Cabinet in October 2022. Further details can be found from the following website link:

[Fenland Cycling, Walking and Mobility Aid Improvement Strategy - Fenland District Council](#)

This new strategy includes ambitious proposals for new active travel infrastructure across Fenland.

The location of the reservoir proposal aligns closely with recommendations and ambitions set out in our Fenland Cycling, Walking and Mobility Aid Improvement Strategy to which we would like to draw to your attention. A segregated walking/cycling route along the A141 corridor (page 31) and the proposal for a controlled crossing on the A142 at Fenland Way, Chatteris (Appendix 3) are essential opportunities to maximise walking and cycling to the site. Connecting surrounding communities to the reservoir, through new or improved walking and cycling links is also a key priority, particularly for Chatteris, Doddington and Wimblington given their proximity to the site. To maximise the potential for travel by sustainable transport, wider connectivity should be explored to March and Guyhirn along the route of the A141 as well as to Manea Railway Station for access to rail travel and to the Ouse Washes Nature Reserve at Welches Dam.

We strongly support options to encourage and enable walking and cycling as the first choice for accessing and exploring the Fen Reservoir. We therefore recommend and encourage the provision of cycle hire facilities on site and suggest this include mobility scooters to support disabled access. Opportunities to extend hire/loan provision of cycles to residents in surrounding towns and villages on a longer-term basis could also support access to education and employment in the area.

There is also an opportunity to provide infrastructure (bridges and linking bridleways) to link national cycle routes 11 and 63 which should be considered.

Vehicle Access, Car Parking & Bus Services

Car parking provision at the reservoir, including options to accommodate buses and coaches is essential to enable people with mobility issues and people who live further away to access the site. Provision to introduce or improve public transport to the site should also be explored. The site access point for these vehicles and how this affects traffic on the A141 will be an important consideration. It is recommended that early conversations take place with Cambridgeshire County Council as the Local Highway Authority. Highway proposals need to be developed in line with their requirements.

Highway Network

A concern from our perspective is the effect increased HGV activity and higher traffic volumes to and from this development will have on the highway network, particularly during the construction phase. A detailed Transport Assessment should be submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council which includes a review of the suitability of surrounding roads and includes mitigation measures to minimise the impact of construction traffic. Contact should be made with Cambridgeshire County Council at the earliest opportunity to understand their requirements.

We acknowledge that the project for the Fen Reservoir is currently at a very early stage. However, we feel this is an ideal time for us to engage given the size and significance of this project and the impact it will have on Fenland. We therefore welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss the project either face to face or via TEAMS at your earliest convenience.

9. How did you hear about the consultation?

- Received information to my address
- Social media
- Online advertising or search
- Local media news story or advertising
- Posters or information points in the area
- Notified by someone else

- Other (please provide details)

Through the Fens Water Partnership meetings.

10. Did you find the consultation materials informative in helping to provide feedback on our proposals?

Yes, to a degree. As this is a high-level consultation it is difficult to comment in detail on matters which at this stage can only be speculated on.

11. Do you have any comments on your experience of the consultation overall, or things we could have done differently?

Work better with FDC's (and other organisations') Comms Teams to ensure the consultation and especially consultation events are more widely publicised at the outset. For the welcome pop-up events use locations with the highest footfall. For instance, Sainsburys in March on a Saturday morning is probably the busiest location in the town rather than the marketplace where the pop-up event was held.

DRAFT Letter from Cllr Chris Boden, Leader of the Council, Cllr Dee Laws, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Cllr Benney, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

Re Fens Reservoir consultation – October to December 2022

To: Anglian Water and Cambridge Water

Fenland District Council (FDC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation for the location of the proposed reservoir north of Chatteris.

The Council supports the choice of Chatteris over the other three short listed sites and considers the reservoir could be a lasting positive legacy for the district.

FDC regrets that the reservoir will result in the permanent loss of long-established homes and businesses in the area and would expect, as a minimum, that all statutory processes for compensation for affected property owners are followed.

However, FDC also recognises that the proposed reservoir constitutes a significant investment in the area, unprecedented for the Fenland district in recent times. The Council recognises that this facility, when built and operational, will help to guarantee future water supplies both for this area and Cambridge, as well as helping to mitigate against the changing climate and provide environmental and social benefits.

The Council welcomes the potential benefits that will result, including the recreational benefits for local people and the likely positive impact on the health and well-being of residents. It also welcomes improvements to the local infrastructure that will be required and will seek to ensure that these are provided at the earliest phases of construction.

The Council sees it as essential, irrespective of a change in ownership or other circumstances, that the reservoir will remain as a resource for local people in perpetuity and will seek guarantees that this happens.


The Council is also mindful that the benefits are all 'potentials' and that a substantial amount of further work and investment from a variety of sources will be required for these to be realised in full.

We recognise that the partnership approach established by yourselves, which has included a wide range of stakeholders through the Fens Water Partnership and associated workshops, has helped to ensure the most appropriate site, taking all relevant constraints into consideration, has been selected. FDC would strongly urge that the successful partnership approach continues in working up the details of the design of the scheme.

We recognise that this is a non-statutory but important public consultation and would be keen to continue to have ongoing input in how the scheme develops including through further rounds of formal consultation.

Your sincerely,

Cllr Chris Boden – Leader of the Council
Cllr Denise Laws – Portfolio Holder for Planning
Cllr Ian Benney – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth

Agenda Item No:	10	
Committee:	Council	
Date:	12 December 2022	
Report Title:	Carbon Reduction and Climate Adaptation	

1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 Further to the carbon reduction and climate adaptation Council Motion of 11th July 2022 to present an action plan for approval by Council.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 As early as 2007, the Council signed up to the Nottingham Declaration which required monitoring and reporting of carbon emissions for all council assets and activities.
- 2.2 This work was taken forward through the Fenland Strategic Partnership and included the development of an Energy Plan for the Council.
- 2.3 The Council undertook capital works over several years to reduce energy needs across our buildings and assets whilst accessing funding through the Salix scheme. The Salix scheme came to an end in 2021.
- 2.4 The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK government by law to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 which will require action by all local authorities.
- 2.5 The Environment Act 2021 places responsibilities on local authorities in the fields of waste, resources, air quality, water, and nature conservation. The government are developing guidance for local authorities to follow in achieving these requirements. This guidance is expected in late 2022.
- 2.6 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires English Local Authorities to produce a report that sets out the energy conservation measures that the Authority considers practicable, cost- effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area.
- 2.7 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have developed an action plan following their commissioning of an Independent Climate Change Report in 2020. The action plan contained in this report complements many of the priorities within the CPCA report.
- 2.8 The Council has a good track record of supporting residents and businesses in accessing support to reduce the cost of energy, support being focussed on the most vulnerable and offering choices to residents for energy efficiency measures.
- 2.9 Fenland's unique geography presents challenges, such as a natural susceptibility to fluvial and tidal flooding. In addition, our transport network makes households highly reliant on the motor car.

- 2.10 With energy costs continuing to rise, addressing increasing fuel poverty remains a key issue.
- 2.11 The developing action plan will integrate the objectives of the July motion by embedding the principles within the work of the council generally. This will establish an accumulative annual estimate of CO_{2e} the reductions achieved through the council's activities and through the funding of schemes to third parties, using 2018 as the base year.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Approve the draft Climate Change Action Plan at Appendix A of this Report.
- 3.2 Authorise the Monitoring Officer to amend the Constitution so as to include reference to the Environment Act 2021 within Appendix A of Part 3, Table 4 of the Constitution so as to enable officers to fulfil Fenland District Council's obligations under that Act in accordance with their ordinary delegations; and
- 3.3 Delegate to Officers responsibility for reviewing and updating the Climate Change Action Plan, if approved, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the environment.

Wards Affected	<i>All</i>
Forward Plan Reference	<i>[Insert Reference No. From Forward Plan. (It is a legal requirement to include key executive decisions on the forward plan for 28 days before the decision requested in this report is taken).</i>
Portfolio Holder(s)	<i>Councillor Chris Boden Council Leader Councillor Steve Tierney Portfolio Holder for Communication and Environment</i>
Report Originator(s)	Annabel Tighe Head of Environmental Health and Compliance Mark Mathews Head of Environmental Services Jo Blackmore Head of Corporate Support
Contact Officer(s)	<i>Paul Medd Chief Executive Carol Pilson Corporate Director Peter Catchpole Corporate Director</i>
Background Papers	C19/22 Council Motion presented by Councillor Tierney CPCA recommendations on climate change Cabinet minutes - 11 July 2007 Council 3R's approach

Report:

1 BACKGROUND AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

- 1.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 has set out national net zero carbon targets. With the introduction of the Environment Act 2021 local authorities are expecting further statutory responsibilities relating to waste, resources, air quality, water, and nature conservation.
- 1.2 As a district council with a unique set of challenges, the focus in Fenland has always been to create opportunities, lever in funding to those most in need and not to lose sight of local priorities. For example, the reliance on motor cars for transport in Fenland is critical to many households for school, work and healthcare.
- 1.3 In July 2022 a council motion set out the direction for the Council in addressing carbon reduction and climate adaptation. The motion included 3 specific actions:
 - a. to promote measures which alleviate the anticipated effects in Fenland of future global climate change, that are affordable and financially viable, and which we believe have a good chance of achieving their proposed end results.
 - b. to commit to meeting all carbon reduction and climate adaptation targets which are legally required by the UK Government.
 - c. to measure accumulatively the CO₂ emission reductions achieved by the Council's actions, both through FDC's own activities and through the funding of schemes directed by or channelled via FDC to third parties in the District, using 2018 as the base year.
- 1.4 The Council's approved approach to resource management was approved within the 3R's Statement of Intent to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle when considering all of its activities" The statement has been successful in its adoption of these guiding principles across the organisation with a focus on financial savings or the facilitation of grant funding.
- 1.5 Many projects have been delivered to make our own buildings more energy efficient. These actions were possible through grant funding and match funding including boiler replacement within our leisure centre buildings, lighting schemes in our council buildings and heat recirculation within our ICT facilities.
- 1.6 The environmental services fleet of vehicles has been on a journey of efficiency for many years, with investment in technology, fuel efficiency through logistics software, reduced emissions from modern diesel engines, hybrid-electric bin lifts, and implementing modern shift working. All this means that fuel usage has decreased by more than 20% in the past 10 years, whilst the number of properties has increased by 12%.
- 1.7 Fenland has since 2004 collected a large range of recycling materials from domestic and commercial customers. Data provided by Wrap, a Defra funded

environmental charity, from 2019/20 showed the average weight of recycling per property in Fenland was above both the national average and the weights achieved by local authorities with similar demographics to Fenland.

- 1.8 Since 2007 the Council has been a part of the Cambridgeshire Action on Energy and Retrofit Partnership. The partnership provides greater opportunities for the council to access government funds for residents to insulate and retrofit their properties. Currently government grants are being made available to local authorities through several schemes. These include Local Authority Delivery Grants and the Social Housing Demonstrator Fund.
- 1.9 The Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership has successfully bid for a grant of £6.5 million for energy efficiency upgrades to domestic properties. £1 million of this fund is allocated to be distributed in Fenland which will be targeted at on- gas and off-gas properties in the owner occupied and private rented sectors. These opportunities include insulation and heating upgrades. This will complement the work currently being undertaken in the district to improve the energy efficiency of social housing, through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) demonstrator project with Clarion Housing and now the Wave 1 Social Housing Decarbonisation fund.
- 1.10 The Council has also continued to support wider environmental enhancement projects to increase access to green space and enhance the environment, often through the work of volunteers.
- 1.11 In April 2022 the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board approved an action plan to tackle carbon reduction and climate adaptation. The action plan covers a range of areas for focus including energy, buildings, transport, waste, water, business and commercial, nature, soils and peat, engagement, and finance. These priority areas link closely to the requirements of the Environment Act 2021. Although the council is not signed up directly to the actions within the CPCA action plan, there are areas of work which complement this plan.
- 1.12 Local authorities are uniquely placed to work together with residents, businesses, and partners to develop knowledge, strategies and practices that equip the local community to take reasonable steps to become more resilient and to play a part in reducing potential future consequences of changes to climate, rising energy costs and issues such as flooding.
- 1.13 Creating an integrated approach to water management for the Fens is important for the region to reduce the risk of flooding whilst also providing water for communities, industry, agriculture and the natural environment. Part of the long-term approach is a proposed reservoir for the area, along with developing improved means of water management. These should be delivered to ensure that they benefit the local Fenland environment, economy and community. An action plan has been developed, based on the Council motion on carbon reduction and climate adaptation, taking account of Fenland's uniqueness with a focus on no unnecessary duplication of existing plans or strategies.
- 1.14 Many of the issues raised within this report are also identified within the Emerging Local Plan for Fenland and are consistent with the objectives of this report, including potential changes to planning regulations.

