

## Key Decision Details

<b>Decision Name</b>	DISCRETIONARY CHARGES IN PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
<b>Date of Decision</b>	17 June 2025
<b>Decision maker</b>	Cabinet

The Cabinet has noted the contents of the report.

Additionally, the Cabinet has recommended to Council

**Describe the Decision taken**

- (a) that the review of Discretionary Charges within Planning, Infrastructure and Public Protection be endorsed, and authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Public Protection, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources, to implement changes; and
- (b) that authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Public Protection, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources, to undertake the following, for the current financial year:
  - i. Introduction of new fees
  - ii. Modification of existing fees
  - iii. Updating/adjusting of fees
  - iv. Waiving of fees

**What were the reasons for taking the Decision?**

The Council is committed to continue the Development Management Improvement programme to improve the performance of the planning service as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2023-2028 and is committed to following through on the recommendations of the Planning Peer Review.

The Council recognises the important responsibilities it must undertake in monitoring BNG within the district but acknowledges this will be a financial burden. Therefore, appropriate monitoring fees must be imposed.

Two options were considered:

**What alternative options were considered and rejected?**

- **Option 1:** Review and update discretionary fees in line with peer review recommendations – *recommended*.
- **Option 2:** Maintain current fees – *not recommended*, as it risks financial shortfalls and missed opportunities for local biodiversity investment.

**Conflict of interest and dispensation**

N/A

**Is the decision a Key Decision?**

Yes

**Was the decision included in the Forward Plan**

Yes

**Was the decision subject to the urgency proceedings?**

No

**List the background papers to any report considered by the Decision Taker**

16.1 Huntingdonshire Corporate Peer Review  
[Corporate Plan](#)

16.1 Huntingdonshire Planning Services Peer Review  
[Agenda for Development Management Committee on Monday, 19 May 2025, 7:00 pm - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)

16.2 PAS BNG guidance for Local Authorities  
[Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\) for Local Planning Authorities | Local Government Association](#)

**Person Making this report**

Clara Kerr, Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection

**Decision will be effective the day after call-in expires. Call-in expires on**

26 June 2025

**Accompanying Documents**

4 - Discretionary Planning Service Fees Full Council Report  
O&S Comments for June Cabinet - Discretionary Fees- Planning & Public Protection