- 1.15 Where revenue funding is available this will be sought, and any new funding or actions will be subject to financial scrutiny to ensure they are viable and of benefit to Fenland communities.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve an updated action plan to meet the priorities of the Council motion dated 11 July 2022, to work towards the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 and mitigate against rising energy costs.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There are no requirements to consult on this action plan, however the plan has been developed jointly with portfolio holders and relevant partners.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Fenland Council could sign up to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Acton Plan. These actions cover a broad area of responsibility and are not sufficiently focussed on the direct needs of and benefits to the Fenland community.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal Implications

- 5.2 The actions proposed in this plan meet the current requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008, Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. and the Environment Act 2021.

- 5.3 During 2022 local authorities are expecting further guidance which will set out any statutory requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

5.4 Financial Implications

- 5.5 The current action plan can be delivered within existing budgets. If further statutory responsibilities are to be placed on local government, the action plan will be reviewed regarding future financial implications.

- 5.6 Funding referred to in relation to energy saving projects has been secured by the Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership is managed by the lead council for that partnership, Cambridge City Council. This funding has included revenue funding for officer time and these projects are only deliverable with this officer recourse in post. Further funding is being requested to cover the future work programme; home upgrade funding covers a 2-year period.
- 5.7 Government and other relevant grant schemes will be accessed where appropriate and available.

5.8 Equality Implications

- 5.9 There are no equality implications.

5.10 Associated Strategies and Plans

- [Fenland's Emerging Local Plan](#)
- [Fenland Cycling, Walking and Mobility Aid Improvement Strategy](#)
- [Recap Waste Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)
- [Air Quality Action Plan](#)
- [Fenland's Business Plan](#)
- [Rail Development Strategy](#)
- [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Digital Connectivity Strategy](#)
- [Asset Management Plan](#)

REDUCING THE COUNCILS ENERGY AND FUEL USE - Projects relating to the internal day to day running of the Councils services. These contribute the 'Council for the Future' agenda by ensuring that service delivery processes are continually refined to reduce energy and fuel use and to ensure that the Council's operational accommodation is able to meet changing business and working needs.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
ENERGY - Reducing the energy use of Council buildings.	Monitor energy use and carbon emissions from Council buildings against a baseline year of 2018 and publish these figures annually.	Publication of Council's CO ₂ e emissions data	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Build on the success of retrofit measures already installed in Council buildings, by identifying 'invest to save' measures and securing funding to implement these in buildings to be retained within the Council's portfolio.	Scheduled in line with the Council's future Accommodation Strategy, measures identified, funding secured and projects completed at all sites.	Subject to review, likely 2024	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs
	Secure funding to Improve the energy efficiency of commercial properties owned by the Council and explore the installation of renewable energy sources at these sites.	Energy Performance Certificate EPC ratings of Council owned commercial properties improved and renewable energy generated.	Completed 2025	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs
TRANSPORT - Fleet Management	Monitor fuel use and carbon emissions from council fleet vehicles against a baseline year of 2018 and publish emissions figures annually.	Annual publication of CO ₂ emissions data.	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Utilising logistics software, to regularly review fleet operations to maintain efficiency and incorporate development.	Capture and publicise the results of periodic route optimisation.	Ongoing	Accommodating growth with limited fleet miles
	Maximise the benefits of using In-cab technology, by using it to provide real time information, to ensure that collections and deliveries are completed in the most efficient manner.	Reduction in fuel use, miles travelled and repeat visits to properties.	Ongoing	Reduced mileage
	Recognising the embodied emissions in new vehicle purchases, to maintain the council's vehicle fleet to the highest standards, maximising fuel efficiency and extending the life of refuse vehicles to 9 - 10 years, and exploring viability of alternative fuels upon end of life.	Litres fuel used/CO ₂ produced on an annual basis	Ongoing	Reduce CO ₂ /Costs

SUPPORTING HOMES TO REDUCE ENERGY USE AND ENCOURAGING ACTIVE TRAVEL - Ensuring homes are warm, cheap to heat, comfortable and healthy places in which to live, encouraging active travel and transport options across Fenland.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
ENERGY - Improve the energy efficiency of residential and non-residential buildings. Work with partners to provide advice to	Publish the annual emissions data for the District provided by central government and monitor the CO ₂ e reductions achieved as a result of projects being undertaken to reduce emissions within the district.	Annual publication of CO ₂ e emissions for the District Of Fenland	Jun-23	Report Annually
	Work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities as part of the Cambridgeshire Energy and Retrofit Partnership (CERP) to allocate central government funding to upgrade the energy efficiency of owner occupied homes and those in the private rented sector.	Amount of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding received and homes upgraded as a result.	Completed 2025	Measures installed
	Work with Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) and Citizens Advice to provide advice and sign post assistance for those at risk of fuel poverty.	Number of residents at risk of fuel poverty assisted annually.	Ongoing	Advice Calls Annually
	Continue to invest in improving the energy efficiency of Social Housing using funding secured under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.	Amount of grant funding received and number of homes improved.	Completed 2024	Homes Improved

residents at risk of fuel poverty.	Continue to give residents the opportunity to install Solar PV and battery storage systems through the Cambridgeshire Solar Together Scheme	Number of Solar PV and Battery storage systems installed annually.	Annually	Number of Installations
	Heat Pump Ready Cambridgeshire Feasibility Funding (Phase 1) received to assess the barriers to installing Air Source Heat Pumps in 25% of the properties in a single off-gas community.	Feasibility study leads to a successful capital bid to government Nov 2022.	Phase 2 from 2023	Report Completed
	As part of Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to hold learning events for businesses in the District to consider how they can take advantage of business opportunities in the energy efficiency/renewables sector.	Number of events held and businesses attending.	Completed 2025	Number of Events
WASTE - Minimising the creation of waste and increasing the awareness of recycling and composting.	Working with both domestic and commercial customers, to promote waste as a resource and encouraging waste reduction, recycling, the composting of municipal food and garden waste	Maintaining consistently high recycling tonnages, when compared to similar authorities.	Annual	kg/hh/yr
	Maintain the best possible level of contamination of domestic dry recycling bin through education, communication and direct engagement via the 'Getting it Sorted' network of community volunteers.	Levels of incorrect materials maintained and improved.	Ongoing	92% or more good quality recycling
	To deliver the waste collection service improvements as required within the Environment Act	Increased recycling as a result of improved range of materials available for domestic and commercial recycling.	Timeline anticipated from Defra	Compliance
TRANSPORT - Encouraging local active travel and ensure that new and existing developments are served by good transport links.	Create the best conditions and infrastructure for walking, cycling and mobility aid across Fenland particularly for access to places of education and employment.	The implementation of Active Travel schemes in the district in collaboration with partners including the County Council and Combined Authority.	Ongoing	Number of schemes
	Enable home working and business development through supporting further development of full fibre broadband connections for the Fenland communities and businesses.	Percentage of local communities with full fibre broadband connections	Ongoing	Performance
	Continued implementation of the Fenland Rail Development Strategy 2011/2031 designed to improve the railway in Fenland.	Implementation of the measures included in the 'Getting On Track' action plan.	Ongoing	Measures installed
BUILDING RESILIENCE - Ensuring Communities remain resilient and thrive.				
Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT - Working with partners to address the risk of flooding.	Work with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners in the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership to manage flood risks.	Continue to engage fully with the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Partnership.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
	Work with partners including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to promote household level flood defence advice and defence measures.	Identify funding to allow individuals to benefit from household level flood defence measures.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
	Reduce the risk and impact of 'flash flooding' on the road network by influencing partners to review maintenance regimes for the clearance of roadside gullies, culverts and drainage assets.	Maintenance regimes provide suitable drainage capacity.	Ongoing	Reduced flood Risk
HEATWAVES - Ensuring the district is resilient to hotter drier	Work with partners to address the impacts of excess heat and ensure that when a heatwave is declared action is taken in line with the National Heatwave Plan.	Vulnerable residents are protected through the provision of support and advice on how to reduce health risks during heatwaves.	Ongoing	Reduced Excess Deaths

summers.	Support the long term development of infrastructure able to cope with increased summer temperatures, in the public realm and by supporting individuals to make adaptations.	The provision of advice through the planning process regarding the design of buildings to assist in reducing internal temperature and also in existing buildings and public spaces.	Ongoing	Advice Provided
WATER CONSERVATION - Delivery of an integrated approach to water management in the area.	Participation in the Future Fens Integrated Adaptation (FFIA) Project. Led by Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the CPCA to deliver an integrated approach to water management for the Cambridgeshire Fens.	Food security maintained, new water resources developed to help meet future needs, drought and flood risks alleviated.	Ongoing	FDC Engagement
	Work with partners including Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to promote water saving messages to householders and businesses.	Information provided, numbers of households and businesses reached.	Ongoing	Measures installed
	Work with partners including Anglia Water to ensure that the Future Fens Reservoir Plan benefits the local environment, economy and community.	National infrastructure project timescales and success criteria.	Ongoing	Project Timescales
	Aspire towards water neutrality by meeting high water efficiency standards of 110 litres per person per day and incorporating facilities to recycle, harvest and conserve water resources.	Homes built using enhanced Building Regulations standard for water efficiency.	Ongoing	New Homes Compliant


PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT - Work closely with all sections of the community to maintain and enhance the district.

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Continuing to work closely with local Communities to Develop pride in the district.	Getting it Sorted Volunteer network - Focusing on recycling, reducing and reusing waste – volunteers share what they have been doing to inspire others, upcoming events etc...	Number of Volunteers/ Number of Subscribers to E -newsletter	Ongoing	Number of Volunteers
	Street Pride Groups - Support for and development of the network of voluntary Street Pride Groups across the District, providing communities with resources to help them undertake environmental activities locally.	Number of Street Pride Groups active across Fenland. Number of Street Pride events and volunteers participating	Ongoing	Number of Groups
	Administer and promote the successful Community Environment Funds in the District. Distribute grants from 3 section 106 funds to communities in the catchment area of wind turbines.	Grants issued, measures installed and carbon reductions achieved.	Annually	Grants issued
	Golden Age Fair Events - Working with partners offering help with energy advice, claiming benefits, health checks, fitness tips, home safety, and much more.	Number of Golden Age fairs held Annually	Ongoing	Number of Events
	Increase in tree planting where appropriate to provide shading and help regulate temperatures and mitigate CO2e emissions.	Additional trees planted in partnership with community groups.	Ongoing	Number of trees planted
	Using existing networks and communications, signposting of any financial assistance available to residents and businesses for improvements such as energy storage, power generation and similar.	Number of campaigns promoted	Ongoing	Campaigns promoted
	River Care Project - Working in Partnership with the Environment Agency to hold clean-up of Town Centre river locations in the District.	Number of Clean-up events held annually	Ongoing	Clean Rivers/Riversides

FURTHER MONITORING AND REPORTING

Strategic Aim	Actions	Measure	Timescale	Target/Output
Ongoing commitment to carbon reduction and climate adaptation	Continue to reduce CO2e and put in place climate adaptations wherever possible	Calculate and publish the cumulative CO2e savings since 2018	Ongoing	Report Annually

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Agenda Item No:	11	
Committee:	COUNCIL	
Date:	12 DECEMBER 2022	
Report Title:	POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW	

1 Purpose / Summary

To consider the outcome of the recent review of polling districts and places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review.

2 Key issues

- The last interim review took place in December 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the issues that needed to be considered for the elections on 6 May 2021;
- The next compulsory Polling Districts and Polling Places review takes place from 1 October 2023;
- The legislation allows for Interim Reviews to be undertaken between Compulsory Reviews and this review is being carried out at this time due to the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Fenland's number of councillors and warding arrangements.
- The Council has undertaken a consultation exercise on the proposals within the report and received a number of comments which have been taken into account in the final recommendations. All comments and responses are detailed in Appendix B;

3 Recommendations

That the Council

- notes the outcome of the review and the consultation undertaken;
- agrees the changes recommended to polling districts and polling places, as detailed in the report at Appendix C;
- delegates authority to the Returning Officer to make changes to polling districts and polling places at short notice should it be required due to the implications of the Elections Act;
- notes that the next compulsory review of all polling districts will be undertaken from 1 October 2023 to be completed at the latest by 30 January 2025.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance
Report Originator(s)	Elaine Cooper, Team Leader Elections, Land Charges and Member Services Anna Goodall, Head of Transformation, Customer Services and Democracy
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Anna Goodall, Head of Transformation, Customer Services and Democracy Elaine Cooper, Team Leader Elections, Land Charges and Member Services
Background Paper(s)	Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Schedule A1, Representation of the People Act 1983 Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Review Consultation responses

4 Background / introduction

- 4.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 places a duty on local authorities to carry out a full review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every fifth year after 1 October 2013. The last compulsory review took place in 2018 and the next scheduled compulsory review will take place from 1 October 2023 to be completed at the latest by 30 January 2025.
- 4.2 The legislation allows for Interim Reviews to be undertaken between compulsory reviews to ensure all Polling Districts and Places are kept under consideration and remain suitable.
- 4.3 In undertaking a review, the Council must:
- publish a notice indicating the holding of a review
 - consult the Returning Officer for every Parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area
 - enable any such Returning Officer to make representations to the authority and publish them in a prescribed manner
 - seek representations from such persons that it thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability
 - allow any elector in the authority's area to make representations which could include proposals for alternative polling places.
- 4.4 On completion of the review, details of the new polling districts and polling places must be made available to the public.
- 4.5 The definitions of polling district, polling place and polling station are:
- A **polling district** is the area created by separation of a ward, division or constituency into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to the electors
 - A **polling place** is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer
 - A **polling station** is the actual area where the process of voting takes place. This must be located within the polling place and designated for the particular polling district. This function is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

The Council is responsible for designating polling places, whereas the Returning Officer is responsible for determining where the polling stations are situated within that polling place.

5 Considerations

- 5.1 When undertaking a review the Council is required to give due regard to the following considerations:
- It must seek to ensure that all electors in the area have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - It must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place is accessible to all electors.
- 5.2 A schedule of existing polling districts and polling places is set out in Appendix A.
- 5.3 The review takes into account the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review on the electoral arrangements for Fenland District Council, which resulted in 43 councillors, four more than currently, and 18 wards, six

fewer than currently. The 43 councillors will represent nine three-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and two single-councillor wards as follows:

Chatteris North & Manea – 3 councillors
Chatteris South – 3 councillors
Doddington & Wimblington – 2 councillors
Elm & Christchurch – 2 councillors
Leverington & Wisbech Rural – 3 councillors
March East – 3 councillors
March North – 3 councillors
March South – 2 councillors
March West & Benwick – 2 councillors
Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary – 3 councillors
Whittlesey East & Villages – 3 councillors
Whittlesey Lattersey – 1 councillor
Whittlesey North West – 2 councillors
Whittlesey South – 2 councillors
Wisbech North – 1 councillor
Wisbech Riverside – 2 councillors
Wisbech South – 3 councillors
Wisbech Walsoken & Waterlees – 3 councillors

- 5.4 The electoral review has also made changed to some Town Council electoral arrangements in Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech.
- 5.5 The opportunity is being taken also to implement a new polling district coding convention that better represents the ward name.
- 5.6 The electoral review also takes into account the implications of the Election Act regarding the introduction of Voter ID and the range of new accessibility requirements.
- 5.7 The electoral review changes will come into effect for the District and Parish/Town Council elections on 4 May 2023.

6 Effect on corporate objectives

- 6.1 Quality Organisation:
- this review fulfils the Council's legal obligations under The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
 - the review ensures voter engagement is maximised in the democratic process by establishing polling stations that electors deem suitable and accessible.

7 Community Impact

- 7.4 The Council undertook a formal consultation period from week commencing 26 September to 11 November 2022. A public notice of the holding of the review was displayed on the Council's website. In addition, the following specific consultations were undertaken with:
- all members of Fenland District Council

- the Returning Officer(s) for East Cambs District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council
- the Member of Parliament
- Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner
- all the Clerks for Town / Parish Councils in the Fenland area of the North East Cambridgeshire Constituency area
- organisations which have particular expertise regarding access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability including Camsight, The Varrier-Jones Foundation, Age UK, Fenland Association for Community Transport Ltd, Fenland Area Community Enterprise Trust, Caerus Care Ltd, Papworth Trust, Wisbech St Raphael Club, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust & East Cambs Access Group
- Candidates and Election Agents who acted at the 2021 elections
- Polling places within the Fenland area.

7.2 35 interested parties responded to the consultation within the deadline, with a further 3 received outside the deadline, and the comments and responses are reported at Appendix B.

7.3 The proposed changes to the current polling districts and polling places are detailed in Appendix C.

8 Conclusions

8.4 Council is asked to agree the recommended Polling Districts and Polling places outlined in the report, subject to members agreement details of the new polling districts and polling places must be made available to the public. Specified interested parties may make representations to the Electoral Commission to reconsider any polling districts and polling places.

8.5 The new electoral register containing revised arrangements for polling districts will be published on 10 February 2023. New polling districts and polling places will become effective at elections held after this date.

**FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
CURRENT SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES**

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTER	TOWN / VILLAGE	POLLING PLACE
BIRCH	AA	Birch, Chatteris	Chatteris Library, Furrowfields Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Bricstan Hall, Church Lane or any within the polling district
SLADE LODGE	AB	Slade Lode, Chatteris	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way or any within the polling district
THE MILLS	AC	Chatteris	The Masonic Hall, Huntingdon Road Or if that polling place is unavailable King Edward Centre, Railway Lane or any within the polling district
WENNEYE	AD	Chatteris	Emmanuel Church Hall, East Park Street Or if that polling place is unavailable King Edward Centre, Railway Lane or any within the polling district
MARCH EAST	BA1	March	Roman Catholic Church Hall, St Johns Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Mill View Scout Hut, Mill View or any within the polling district
	BA2	March	Fleming Court off Smiths Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable First March Scout Hall, Badgeney Road or any within the polling district
	BA3	March	March and District Children's Centre, Cavalry Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable Cavalry School, Cavalry Drive or any within the polling district
	BA4	March	
	BA5	March	St Peters Church Room, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable St Peters Church, High Street or any within the polling district
MARCH NORTH	BB1	March	March Youth & Community Centre, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Fenland Hall, County Road or any within the polling district
	BB2	March	St Johns Church Hall, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Estover Road Playing Field Pavilion or any within the polling district
	BB3	March	The GER, Robingoodfellows Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Football Clubhouse, Robingoodfellows Lane or any within the polling district
	BB4	March	St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry Or if that polling place is unavailable GER, Robingoodfellows Lane or any within the polling district
MARCH WEST	BC1	March	Rookwood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district or any other venue within the polling district
	BC2	March	March Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road Or if that polling place is unavailable March Library, City Road/Providence Baptist Church Hall, Burrowmoor Road or any within the polling district

	BC3	March	St Wendredas Church Hall, Church Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Neale Wade Academy, Wimblington Road or any within the polling district
	BC4	March	St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road or any within the polling district
BENWICK, COATES & EASTREA	CA	Benwick	Benwick Village Hall, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Benwick Primary School, High Street or any within the polling district
	DE	Coates	Coates Public Hall, 1 The Fold Or if that polling place is unavailable Coates Primary School, The Fold or any within the polling district
	DF	Eastrea	Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens Or if that polling place is unavailable The Nags Head PH, Eastrea Road or any within the polling district
	DG	Pondersbridge	Pondersbridge Village Hall, Oilmills Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	DH	Turves	The Three Horseshoes Inn, March Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district
	DI	Kings Delph	St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Baptist Church or any other venue within the polling district
BASSENHALLY	DA1	Bassenhally, Whittlesey	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street or any within the polling district
	DA2		Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street or any within the polling district
	DA3		Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Peel House, Queen Street or any within the polling district
	DA4		Willow Court, Sorrell Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable Peel House, Queen Street or any within the polling district
LATTERSEY	DB	Lattersey Whittlesey	Quinion Close Or if that polling place is unavailable Manor Leisure Centre, Station Road or any within the polling district
ST ANDREWS	DC1	St Andrews & St Marys North, Whittlesey	St Andrews Parish Hall, Parkinson Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Library, Market Street or any within the polling district
	DC2	St Marys South, Whittlesey	
STONALD	DD	Stonald Whittlesey	St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Baptist Church, Gracious Street or any within the polling district
CLARKSON	EA	Wisbech	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Boathouse, Harbour Square or any within the polling district

OCTAVIA HILL	EB1	Wisbech	College of West Anglia Isle Campus, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Rosmini Centre, Queens Road or any within the polling district
	EB2	Wisbech	Awdry House, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Thomas Clarkson Academy, Corporation Road or any within the polling district
KIRKGATE	EC	Wisbech	Walsoken Village Hall, Kirkgate Stret Or if that polling place is unavailable The Black Bear PH, Old Lynn Road or any within the polling district
MEDWORTH	ED	Wisbech	Wisbech St Raphael Disabled Club, Love Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Queen Mary Centre, Queens Road or any within the polling district
PECKOVER	EE	Wisbech	Wisbech Rugby Football Club, Chapel Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Barton Road Pavilion or any within the polling district
STAITHE	EF	Wisbech	Meadowgate Academy, Meadowgate Lane Or if the polling place is unavailable another room or a mobile polling station at Meadowgate Academy or any other venue within the polling district
WATERLEES VILLAGE	EG1	Wisbech	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at The Oasis Centre or any other venue within the polling district
	EG2	Wisbech	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at The Oasis Centre or any other venue within the polling district
	EG3	Wisbech	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station at The Oasis Centre, a room at The Boathouse or any other venue within the polling district
DODDINGTON & WIMBLINGTON	FA	Doddington	Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Doddington Scout Hall, Benwick Road or any within the polling district
	KA	Wimblington	Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parkfield Sports Centre, Chapel Lane or any within the polling district
	KB	Stonea	The Golden Lion Public House, Sixteen Foot Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Skylark Centre, Manea Road or any within the polling district
ELM & CHRISTCHURCH	GA	Friday Bridge	Fridaybridge Tower Hall, Maltmas Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Friday Bridge Primary School, Maltmas Road or any within the polling district
	GB	Elm	Elm Centre, Main Road Or if that polling station is unavailable Elm Parish Council Offices or any within the polling district
	GC	Coldham	Mobile Polling Station at Coldham Playing Field, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district

ELM & CHRISTCHURCH	GD	Rings End	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road or any within the polling district
	GE	Christchurch	Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road Or if the polling place is unavailable Townley Primary School, Crown Road or any within the polling district
MANEA	HA	Manea	Manea Village Hall, School Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Manea British Legion, East Street or any within the polling district
PARSON DROVE & WISBECH ST MARY	PA	Parson Drove	Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parson Drove Pavilion, Main Road or any within the polling district
	PB	Wisbech St Mary	Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre, Beechings Close Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech St Mary Academy, Church Road or any within the polling district
	PC	Murrow	Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable The Bell Inn, Murrow Bank or any within the polling district
	PD	Guyhirn	Play 2 Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road or any within the polling district
	PE	Thorney Toll	Thorney Toll Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district or any other venue within the polling district
ROMAN BANK	RA	Gorefield	Gorefield Community Hall, Wolf Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Gorefield Village Hall, Gote Lane or any within the polling district
	RB1	Leverington	Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road or any within the polling district
	RB2	Leverington	Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road or any within the polling district
	RC	Newton	Newton Village Hall, Church Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable St James Church, Church Lane or any within the polling district
	RD	Tydd St Giles	Tydd St Giles Community Centre, Broad Drove East Or if that polling place is unavailable Kinderley Primary School, Church Lane or any within the polling district

Polling District and Polling Places Review

Consultation Comments

Consultee	Comment	Response
Alison Bacon, Whittlesey Resident	Lattersey and South Ward I think that Lattersey Ward voters will find it easier to vote in Quinion Close and South Ward voters will find it easier to vote at the Leisure Centre.	This point is noted and the polling places for the Wards have been amended. It is proposed that the polling place for Lattersey Ward be Quinion Close and the polling place for South Ward be Manor Leisure Centre.
Mark Southwood, Barnado's	March Child & Family Centre Venue has been successfully used in previous years. It is a suitable polling place and meets the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Size and layout • Suitability • Accessibility • Availability. 	None required.
Councillor Chris Boden	Whittlesey East and Villages Ward In the new Whittlesey East & Villages Ward, new polling districts are proposed for that element of the new ward currently in Bassenhally Ward: the new polling places for the Birds Estate, The Avenues and Whittlesey Green are proposed to be the Straw Bear Public House and Willow Court, in the proposals being consulted on. The Polling Districts are WHE1 (Birds Estate) and WHE2 (The Avenues and Whittlesey Green). It's WHE2 where it is being suggested that Willow Court in Sorrell Avenue be the polling station. In my experience, Willow Court is not suitable as a polling place, and a better solution for polling district WHE2 would be a mobile polling station at the Straw Bear Car Park (with Alderman Jacob	A visit has now been made to Willow Court and it is agreed that it is unsuitable for use as a polling place due to the fact there are no suitable rooms that can be used within the premises and that the access would have to be operated by someone letting people in due to the nature of the premises and it cannot be left open. The comments about the car park are noted but we have used polling stations in the past with worst car parking arrangements than those that exist at Willow Court. A further visit has been made to the Straw Bear PH to ascertain the position at the pub. The Landlady

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>School as a back up location in case of emergency). This replicates the current arrangements for most of the area, where one polling district has the Straw Bear Public House as its polling place whilst the other polling district has the pub's car park as its polling place, where a mobile polling station is located. It is an arrangement which has worked well for several years.</p> <p>It is important to locate polling stations conveniently for voters, or else participation in elections will be reduced. We know that residents' and staff cars are already parking all day at the Willow Court car park, leaving few if any spare parking spaces there throughout the day, so access by car to vote there would be difficult – and few people from the Avenues would even know where Sorrell Avenue is! There are properly designated disabled parking spaces at the entrance to Willow Court, but those are often fully utilized given the mobility issues of many residents in Willow Court. This would leave very poor availability of convenient parking at Willow Court, if it were to be a polling place, for electors with disabilities seeking to access the polling station by car.</p> <p>From a local perspective, continuing to have two polling stations in or outside the Straw Bear provides continuity, provides ease of access and provides visibility of polling stations on election days.</p> <p>There are no reasonably close alternative polling places. As an emergency back-up, Alderman Jacob School is a solution which has been previously used, but the disruption caused by using the school as a polling place is considerable and undesirable. However, the next most location available location which is suitable to act as a polling place is the Ivy Leaf Club, and that is an undesirably great distance from these two polling districts.</p>	<p>has informed us that we cannot place a mobile polling station within the car park due to the size of the car park with it having been reduced due to further buildings being placed within its confines and a mobile would take further space from the car park and it has also recently been resurfaced. The only option is to close the pub and reimburse the Landlady for loss of earnings and have two polling stations within the polling place to serve WHE1 and WHE2.</p> <p>A visit was also made to the Whittlesey Athletic Football Club and whilst the premises is ideal for use as polling place the access leading to the facility is not ideal or convenient for electors as it is a long pot-holed gravel drive and has no lighting. This facility can be looked at again as a polling place once a new access has been created as part of the residential building works taking place around the Football Club.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for WHE1 and WHE2 be the Straw Bear Public House, with it having to close for the day, with the alternative being Alderman Jacob School.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
<p>Headteacher, Cavalry Primary School</p>	<p>Cavalry Primary School (alternative polling station) Cavalry Primary School do not have any part of the building where they can stop the public from wandering through into the classrooms except the school house and that does not have ramped access. Therefore, this site would not make a suitable alternative in its own right.</p>	<p>This is only an alternative polling place within the polling district, with the March Child and Family Centre being the polling place for this polling district, and whilst acknowledging the issues that come with schools there is no other suitable alternative. The school would only be used as a last resort should the Child and Family Centre be unavailable and under legislation schools can be used for election purposes.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for ME3 remains as March Child and Family Centre, with Calvary Primary School as the alternative.</p>
<p>Chatteris Town Council</p>	<p>The King Edward Centre is no longer available as a back-up polling station for the Emmanuel Church and the Masonic Hall as it is fully booked every day of the week. It is recommended that either the community room at the Fire Station or the Salvation Army Fortress are considered as alternatives.</p>	<p>The King Edward Centre has been contacted as part of the consultation but has not responded to say it is not available. However, contact is currently being made with the Salvation Army Fortress and the Fire Station to ascertain if they are available and suitable, with both premises lying in CS3, Wenneye Ward.</p> <p>The Salvation Army Fortress has confirmed that it would be available and is suitable to use as an alternative polling station.</p> <p>It is proposed that the alternative polling place for the Masonic Hall remains the same as Chatteris Town Football Club Pavilion and the alternative polling place for Emmanuel Church be the Salvation Army Fortress, East Park Street.</p>
<p>Elena Chernozemska</p>	<p>Wisbech North (existing polling district EG3) In last years County Council election, polling district EG3 voted at The Boathouse. It will be more convenient for electors living in (or off) Osborne Road to continue to vote at The Boathouse,</p>	<p>The Boathouse does not lie in the new WN polling district and was only used for EG3 last year for Covid reasons. The Boathouse is being used as a polling</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>as we did last year. The Boathouse is more easily accessible than the Oasis Centre.</p>	<p>station for a polling district in Wisbech Riverside Ward in which it lies and there is now limited space availability at The Boathouse. The Oasis Centre lies within polling district WN.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Oasis Centre remains as the polling place for Wisbech North.</p>
<p>Elisabeth Clough, Whittlesey Resident</p>	<p>Lattersey Ward I read the Fenland draft Polling Station and Polling Place Review with great surprise. Lattersey Ward has voted for many years at Quinion Close. The boundaries of the wards will, however, be changing. The FDC Review proposes that electors in Lattersey Ward will vote in the Manor Leisure Centre, whilst voters in South Ward will vote in Quinion Close. The reason given for this is that if electors in Quinion Close were to have to vote in (say) the Manor Leisure Centre, then electors would have to pass the Quinion Close polling station to get to their polling station. This argument is totally misguided. Whilst it is true that switching Quinion Close and the Manor Leisure Centre as the polling places for South Ward and Lattersey would mean that three households in Quinion Close would need to pass one polling station to vote in another, your proposals mean that more than half of all voters in Lattersey Ward would have to go past Quinion Close to travel onwards to vote in the Manor Leisure Centre. The Manor Leisure Centre is much closer to the centre of that polling district and is, therefore, a better location for the polling station for that district than Quinion Close. It is unreasonable to make residents here travel any further than needed to vote. I therefore propose that Lattersey Ward votes in Quinion Close and South Ward votes at the Manor Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>Please see response against Alison Bacon.</p>
<p>Stephanie Brown, Business Manager, Coates Primary School</p>	<p>Coates Primary School (alternative polling station) This is a school building and we have serious concerns for the safety of our children, therefore, would object to the school being</p>	<p>This is an alternative polling place should the Village Hall not be available. We are aware of issues with</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>used. Our school hall is a Thorofare for two parts of the school, so needs to be used by children and adults. We do have a mobile classroom on our playground, but again the children play outside and the gates must always be kept shut to keep our children safe. The village hall at the top of the road is usually used.</p>	<p>the use of schools and would only use it as a last resort should the Village Hall be unavailable and under legislation schools can be used for election purposes.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for Coates (WHE4) remains as Coates Village Hall, with Coates Primary School as the alternative.</p>
<p>Averil Cosstick, Whittlesey Resident</p>	<p>South Ward Quinion Close is not convenient for most electors to vote in Whittlesey South Town Council Ward. There are lots of public locations more convenient and more central in the polling district, such as Peel House or the Leisure Centre. Please change your proposal so that South Ward voters can vote somewhere more convenient for the vast majority of the electors. Otherwise the election turnout will be even lower than usual.</p>	<p>Please see response against Alison Bacon.</p>
<p>Diane Cutler</p>	<p>Parson Drove Village Hall Easy to locate, large hall with easy access and parking, disabled access, kitchen, toilets</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>Returning Officer East Cambridgeshire District Council</p>	<p>As the review is covering the Fenland ward areas and polling stations, has no comments.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
<p>Pauline Edge, Whittlesey Resident</p>	<p>Bassenhally Ward I live in the Birds Estate which is that part of Whittlesey north of Drybread Road. There are many bungalows in this area, and there are many residents who are elderly or who have mobility issues. It would be unreasonable to make residents here travel any further than needed to vote. I therefore agree with the proposal that the Straw Bear Public House (or its car park) are retained as our local polling station.</p>	<p>None required, it is proposed that the Straw Bear be used as a polling place for both WHE1 and WHE2.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
Sue Karwowski, Emmanuel Church	Emmanuel Church Hall Happy with current arrangements.	None required.
Colin Minister, Friday Bridge Tower Hall	Friday Bridge Tower Hall No problems using Tower Hall	None required.
Michael Humphrey, Gorefield Playing Field Association	Gorefield Community Hall Confirm that Gorefield Community Hall is available.	None required.
Councillor Samantha Hoy	Rosmini Centre (alternative polling station) I do not think that the Rosmini Centre should be used as a reserve polling place for Octavia Hill. We haven't had it there before and it is so far away from a large amount of the ward. If a reserve is needed it should be at the Salvation Army where we have polled before.	The Salvation Army does not lie in polling district WS1 where it is suggested that it is an alternative polling station for but is only just outside it and still within Wisbech South. The point is noted that the Salvation Army has been used previously but there had been some resistance to its previous use. It is proposed that the polling place for WS1 remains as College of West Anglia, with the alternative polling place being the Salvation Army Centre, John Thompson Road.
Pam Manley, Leverington Village Hall	Leverington Village Hall Suitable, with easy access, right size, easy to locate and on site parking. Leverington Village Hall has been used as a polling station for many years and has been suitable and available when required.	None required.
Rev Andrew Smith, March Churches	St Peters Church, St Johns Church Hall, St Wendreda's Hall and St Mary's Hall I can confirm that we are happy to have polling stations at the above locations. As far as other parts of the review, I doubt if it makes geographical sense to link Benwick with March. Benwick ought to be linked with Doddington.	None required. Unfortunately this decision has already been made to link Benwick with March West and this is out of the control of the review

Consultee	Comment	Response
<p>Ann Mason, Whittlesey Resident</p>	<p>South Ward It will be more convenient for people living in your proposed polling district WHS2 to vote at the Manor Leisure Centre rather than Quinion Close. Quinion Close is right on the edge of the polling district, the Manor Leisure Centre is in the middle of it and is far more convenient for most electors.</p>	<p>Please see response against Alison Bacon.</p>
<p>Councillor David Mason</p>	<p>South Ward As the District Councillor for St Andrews Ward and the Town Councillor for St Andrews and St Marys North Ward, please take the following observations into account:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the new WTC South Ward, the proposed polling place at Quinion Close is sub-optimal because it is right at the edge of the polling district and it has insufficient parking facilities to deal with the large number of electors in South Ward who would need to access the polling station by car because of the distance between where they live and the polling station. A better, more accessible polling place for the new polling district WHS2 would be the Scaldgate Family Centre or the Manor Leisure Centre. It would be undesirable that several hundred electors from the Ramsey Road area would need to get to Quinion Close to vote. 2. There is no advantage to be gained by maintaining a separate polling district for King's Delph. No suitable polling place is anywhere near that polling district so they will need to travel across the railway line into Whittlesey to vote. There are fewer than 100 potential voters in person. I suggest merging polling districts WHS2 and WHS4 into one polling district. 	<p>Please see response against Alison Bacon.</p> <p>WHS2 and WHS4 are not linked and divided by WHS3. However, WHS2 and WHS4 can be combined taking in the northern most part of WHS3 with no electors to be moved to form WHS2 and deletion of WHS4 in its entirety.</p> <p>I propose that WHS2 and WHS4 are combined to form WHS2.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
Lauraine Mean, Whittlesey Resident	<p>South Ward</p> <p>Quinion Close is not convenient for most electors to vote in Whittlesey South Town Council Ward. There are lots of public locations more convenient and more central in the polling district, such as Peel House or the Leisure Centre or the Library. Please change your proposal so that South Ward voters can vote somewhere more convenient for the vast majority of the electors. Otherwise the election turnout will be even lower than usual.</p>	Please see response against Alison Bacon.
Councillor Jason Mockett	<p>Lattersey Ward</p> <p>It is important to locate polling stations conveniently for voters, or else participation in elections will be reduced. For Lattersey Ward voters, the most convenient place available to vote is the Quinion Close Residents Community Room. To suggest that Lattersey voters should have to travel all the way to the Manor Leisure Centre to vote is unreasonable and will result in fewer people voting. I support Quinion Close as the Lattersey Ward polling place with the Manor Leisure Centre serving South Ward's electors.</p>	Please see response against Alison Bacon.
Christine Carr, Murrow Village Hall	<p>Murrow Village Hall</p> <p>This is a community facility with all necessary facilities and good access for all. The village hall is a very suitable building to accommodate a polling station. The alternative place listed is The Bell, but this pub is no longer open so could not be used for a polling station. The one time it was used it was not an ideal venue. The only other alternative in the village is Murrow Village School or Pre-School on the same site.</p> <p>Because of the way the parish boundary runs there are houses in Mill Road which are in Parson Drove parish, and Back Road is spilt with the even numbered side of the road in Wisbech St Mary parish and the odd numbers in Parson Drove which does not seem logical for voting purposes.</p>	<p>In light of the comments made regarding The Bell, contact has been made with Murrow Methodist Church, who have confirmed that it is suitable and could be available.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for Murrow (PDW3) remains as Murrow Village Hall, with the alternative polling place being Murrow Methodist Church, Front Road.</p> <p>The comments regarding Mill Road and Back Road are acknowledged, however changing boundaries falls outside the remit of a Polling District Review.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
David Boyce, Clerk Parson Drove Parish Council	Parson Drove Village Hall The Council agreed that the best place for the polling station is to remain at the Village Hall.	None required
Boryana Pehlivanova	Wisbech North (Existing Polling District EG3) In last year's County Council election, polling district EG3 voted at The Boathouse. It will be more convenient for electors living in (or off) Osborne Road to continue to vote at The Boathouse, as we did last year. The Boathouse is more easily accessible than the Oasis Centre.	See comments against Elena Chernozemska.
Sheila Otter Robert Hall Center	Robert Hall Centre The centre has been used as a polling station for many years and it is hoped the Council will continue to use the premises as it has proved very appropriate for many years. It has ramps at the entrances, a fitted kitchen, good toilet facilities including a special loo for those with disabilities.	None required.
Bart Woodbine, Skylark Garden Centre	Skylark Garden Centre (alternative polling station) We would like to put our name forward but during school holidays the business is extremely busy and as such we would not be able to host a polling station during this time.	None required, except that scheduled elections normally take place outside of school holidays.
Rosemary Fuller, Church Warden St Wendredas Church	St Wendreda's Church Hall No changes needed at this time	None required.
Jakki Racey, Whittlesey Library	Whittlesey Library Easy to locate, suitable polling place as closed on Thursdays, disabled access and toilets, public car park behind library and everything on one floor.	None required.

Consultee	Comment	Response
<p>Councillor Julie Windle Whittlesey Town Council</p>	<p>South Ward I am Town Councillor for St Andrews and St Marys North Ward. Polling Stations should be located conveniently for electors to vote. Asking voters in Briggate Crescent, Ashline Grove and The Limes to vote in Quinion Close is bizarre, given that there are so many more central and more convenient polling places available such as the Library, or Peel House, or Manor Leisure Centre to name but a few. Please do not force electors from the new South Ward to have to travel further than necessary to vote – please remove Quinion Close as the South Ward polling place and replace it with a more central location for the polling district.</p>	<p>Please see response against Alison Bacon.</p>
<p>Jaynie Lynch, Headteacher, Wisbech St Mary Church of England Academy</p>	<p>Wisbech St Mary Church of England Academy (alternative polling station) As a school, it is not suitable to use this location as the disruption to pupils and the local community would be excessive. There is also an existing polling station in the village (the community centre). Aside from the reasons noted above, it would not be possible to properly safeguard the child if the school was used as a polling station. There is no space available within the school to act as a polling station as all available space is being used for teaching and pupil space, including mealtime provision. There is no need to use the school as a polling station given that there is a more appropriate location (the Wisbech St Mary Community Centre) which is adjacent the school. As a community facility, this would be a more logical location for a polling station going forward. Indeed it has fulfilled this function in the past. Should the school have to be used, you would be required to produce a robust risk assessment and safeguarding policy and procedures to safeguard my children, staff, and members of the public ahead of the school being used as a polling station.</p>	<p>This is an alternative polling place should the Community Centre not be available. We are aware of issues with the use of schools and would only use it as a last resort should the Community Centre be unavailable and under legislation schools can be used for election purposes.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for Wisbech St Mary (PDW2) remains as Wisbech St Mary Community Centre, with Wisbech St Mary Church of England Academy as the alternative.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
<p>Sarah Bligh, Parish Clerk Wisbech St Mary Parish Council</p>	<p>The recommendations for polling places in the parish are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisbech St Mary – Wisbech St Mary Community Centre • Murrow – Murrow Village Hall • Guyhirn – the new Guyhirn Community Room on the playing field • Thorney Toll – Thorney Toll Village Hall 	<p>A visit has been made to assess the new Guyhirn Community Room and whilst the facility itself is suitable, the access to the community room is not. The vehicular access is a long distance from the road to the community room, alongside a dyke on an unmade track and has no lighting alongside it. The other access that is tarmacked is to be blocked off to vehicles as there is conflict with people using the play area and vehicles. Unless the access was improved significantly the facility would not be suitable for use.</p> <p>It is proposed that the polling place for PDW4 (and ECH4) remains as Play2Day, with the Oliver Twist as the alternative.</p>
<p>David Dobson. Club Secretary, Wisbech Rugby Club</p>	<p>Wisbech Rugby Club (alternative polling station) Unsuitable as club has regular bookings on polling days. The clubhouse is already booked for regular use on a Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon. We have previously been informed that another activity cannot take place in the clubhouse on polling day.</p>	<p>This is only an alternative polling station and would only be used if Wisbech Town Cricket and Hockey Club was unavailable.</p> <p>On further correspondence, it has been confirmed that the club would be happy for us to use the Rugby Club as a polling station as long as other activities could take place in other areas of the premises, but not the actual room that polling takes place.</p>
<p>Alison Mason, Treasurer, Wisbech Town Cricket and Hockey Club</p>	<p>Wisbech Town Cricket and Hockey Club Previously used with success and is easy to locate. At some stage in the future the pavilion/ location will be unavailable as it is to be completely rebuilt. We do not have a definite time schedule for this as yet, but it will not be before September 2023. Once building works begin it is likely to take 12 months. Once the new building is in place we would very much like to continue to provide the facilities long term for the district as a</p>	<p>None required.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	polling station. We may have a temporary portacabin style building available during the period of the works but cannot guarantee this would be suitable until more details are known.	
Unknown Whittlesey Resident	Lattersey and South Ward I think that Lattersey Ward voters will find it easier to vote in Quinion Close and South Ward voters will find it easier to vote at the Leisure Centre.	Please see response against Alison Bacon.

Received after deadline for response:

<p>Councillor Dee Laws</p>	<p>Whittlesey North West Ward</p> <p>The new ward of Whittlesey North West comprises the whole of the existing Stonald Ward (which I represent on the District and Town Councils) and part of the existing Bassenhally Ward. The ward requires two polling places.</p> <p>The best polling place within the ward is the Baptist Church on Gracious Street. Unlike the Ivy Leaf Club, the Baptist Church is not accessed directly from the B1040. I have often seen problems for cars attempting to access or exit the Ivy Leaf Car Park from or to the B1040 at busy times, but there are no such traffic problems when accessing or exiting the car park of the Baptist Church. In the last elections, the Baptist Church worked very well as a polling station.</p> <p>I recommend the St John Ambulance Station on Plough Road as the second polling place for the ward. It is tried and tested.</p> <p>The current DD polling district (Stonald Ward) really has too large an electorate to remain a polling district. I accept that it needs to be reduced in size. It is important, however, to ensure that the boundaries of each polling district are most conveniently drawn to minimize the difficulties any voter may have in getting to a polling station.</p> <p>Accordingly, I propose switching the properties listed in Appendix A from polling district WHNW1 to WHNW2. I furthermore advocate moving the properties listed in Appendix B from polling district WHNW2 to WHNW1. With the Baptist Church as the polling place for WHNW1, and the St Johns Ambulance Station as the polling place for WHNW2, this will maximise the convenience for voters of the arrangements of polling districts and polling stations in the ward.</p> <p>Appendix A – Pattens Close, Bowker Way, Commons Road,</p>	<p>The Baptist Church, Ivy Leaf Club and St Johns Ambulance Station have all been used successfully as polling stations so there is no issue in meeting the request for the Whittlesey Baptist Church to be used for WHNW1 and St Johns Ambulance Station for WHNW2 with the Ivy Leaf Club as the alternative for both polling districts.</p> <p>There are no issues with the suggested changes to the polling district in moving streets as detailed in Appendix A and B from WHNW1 to WHNW2 and vice versa</p> <p>It is proposed that the streets be moved from WHNW1 to WHNW2 and WHNW2 to WHNW1 as suggested in Appendix A and B and that the polling place for WHNW1 be the Whittlesey Baptist Church and WHNW2 be the St Johns Ambulance Station, with the alternative polling station for both being the Ivy Leaf Club.</p>
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	<p>Mandalay Park, Stonald Avenue, Northgate Close, Northgate, Reidy Gardens, Sudbury Court, Stonald Road (32-154 evens)</p> <p>Appendix B – Low Cross (even numbers), Reubens Yard, Harpers Close, Wittel Close, Gilbert Close Oldfield Gardens, Windmill Street, Monks Close, Searles Court, George Gardens, Delph (odd numbers), Claygate, Hailward Gardens, Gracious Streets (37-95 odds, 32-64 evens, St Marys House, Orchard Street (odd numbers), Whitmore Street (22-62 evens), Stonald Road (11-49 odds)</p>	
<p>Carole Butler, March Providence Baptist Church</p>	<p>Providence Baptist Church Is suitable as a polling place as meets all the criteria.</p>	<p>None required, but alternative polling station for MS1 to be March Providence Baptist Church Hall, Burrowmoor Road</p>
<p>Wisbech Town Council</p>	<p>Wisbech Town Council supports most of the proposal outlined in Fenland District Council’s current consultation reviewing polling districts and polling places in the town.</p> <p>It is stated clearly by the Electoral Commission that a polling place should be designated within a polling district unless there are strong reasons to do otherwise. This is to ensure that as many electors as possible may be able to vote as conveniently as possible.</p> <p>There are several proposals within the consultation document where the principle at 2 above has not been followed.</p> <p>a) Wisbech Town Council notes that it is proposed that the polling place for both the Claremont and Clarence Town Council Wards (polling districts WR1 and WR2) will be located outside of the boundaries of those wards. The Town Council recognises that there are no suitable locations for a polling place within either of these very small wards and, therefore, supports the consultation document proposal to designate the Robert Hall Centre in Lynn Road as the polling place for these two polling</p>	<p>None required.</p>

districts, being the most convenient and accessible location for both polling districts.

b) Similarly, the council notes the proposal to make the Oasis Centre the polling place for polling district WWW1, even though the Oasis Centre is located both in a different polling district and in a different ward. The principle of ensuring that as many voters as possible in a ward should be able to vote as conveniently as possible would be better fulfilled if the polling place for polling district WWW1 were to be the Kingdom Hall on Tinkers Drove, which is located within the WWW1 polling district. The council notes that the Kingdom Hall is considered in the consultation to be suitable as an alternative polling place, so the council can see no reason why it should not be the proposed polling place for that polling district. Accordingly, Wisbech Town Council recommends that the Kingdom Hall in Tinkers Drove be designated as the polling place for polling district WWW1.

c) For polling district LWR1, the council notes that the proposed polling place, Wisbech Cricket & Hockey Club in Chapel Road, is located outside the boundaries of the polling district. Wisbech Town Council is of the opinion that it would be better if Barton Road Pavilion, which is within the polling district, were to be designated the preferred polling place for polling district LWR1. However, the council recognises that the pavilion is not currently in a fit state to act as a polling place. These polling places and polling districts may well be applicable for elections for many years ahead, not just for 2023. Wisbech Town Council, therefore, proposes that, whilst Barton Road Pavilion should be designated as the polling place for polling district LWR1, with the Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club being designated as an alternative polling place for the polling district; a note is made in the report that for the scheduled election in 2023 the alternative polling place for the polling district shall be utilised because of the current state of repair of the Barton Road Pavilion.

The electors within WWW1 are used to attending the Oasis Centre to vote, even though it lies outside the Ward. Whilst Kingdom Hall has been proposed as the alternative, it is not known whether it is suitable or available, several attempts have been made to contact the premises but no response has been received as yet and from details on the web it does say that there is meeting on a Thursday evening.

It is proposed that the polling place for WWW1 remains as the Oasis Centre, with the alternative being either Kingdom Hall, Tinkers Drove or a mobile polling station within the car park at The Oasis Centre.

As alluded to in the consultation document, Barton Road Pavilion is not fit for use currently and there will be another Polling District and Places Review in over a years time, which is the compulsory review, so it will be assessed at that time whether the Barton Road Pavilion has become suitable for LWR1 at that time.

It is proposed that the polling place for LWR1 remains as Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, with the alternative being Wisbech Town Rugby Club.

d) In Wisbech North Ward, Wisbech Town Council notes the proposal to create a single polling district, WN. However, the Westernmost existing polling district for that area, EG3, had the Boathouse as its polling place in the most recent local elections last year, and this proved to be far more convenient for the residents of that polling district than voting at the Oasis Village Centre. Voter convenience is a major factor in ensuring high voter participation in elections, and Wisbech Town Council sees no reason to change the successful current arrangements. Wisbech Town Council, therefore, recommends that Wisbech North Ward be divided into two polling districts, WN1 and WN2, with those properties currently in polling district EG3 being placed within the new WN1 polling district. Polling district WN2 would contain the Oasis Village Centre, and that should be the polling place for that polling district. Polling district WN1 would not contain any location that would be suitable as a polling place but, in following Electoral Commission advice, the most convenient location for the voters in that polling district should be chosen as the polling place for that polling district, and that would be the Boathouse

This would have the advantage of retaining the most convenient polling place for that part of North Ward whilst not increasing the total number of polling places, as the Boathouse could accommodate a dual station.

4. Within the Wisbech South Ward, Wisbech Town Council supports the proposed polling places in all three polling districts. However, as the alternative polling place for polling district WS1, the council believes that it would be more convenient for the alternative polling station to be closer to The College of West Anglia Campus than the Rosmini Centre. This would be consistent with the Electoral Commission's advice that the choice of polling place should be such as to advise voters as to the practicality, desirability or necessity of seeking to exercise their right to vote using an absent vote, rather than voting in person. Accordingly, Wisbech Town Council recommends that

The Boathouse is the polling place allocated for WR3 as it lies within that polling district and the room used last time as a polling station within the premises is no longer available as it has been let out externally and this limits the space that is available within the premises to use as a polling station. Electors from WN are used to voting at the Oasis Community Centre, proposals for part of WN to vote at The Boathouse (former EG3) were only put in place last year for Covid reasons.

The Oasis Community Centre lies within the polling district of WN and there is no rationale for splitting the ward into two polling district when it is well below the Electoral Commission's threshold for electors in a single polling district. There is also no rationale for it being more convenient for electors to vote at a polling place outside of the polling district.

It is proposed that WN remains as a single polling district and the polling place remains as the The Oasis Centre, St Michaels Avenue, with the alternative being a mobile polling station in the Car Park at The Oasis Centre.

The point around the Rosmini Centre is noted and that the Salvation Army Citadel has been used previously. However, the Salvation Army Citadel is just outside of polling district WS1, but still lies within Wisbech South Ward and the use of the Citadel has previously been met with resistant but there is no objection to this request.

It is proposed that the alternative polling place for

	<p>the alternative polling place for polling district WS1 should be either the Salvation Army Citadel or Ramnoth School.</p> <p>Finally, Wisbech Town Council strongly supports the consultation recommendations that the Boathouse and Meadowgate Academy be used as the polling places for polling districts WR3 and WWW3 respectively, as each site provides the best possible access for electors in those polling districts.</p>	<p>WS1 be the Salvation Army Citadel, John Thomson Road.</p> <p>None required.</p>
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**FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
CHATTERIS NORTH AND MANEA	CNM1	Birch Ward, Chatteris	Chatteris Library, Furrowfields Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Bricstan Hall, Church Lane	No change
	CNM2	Slade Lode North Ward, Chatteris	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way	Albert Way, Angoods Lane, Badney Drove, Beaufort Drive, Beckett Way, Black Horse Lane, Bridge Street, Chapel Lane, Coxs Lane, Curf Fen Drove, Cygnet Drive, Dobbs Yard, Dock Road, Doddington Road, Drake Avenue, Fenland Way, Fenton Way (Willow Farm), First Drove Swingbrow, Forty Foot Bank (2, 2A, 4, 6, Dykeside), Furrowfields Road (9-69 odds), George Way, Grenadier Drive, Gull Way, Harbour Court, Heronshaw, High Street (59-133 odds, 126-144 evens), Kempston Court, Kingfisher Close, Lode Way, Moxons Passage, Pecks Court, Pecks Yard, Penny Lane, Plover Close, Porters Yard, Pound Road, Quayside, Ravenscroft, Short Nightlayers Drove, Slade Way, Sycamore Crescent, Tern Gardens, Turf Fen Lane (Wheelhead Farm)
	CNM3	Manea	Manea Village Hall, School Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable British Legion Club, East Street	No change
CHATTERIS SOUTH	CS1	Slade Lode South Ward, Chatteris	Quaker Way Residents Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Children's Centre, Larham Way	Ash Grove, Burnsfield Estate, Burnsfield Street, First Furlong Drove, Gipson Close, High Street (77-122 evens), Honeysome Road, Huntingdon Road (The Haven), Johnson Way, Larham Way, Lime Tree Gardens, Marritt Close, Old Station Place, Parkers Close, Quaker Way, Railway Lane (Cranes Yard), Station Street (17b-77 odds), The Grove, Treeway, Westmoor Drove, Windmill Mews
	CS2	The Mills Ward, Chatteris	The Masonic Hall, Huntingdon Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Chatteris Town Football Club Pavilion, West Street	No change

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
CHATTERIS SOUTH	CS3	Wenneye Ward, Chatteris	Emmanuel Church Hall, East Park Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Fortress, East Park Street	No change
DODDINGTON AND WIMBLINGTON	DW1	Doddington	Doddington Village Hall, Benwick Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Doddington Scout Hut, Benwick Road	No change
	DW2	Wimblington	Wimblington Parish Hall, Addison Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parkfield Sports Centre, Chapel Lane	No change
	DW3	Wimblington (Stonea)	The Golden Lion PH, Sixteen Foot Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Skylark Centre, Manea Road	No change
ELM AND CHRISTCHURCH	ECH1	Elm - Elm & Friday Bridge Ward (Elm)	Elm Centre, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Elm Parish Council Offices, Begdale Road	No change
	ECH2	Elm - Elm & Friday Bridge Ward (Friday Bridge)	Fridaybridge Tower Hall, Maltmas Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable Friday Bridge Primary School, Maltmas Drive	No change
	ECH3	Elm - Coldham Ward	A mobile polling station at Coldham Playing Field, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No change
	ECH4	Elm - Rings End Ward	Play2Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road or any within the polling district	No change

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
ELM AND CHRISTCHURCH	ECH5	Christchurch	Christchurch Community Centre, Upwell Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Townley Primary School, Crown Road	No change
LEVERINGTON AND WISBECH RURAL	LWR1	Wisbech – Peckover West	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, Chapel Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Road	Ashdale Park, Barton Green, Barton Road (NOT 2A-16 evens), Bevis Lane (Glendale, Wilholm, Green Haven, Croft Cottage, The Cottage, Orchard Nursery, Bramley House, Orchard Cottage, Orchard View, The Brambles, Smithfields, White O'Morn, The Warrens, Sherson Lodge, The Barns), Brampton Close, Coxs Lane, Cross Lane, Gadds Lane (NOT Rose Olli, Dennis House or Lanes End), Leverington Common (Croft Cottage, Flatmore, White Engine Hall, White Engine Mill, Mill House), Lords Lane, Magazine Close, Magazine Lane, Manor Gardens, Marlborough Court, Mile Tree Lane, North Brink (166-421), Panswell Lane (Little Lodge, Bentley Lodge, Inham Farm, Orchard View, Croft Cottage, Hazeldene), Purbeck Close, Richmond Court, Sandy Lane (Panswell House), The Still (Vita Nova Barn), The Water Gardens, Woodcote Park
	LWR2	Leverington	Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road	No change
	LWR3	Leverington	Leverington Village Hall, Gorefield Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Leverington Sports and Social Club, Church Road	No change
	LWR4	Newton-in-the-Isle	Newton-in-the-Isle Village Hall, Church Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable St James Church, Church Lane	No change
	LWR5	Tydd St Giles	Tydd St Giles Community Centre, Broad Drove East Or if that polling place is unavailable Kinderley Primary School, Church Lane	No change

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
MARCH EAST	ME1	March - East	St Peters Church Room, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable St Peters Church, High Street	Abbeygate Court, Ashbeach Road, Badgeney Road (1A-27 odds, St Andrews Court), Bevills Place, Britannia View, Chandlers Way, Chapel View, Cotswold Close, Deerfield Road (A1-93 odds, 2-126 evens), Eastwood Avenue, Elwyn Court, Elwyn Road, Elwyndene Road, Green Street, High Street (30-118 evens), Market Place, New Road, Noble Gardens, North Drive, Old Court Place, Orchard Close, Orchard Road, Orchard Road South, Pocklington Court, River Drive, Rosedene Drive, Roses Close, Rosewood Close, Scargells Lane, Shaftesbury Court, St Peters Road (NOT 2, 2A, 9, 9A, Dutch Garden), Stonecross Way, Strawberry Way, The Walnuts, Upwell Road (2-56 evens, 1-83 odds), Wherry Close, White Lion Close
	ME2		Fleming Court Residents Community Room, off Smiths Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable First March Scout Hall, Badgeney Road	Alberts Drive, Asplin Avenue, Badgeney End, Badgeney Road (NOT 1A-27 odds, St Andrews Court), Binnimoor Road, Bittern Way, Coleseed Road (2, Broomfield Barn, Wimbleton Farm, Winston Place), Collingwood Avenue, Cygnet Crescent, Deerfield Road (95-117 odds), East Drive, Endeavour Way, Fleming Court, Gimbert Square, Grounds Avenue, Haslehurst Close, Heathcote Close, Henry Orbell Close, Heron Walk, Horsemoor Road (Bosworth House), Hurst Avenue, Kingfisher Close, Mallard Way, Mallett Close, Meadow Drive, Mills Gardens, Morton Avenue, Papworth Road, Plover Drive, Robshaw Close, Rodham Road, Sheppersons Grove, Silt Road, Smiths Drive, South Drive, Swallow Way, Swift Close, Upwell Park, Upwell Road (from 58 evens, from 71 odds), West Drive
	ME3	March – Town End	March Child and Family Centre, Cavalry Drive Or if that polling place is unavailable Cavalry School, Cavalry Drive, March	Aldeby Close, Apple Grove, Bosworth Way, Breton Avenue, Camargue Drive, Cavalry Drive, Cavalry Park, Cleveland Bay, Clydesdale Close, Dragoon Drive, Fairfax Way, Field Baulk, Fleetwood Close, High Street (120-132 evens), Hunters Chase, Hussars Court, Ingoldsby Close, Ireton Way, Kelsey Way, Monte Long Close, Monument View, Norico Bay, Olivers Close, Percherson Drive, St Peters Road (2, 2A, 9, 9A, Dutch Garden), Suffolk Way, The Avenue (2-94 evens), The Causeway (4-58 evens), The Greys, The Shires, Woodlands Avenue, Worsley Chase

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
MARCH NORTH	MN1	March - North	Roman Catholic Church Hall, St Johns Road Or if that polling place is unavailable March Youth and Community Centre, Station Road	Alpha Street (4-24 evens), Belmont Road, Blue Ridge Gardens, Broad Street (odds), Cabaret Court, Cedar Close, Cowslip Place, Creek Road (2-252 evens, 19-219 odds), Foxglove Way, Harebell Close, Henford Gardens, Lambs Place, Mill View, Milner Close, Nene Parade, New Park, Newlands Avenue, North Street, Norwood Avenue, Primrose Crescent, Regent Avenue (1-11 odds), Riverdown, Robingoodfellows Lane (7, 9, 11, Hansart Court), Shaftesbury Avenue, St Johns Chase, St Johns Road, Station Road (2-86a evens, 3-205 odds, The Wheel Centre, Marwick House, Norfolk Court, Mortons Court, Jim Hocking Court, Millers Yard), The Parks, Thornton Road, Waterside Gardens, Wigstones Road, Wilkinson Close, Willowherb Close
	MN2		GER, Robingoodfellows Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Football Clubhouse, Robingoodfellows Lane	Acacia Grove, Alfruda Close, Alpha Street (1a-19 odds), Ash Grove, Beech Grove, Bronze Street, Burn Street, Century Way, Dartford Road (1-67a odds), Darthill Road, Gold Street, Gordon Avenue, Great Eastern Road, Hawthorne Grove, Henson Road, Hereward Street (1-33 odds), Hobart Court, Hundred Road (1-3), Kingsley Street, Laburnum Grove, Lime Grove, Locomotive Drive, Maple Grove, Norwalde Street, Norwood Crescent, Norwood Road (91-173 odds, 22-228 evens), Pilgrims Close, Poplar Close, Princes Walk, Regent Avenue (11a-45 odds, 4-50 evens), Robingoodfellows Lane (6-132 evens, 13-25, 89-125 odds, Shepperson House, Regent Court, Oberon Park), Silver Street, Southwell Close, St Marys Drive, Stephenson Close, The Junction, The Palms, Wake Road, Westwood Avenue
	MN3		St Johns Church Hall, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Fenland Hall, County Road	Alder Close, Alexander Gardens, All Saints Close, Berryfields, Bramble Walk, Burnet Gardens, Campbell Way, Cawood Close, College Gardens, County Road, Creek Fen, Creek Road (286-364 evens, Creek Farm, The Jays, Three Acres, Hillcroft), Cromwell Road, Dagless Way, Elm Close, Elm Road, Estover Road, Flaggrass Hill Road, Great Northern Close, Hereward Street (2-64 evens), High School Close, Highfield Road, Landau Way, Longhill Road, Marsh Close, Mayors Close, Nightall Drive,

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
				Norwood Road (1a-87 odds, 2-8 evens), Peterhouse Crescent, Queen Street Close, Queens Street, Robingoodfellows Lane (29-83 odds), Roman Way, Station Road (88-212 evens), Stevens Way, Swan Court, Swanton Close, The Hollies, The Laurels.
MARCH SOUTH	MS1	March – South	March Town Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Providence Baptist Church Hall, Burrowmoor Road	Acre Road, Almond Drive, Babble Close, Beck Close, Birchwood Avenue, Blossom Terrace, Bluebell Way, Boundary Drive, Brewin Avenue, Brook Close, Burrowmoor Road (up to bypass), Butt Avenue, Buttercup Close, Chapel Street, Cherryholt Avenue, Cherrywood Green, Chestnut Crescent, City Road, Clover Close, Conway Close, Cornmill, Cousins Close, Cricketers Close, Dahlia Close, Daisy Avenue, Damson Drive, Deptford Close, Ellingham Avenue, Gaul Road (up to bypass), George Street, High Street (1-93 odds), Hornbeam Close, Jones Close, Kingswood Road, Lewis Close, Magnolia Close, Maiden Stile Close, Millfield Close, Oxbow Crescent, Park View East, Park View West, Plowright Close, Ravenhill Drive, Richmond Avenue, Riverbank Close, Shaw Drive, St Thomas Drive, Sunflower Avenue, Swale Close, Sycamore Close, The Chase, Turnbull Road, Violet Drive, Willow Drive, Yardy Close
	MS2		St Wendreda's Church Hall, Church Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Neale Wade Academy, Wimblington Road	Apple Tree Close, Barkers Lane, Causeway Close, Causeway Gardens, Church Close, Church Street, Coleseed Road (The Bungalow, Coleseed House), Coronation Close, Crown Close, Ermine Close, Gas Road, Heritage Way, High Street (95-133 odds), Hook Drove Wimblington (Hook Drove Bungalow, Hook Drove Cottage, Corner House, Halfpenny Toll Stables), Jobs Lane, Kirk Ogden Close, Knights End Road (up to bypass), Lambs Hill Drove, Linwood Lane, Mill Hill Lane, Princess Avenue, Rectory Drive, Saxon Way, Sherbrooke Close, Spire View, Springfield Avenue, St Wendredas Drive, Steeple View, The Avenue (1-75 odds), The Bramleys, The Causeway (11-63 odds), Town End Pits Lane, Wimblington Road

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
MARCH WEST AND BENWICK	MWB1	March – Peas Hill	Rookwood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	Adelaide Place, Anglers Close, Aspenwood Grove, Brooks Road, Clifton Close, Coalville Cloe, Dartford Road (2-70 evens), Deben Close, Elliott Road, Fishermans Drive, Grays Lane, Harvester Close, Kent Way, Marram Court, Marylebone Road, Oak Tree Close, Orwell Drive, Osprey Place, Peas Hill Road, Pentland Way, Phillips Chase, Poppy Lane, Richards Close, Rookwood Road, Staceys Way, Summer Gardens, Swanley Gardens, The Birches, The Windsors, Truman Avenue, Waveney Drive, West End, White Horse Gardens, Windsor Drive, Wisbech Road (2-184c evens), Yarrow Close
	MWB2		Rookwood Club, West End Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	Atlantic Close, Burberry Close, East Close, Gresley Way, Hillside Road, Hundred Road (2-54 evens), Meadowlands, Norwood Road (175-331 odds), Nursery Drive, Pacific Close, Peyton Avenue, Prospect Road, Russell Avenue, Smiths Chase, The Green, West Close, Wisbech Road (69-159 odds, Cobblestones)
	MWB3	March - West	St Marys Church Hall, Wisbech Road, Westry Or if that polling place is unavailable March Town Cricket Club, Burrowmoor Road	No change – amalgamation of former BB4 and BC4
	MWB4	Benwick	Benwick Village Hall, High Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Benwick Primary School, High Street	No change
PARSON DROVE AND WISBECH ST MARY	PDW1	Parson Drove	Parson Drove Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Parson Drove Pavilion, Main Road	No change
	PDW2	Wisbech St Mary – Wisbech St Mary Ward (Wisbech St Mary)	Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre, Beechings Close Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech St Mary Academy, Church Road	No change
	PDW3	Wisbech St Mary – Murrow Ward (Murrow)	Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank Or if that polling place is unavailable Murrow Methodist Church, Front Road	No change

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
	PDW4	Wisbech St Mary – Wisbech St Mary Ward (Guyhirn)	Play2Day, The Old Station Yard, Gull Road Or if that polling place is unavailable The Oliver Twist, High Road	No change
	PDW5	Wisbech St Mary - Wisbech St Mary Ward (Thorney Toll)	Thorney Toll Village Hall, Main Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No change
	PDW6	Gorefield	Gorefield Community Hall, Wolf Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Gorefield Village Hall, Gote Lane	No change
WHITTLESEY EAST AND VILLAGES	WHE1	Whittlesey - Bassenhally	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road	Anglers Avenue, Constable Close, Constable Crescent, Curlew Close, Davie Lane, Doublet Drive, Drybread Road (15-293 odds, 56-300 evens), East Delph (Barn Owl Farm), Fenscape, Ferry Close, Godwit Close, Grebe Close, Gull Way, Heron Close, Kingfisher Road, Lapwing Drive, Mallard Close, Marshland Drive, Moorhen Road, Newlands Road, Otago Close, Otago Road, Plover Road, Redshank Close, Sandpiper Close, Skaters Street, Swallow Close, Swan Close, Swan Road, Teal Road, Wetland Way, Whiteacres
	WHE2	Whittlesey - Bassenhally	Straw Bear PH, Drybread Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Alderman Jacobs School, Drybread Road	Clover Close, Cornflower Close, Coronation Avenue, Cowslip Close, Crescent Close, Crescent Road, Dandelion Drive, Eastrea Road (33-311 odds), Feldale Place, Foxglove Close, Guildenburgh Crescent, Harebell Close, Ladysmith Avenue, Larkspur Way, Lattersey Close, Moreton Close, Primrose Place, Roman Close, Sansom Gardens, Sorrell Avenue, Teasel Close, The Close, Victory Avenue, Violet Avenue
	WHE3	Whittlesey – Coates and Eastrea (Eastrea)	Eastrea Centre, Roman Gardens Or if that polling place is unavailable The Nags Head PH, Eastrea Road	Bryony Close, Chapel Gardens, Coates Road (9-103 odds, 4-80 evens), Eastrea Road (403-407 odds, 384-400 evens), Jones Close, Kelful Close, Mayfield Road, Roman Gardens, Springfields, Storers Walk, Thornham Way, Underwood Close, Whiteacres, Wype Road (3-127 odds, 6-186 evens)

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
WHITTLESEY EAST AND VILLAGES	WHE4	Whittlesey – Coates and Eastrea (Coates)	Coates Public Hall, 1 The Fold Or if that polling place is unavailable Coates Primary School, The Fold	Barnfield Gardens, Blackthorn Court, Chaplins Close, Church Gardens, Coates Road (117-217 odds, 154-218 evens), Eldernell Lane, Feldale Lane, Fieldside, Grounds Way, Halcyon Drive, Hartlands, Kings Close, Lakeside Gardens, March Road (4-252 evens, Gravel House Farm, 7-249 (odds) Kingsland Farm), Minuet Paddocks, Nobles Close, North Green, Peakes Drive, South Green, Sunnyville Road, The Fold, Willowbrook Drive, Wisbech Road (1-175 odds, Kingsland Farm, 4-136 evens, Manor Farm)
	WHE5	Whittlesey – Coates and Eastrea (Turves)	The Three Horseshoes Inn, March Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	Benwick Road Whittlesey (297), Burnthouse Road, Burnthouse Sidings, Chapel Lane, Cobbs Close, Duncomes Road (18,20,50,52,60, Little Acre), Hakes Drove (Dirty Duck), Horseshoe Place, March Road, Quakers Drove, Red Barn, School Close, Turf Drove, Whittlesey Road (712-722 evens)
WHITTLESEY LATTERSEY	WHL	Whittlesey – Lattersey	Quinion Close Community Room Or if that polling place is unavailable New Road Primary School, New Road	Bellmans Close, Bellmans Grove, Bellmans Road, Bramble Close, Burdett Grove, Charles Road, Cherrytree Grove, Chestnut Crescent, Debdale Court, Diana Close, Eastrea Road (74-198 evens, New House Guildenburgh Water), Ford Close, Hannington Close, Hawthorne Drive, Hunsbury Close, Mountbatten Way, New Road (30-104 evens, 91-275 odds, Partridge Farm), Nursery Gardens, Olemeare Way, Palmer Close, Stafford Road, Sycamore Road, The Byres, The Grove, Walnut Close, Windsor Place
WHITTLESEY NORTH WEST	WHNW1	Whittlesey – North West	Whittlesey Baptist Church, Gracious Street Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street	Arnolds Lane, Bassenhally Court, Bassenhally Road, Cemetery Road (15-51 odds, 26-60 evens), Claygate, Compton's Brook, Dapple Gardens, Delph, Delph Street, East Delph, Eastrea Road (1-31 odds), Elm Park, Gale Gardens, George Gardens, Gilbert Close, Gracious Street, Hailward Gardens, Harpers Close, Harvester Road, Headlands Way, Hemmerley Drive, High Causeway (37-67 odds, 44-72 evens), Hinton Close, Holland Close, James Gardens, Low Cross (evens), Martin Court, Meadow View, Monks Close, Morris Close, Munday Gardens, Norman Close, Northgate, Northgate Close, Odin Close, Old Crown Lane, Oldfield Gardens, Orchard Street, Pinewood Avenue, Reubens Yard, Richardson Way, Searles Court, Spire

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				View, Stonald Road (2-30 evens, 11-49 odds), Syers Lane, The Baulk, The Paddocks, The Pantiles, Viking Way, Wash Lane, Waterside Gardens, West Delph, Whitmore Street (evens), Willow Lane, Wjndmill Street, Wittel Close, Yarwells Headland, Yarwells Walk
	WHNW2		St Johns Ambulance HQ, Plough Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Ivy Leaf Club, Gracious Street	Anthony Close, Baratts Close, Barnes Way, Bowker Way, Bretts Way, Childers Street, Commons Road (including Mandalay Park), Cross Road, Crossway Hand, Finkle Court, Finkle Lane, Glenfields, Glenfields North, Holly Blue Gardens, Irving Burgess Close, Low Cross (odds), Northgate, Northgate Close, Owens Gardens, Pattens Close, Peterborough Road (evens), Plough Crescent, Plough Road, Reidy Gardens, Snowley Park, Stonald Avenue, Stonald Road (32 - 230 evens, 73-199 odds), Sudbury Court, Tower Close, Tudor Grove, West End (evens)
WHITTLESEY SOUTH	WHS1	Whittlesey – St Andrews	St Andrews Parish Hall, Parkinson Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Whittlesey Library, Market Street	Barrs Street, Blunt Lane, Boyce Close, Briggate East (1-3 odds, Grove House, 24), Briggate Quay, Broad Street, Bruces Court, Causeway Mews, Cemetery Road (1-9 odds), Church Street, Churchfield Way, Duddington Gardens, Eastgate (34-40 evens, Angel House, Eastgate Court, Eastgate Mews, Wheatsheaf House), Edgars Row, Falcon Lane, Fenland Court, Garden Grove, Grosvenor Road, Hallcroft Road, High Causeway (1-13 odds, 2-38 evens), Horsegate, Horsegate Lane, Jesse Court, London Street, Love Lane, Lovells Court, Market Street (2A-52 evens, 15-37 odds), Millers Court, Oxford Gardens, Paradise Lane, Park Lane, Parkinsons Lane, Peterborough Road (odds), Piketts Close, Pingle Close, Poles Court, Priors Road, Queen Street, Saxon Road, Snoots Road, St Andrews Place, St Marys Street, Stanley Court, The Granary, The Old School Mews, The Stables, Thorofare Lane, Turners Lane, Wakelyn Road, West End (odds), Whit Court, Whitmore Street (odds), Willow Close, Woolpack Lane

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WHITTLESEY SOUTH	WHS2	Whittlesey - South	Manor Leisure Centre, Station Road Or if that polling place is unavailable CCC Youth, Child and Family Centre, Scaldgate	Acorn Gardens, Aliwal Road, Ayres Grove, Bank Close, Bates Court, Bens Close, Benwick Road (2, 32, 77, 79, 81, 107, 111, 135, Whype Farm, 198, Catalaya Farm, 200, 209, 221, 257 Wypemere Farm, 271, 289 Angle Corner House, 291, 293, 303, 311, 322, 324, Anglebridge Farmhouse 326, 328, 352, 360, 362, 378, 391, 401, 403, Grange Farm 421, Grange Farm 423, 425, Peacock Manor Farm), Buckles Gardens, Buntings Drove (31), Cemetery Road (8-24 evens), Cock Bank (24-200 evens), Collins Court, Crease Bank (81), Duckworth Close, Eastfield Drive, Eastgate (1-27 odds), Eastrea Road (2A-70 evens), Florence Close, Forge Close, Hardys Lane, Inhams Court, Inhams Road, Jones Drove, Kendall Croft, Kings Delph, Kings Delph Drove, Kings Dyke, Linley Road, Manor View, Mansion Gardens, Market Place, Market Street (1-11a, Marriott Court), Marne Road, Marriotts Drove (Pidcock Farm), Mill Road, Millfield Way, Mulberry Close, Nene Close, New Road (5-89 odds, 4-28 evens), Newlin Gardens, Portland Place, Quinion Close, Rosewood Close, Scaldgate, Scaldgate Court, Station Road, The Rookery, Turningtree Road (1, 6 Riverside and 7 Bundy House), Wild Boar Close, Wype Road (214)
	WHS3		Pondersbridge Village Hall, Oilmills Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile polling station in the polling district	No change
WISBECH NORTH	WN	Wisbech - North	The Oasis Village Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable a mobile station at The Oasis Centre	Acacia Avenue, Bath Road, Braeburn Avenue, Bramley Road, Brigstock Road (The Four Jacks), Cherry Road, Conference Way, Crab Marsh, Edinburgh Drive, Grosvenor Road (evens), Haley Close, Hawthorne Avenue, Hedgelands, Henson Close, Kinderley Road, Lime Avenue, Maple Avenue, Mount Pleasant Road (evens), Myles Way, Osborne Road, Potter Court, Richard Young Close, Savory Road, Southwell Road, St Michaels Avenue (1-51 odds, 2-26 evens), Timber Yard Gardens, Tindall Close, Weston Miller Drive, Worcester Road

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WISBECH RIVERSIDE	WR1	Wisbech – Claremont	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at The Boathouse, Harbour Square	Boyces Road (5-51 odds, 2-76 evens), Claremont Road, Cocketts Drive, Norwich Road (164-216 evens)
	WR2	Wisbech – Clarence	Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at The Boathouse, Harbour Square	Clarence Road, Lynn Road (100-198 evens), Sandringham Avenue, York Gardens, York Road
	WR3	Wisbech – Riverside	The Boathouse, Harbour Square Or if that polling place is unavailable a dual station at Robert Hall Centre, Lynn Road	Albany Road, Balding Close, Bedford Street, Blackfriars Court, Blencowe Terrace, Bowthorpe Hall Gardens, Bowthorpe Road, Chase Street, Clarkson Avenue, Clarkson Court, Colville Road, Cotterell Way, De Havilland Court, De Havilland Road, Eastfield Way, Ettie Close, Grijsenrood House, Hampden Road, Hanchant Court, Henry Street, Hereward Road, Hill Street (1-15 odds, 2-18 evens), Kenlan Road, King Street, Legion Walk, Lewellen Terrace, Lynn Road (5-183 odds), Marsh Walk, Mill Close, Mount Pleasant Road (odds), Nelson Gardens, Nene Parade, Nene Quay (including Anchor Chambers, Albion Granary, Friends Court, Beck House), Norwich Road (13-217 odds), Oakroyd Crescent, Ogden Gardens, Opportune Road, Palmers Place, Park Avenue, Park Road, Park Street, Queen Street, Russell Street, School Lane, Scrimshires Passage, Silver Street, Somers Road (Somers Court, 30), South Brink (1-22), St Augustines Road, St Dominic Close, Sybil Road, Tavistock Road, Townshend Road, Trafalgar Court, Trafford Park, Trafford Road, Verdun Road, Wellington Terrace, Whitby Street, Wilberforce Road, William Road, York Terrace
	WR4	Wisbech – Peckover East	Wisbech Cricket and Hockey Club, Harecroft Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Wisbech Rugby Club, Chapel Lane	Barton Road (2-16, Small Meadow, Field View House, Beechwood Lodge), Bruce Court, Burcroft Road, Cambridge Drive, Cattle Market Chase, Chapel Road, Cricketers Way, Exchange Square, Georgian Court, Grange Road, Harecroft Road, Leverington Road (2-80 evens, 11-155 odds), Morgans Court, North Brink (to Conifer Lodge), North End, North Street, Octagon Drive, Oil Mill Lane, Old Market, Peckover Court, Pedley Lane, Pickards Way, Rose Walk, Schooner Wharf, Sovereign Close, Strawberry Close, Summerfield Close, The Lawns, Tower Gardens, West Parade

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WISBECH SOUTH	WS1	Wisbech – Octavia Hill	College of West Anglia (Isle Campus), Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Salvation Army Centre, John Thompson Road	Albert Court, Artillery Street, Boyden Court, Cannon Street (1-33), Cannon Terrace, Chapel Street, Charles Street, Cordon Street, Duke Street, Earl Street, Eighth Avenue, Elizabeth Terrace, Elm Road (17-55 odds, 2-96 evens), Fifth Avenue, First Avenue, Fourth Avenue, Gaol Street, Golding Place, Hazel Gardens, John F Kennedy Court, Lake Court, Larksfield, Lonsdale Terrace, Milner Road, Mount Drive, Napier Court, Nene Court, Norwich Road (18-162 evens, Mountside), Prince Street, Prospect Place, Queens Road (69), Ramnoth Road (1-75 odds, 6-96 evens), Raymond Street, Rose Fair Close, Rydal Court, Second Avenue, Seventh Avenue, Siggees Passage, Sixth Avenue, Third Avenue, Victoria Court, Victoria Place, Victoria Road (1-93 odds, Mobile Home One, 8-56 evens), Wedgwood Court, Wedgwood Drive, Wedgwood Hall, West Street (32,39, Smedley Trust Home), Weston Road
	WS2		Awdry House, Ramnoth Road Or if that polling place is unavailable Thomas Clarkson Academy, Corporation Road	Arles Avenue, Awdry Drive, Blenheim Way, Borough Close, Bruce Close, Camargue Place, Churchill Road (300,310), Copperfields, Coppins Court, Corporation Road, Discovery Walk, Elm High Road (1-9 odds, 12), Elm Low Road (95-219 odds, 170-310 evens), Elm Road (102-162 evens), Falklands Drive, Flanders Row, Halfpenny Lane, Harrys Way, Heron Road, Kestrel Drive, Kingfisher Drive, Kingswood Park, Leach Close, Les Baux Place, Mansell Road, Mikanda Close, New Drove (A2-127 odds, The Chalet), Pippin Place, Provence Place, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Railway Road (64-104 evens, all odds), Ramnoth Road (99-277 odds, 114-218 evens), Redwing Drive, Rhone Place, Robin Mews, Rockcliffe Gardens, Spartan Close, Sunset Gardens, Thomas Court, Thurloe Close, Trotwood Mews, Weasenham Lane (2-66 evens, Old Royal Standard Flat), Westmead Avenue, Wickfield Court, Willow Way

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WISBECH SOUTH	WS3	Wisbech - Medworth	Wisbech St Raphael Disabled Club, Love Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable Queen Mary Centre, Queens Road	Abraham Drive, Alexandra Road, Blackfriars Road (2-22 evens, The Case Flat), Boleness Road, Broad Drove, Burdett Road, Cannon Street (34-77), Castle Mews, Castle Square, Chapel Lane, Chestnut Road, Church Mews, Church Terrace, Crescent Passage, Cromwell Road, Crooked Bank, Cox Close, Ellerby Drive, Elm Road (Flower Pot Mews), Ely Place, Falcon Road, Fardell Road, Gordon Court, Great Eastern Road, High Street, Hill Street (17-31 odds, 20-54 evens), Hillburn Road, Hogherds Lane, John Thompson Road, Kings Road, Kings Walk, Kingsley Avenue, Little Church Street, Loring Lane, Love Lane, Malt Drive, Market Mews, Market Place, Market Street, Museum Square, New Bridge Lane (2, 9, 10, Potty Plants Nursery), New Drove (2-84 evens), New Inn Yard (Tallow Court), Norfolk Street, Norwich Street, Old Convent Fields, Oldfield Lane, Olympian Close, Onyx Court, Orange Grove, Post Office Lane, Princes Road, Queens Road (NOT 69), Railway Road (2-42 evens), Redmoor Lane (1-17 odds, 6-12 evens, Stanley Grange), Rigg Close, Riverside Way, Royal Place, Somers Road (1-7), South Brink (57-165 odds), St Pauls Close, St Peters Road, Station Drive, Stermyn Street, The Crescent, Union Place, Union Street, Victoria Road (62-84 evens), Victory Road, Weasenham Lane (1-11, 301, 307 odds), West Street (NOT 32 or 39), Wilderness Walk, Winceby Close, Wisbech Bypass (Oakdale Place, Little Acre, The Grange, Railway Lane), York Row
WISBECH WALSOKEN AND WATERLEES	WWW1	Wisbech - Waterlees	The Oasis Centre, St Michaels Avenue Or if that polling place is unavailable Kingdom Hall, Tinkers Drove (if suitable) / a mobile station at The Oasis Centre	Admirals Drive, Apeldoorn Walk, Armada Close, Beatrice Road, Beechwood Close, Beechwood Road, Buckingham Walk, Coblands, Coldhorn Crescent, Dene Court, Eastfield Road, Gloucester Court, Goddard Crescent, Godwin Road, Granger Close, Grosvenor Road (1-69 odds), Jubilee Walk, Kooreman Avenue, Lynn Road (185-411 odds), Mount Pleasant Road (2-36 evens), Nursery Drive, Ollard Avenue, Payne Avenue, Prince of Wales Close, Prins Avenue, Prins Court, Sherwood Avenue, Southfields Close, St Martins Road, St Michaels Avenue (30, 32), Storbeck Road, Tinkers Drove (14-70 evens, Montaigne, Chimes, 1-73 odds, Elton House), Walton Road, Waterlees Road, Westfield Road, Windmill Gardens, Windsor Drive

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT LETTERS	PARISH/TOWN	POLLING PLACE	DESCRIPTION OF POLLING DISTRICT (changed polling districts only)
WALSOKEN AND WATERLEES	WWW2	Wisbech - Walsoken	Walsoken Village Hall, Kirkgate Street Or if that polling place is unavailable The Black Bear PH, Old Lynn Road	Baxter Close, Black Bear Lane, Church Road (A1, B1, 1-1D odds), Fen Close, Fenland Road, Fenmen Place, Grimmers Road, Jasmine Close, Jeffery Avenue, Kirkgate Street (5-69 odds, 22-68 evens), Laburnum Close, Lebanon Drive, Lerowe Road, Lilac Close, Lucombe Drive, Lynn Road (202-234 evens), Norwich Road (229-351 odds), Oaklands Drive, Old Bell Way, Old Lynn Road, Pendula Road, Petts Close, Rowan Close, Sefton Avenue, Smockmill Place, Steeple View, Turnpike Close, Turnpike Court, Westminster Close, Wistaria Close
	WWW3		Meadowgate Academy, Meadowgate Lane Or if that polling place is unavailable another room or mobile polling station at Meadowgate Academy	Ardleigh Close, Boyces Road (53, 78-86 evens), Brancaster Court, Bush Lane, Chapnall Road (1-63 odds, 2-48 evens), Church Road (2-70 evens), Clayton Close, Council Road, Felsted Avenue, Frinton Way, Fundrey Road, Guild Road, Halstead Close, Hawkins Drive, Hermitage Close, Holmes Drive, Kirkgate Street (2-20A evens), Maldon Road, Meadowgate Lane, Medway Close, Money Bank, Musticott Place, Norwich Close, Norwich Road (240-348 evens), Oakley Close, Octavia Close, Orchard Drive, Peckover Drive, Peldon Drive, Penrose Gardens, Poppy Mews, Quaker Lane, Rochford Walk, Salcott Drive, Seabank Road, Staithe Road, Stow Gardens, Stow Lane, Stow Road, Sylvden Drive (1-11 odds, 2-4 evens), Trinity Road, Welbeck Road

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