

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE 0.1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2018** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

APOLOGIES


**Contact
(01480)**

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2018.

**Democratic Services
388169**

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

3. RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST - BUSINESS RATES (Pages 9 - 18)

To consider a report by the Revenues and Benefits Manager seeking permission to classify Hemingford Grey as a defined area for the purposes of the Rural Settlement List.

**A Burns
388122**

(Executive Councillor: Councillor J A Gray)

Dated this 5 day of December 2018



Head of Paid Service

Notes

1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

(1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*

(2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it -*

*(a) relates to you, or
(b) is an interest of -*

- (i) your spouse or civil partner; or*
- (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*
- (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

and you are aware that the other person has the interest.

- (3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*
- (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;*
 - (b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);*
 - (c) any current contracts with the Council;*
 - (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;*
 - (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;*
 - (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or*
 - (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.*

Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

- (4) *If a Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote providing you do not breach the overall Nolan principles.*
- (5) *A Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest where -*
- (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or*
 - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association, or*
 - (c) it relates to or is likely to affect any body –*
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or*
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or*
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of control or management.*

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

2. Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings

The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and available via the following link [filming, photography-and-recording-at-council-meetings.pdf](#) or on request from the Democratic Services Team. The Council understands that some

members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chairman of the meeting will facilitate this preference by ensuring that any such request not to be recorded is respected.

Please contact Anthony Roberts, Democratic Services Team, Tel No. 01480 388169/e-mail: Anthony.Roberts@huntingdonshire.gov.uk /e-mail: if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Cabinet.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (*under Councils and Democracy*).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Elections & Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 22 November 2018.

PRESENT: Councillor G J Bull – Chairman.

Councillors J M Palmer, J A Gray, R Fuller,
D M Tysoe and Mrs M L Beuttell.

38. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October and of the Special Meeting held on 8th November 2018 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

39. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

40. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES 2019

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a revised Statement of Principles under the provisions of the Gambling Act for 2019 to 2022. The current Statement was scheduled to expire on 30th January 2019 and the Council was required to adopt and publish a new Statement in advance of that date or it would be unable to fulfil its licensing duties.

Cabinet were informed that consultation on the draft statement had taken place over a nine week period between 29th June and 31st August 2018 and attention was drawn to the resulting amendment from this exercise. This related to requirements for door supervisors (paragraph 16.14 in Appendix 1 to the report).

Subject to the inclusion of an additional recommendation to delegate authority to the Head of Community (in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Operations and Regulation) to make any necessary amendments to reflect imminent changes to the maximum stake for fixed-odd betting terminals, the Cabinet

RESOLVED

that the Council be recommended to approve and adopt the Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Principles 2019 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report now submitted.

41. TREASURY MANAGEMENT SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Resources (a copy of

which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cabinet were updated on the Council's treasury management activity for the first six months of the year, including investment and borrowing activity and treasury performance.

Best practice and prescribed treasury management guidance required that Members were informed in respect of treasury management activity. All treasury management activity undertaken during the first half of 2018/19 complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice and relevant legislative provisions.

With regard to the performance of assets purchased as part of the Commercial Investment Strategy (Appendix E), it was reported that the decision made by the Cabinet at their Special meeting on 8th November 2018 was not captured within this report.

Having noted the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) at their meeting on 6 November 2018, it was reported that with the exception of the CCLA Property Fund the yields from all CIS investments were within or exceeding targeted returns of between 6-9%. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

- a) to note the treasury management performance for the first 6 months of 2018/19; and
- b) to RECOMMEND the Treasury Management 6-month performance report to Council for consideration.

42. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2018/19 QUARTER 2

The Cabinet considered a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on progress against the Key Activities and Corporate Indicators listed in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2018/22 for the period 1st July to 30th September 2018. The report also incorporated progress on current projects being undertaken at the Council and financial performance information at the end of September 2018.

With regard to those performance indicators where targets had been missed by more than the defined variance, the Executive Councillor for Digital and Customer reiterated the need to see further improvements in the reduction of unavoidable contact between Customer Services and the departments for which they provided services.

In terms of Council projects which were currently in the delivery stage, the Executive Councillor for Partnership and Well-Being was pleased to report that work had commenced on the conversion of the synthetic pitch at the St Neots Leisure Centre, which meant that progress was now on track.

Having noted the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) and that these had received comprehensive responses at the meeting on 6th November 2018, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that progress made against Key Activities and Corporate Indicators in the Corporate Plan and current projects, as summarised in Appendix A and detailed in Appendices be noted; and
- b) that the Council's financial performance at the end of September, as detailed in section 4 and in Appendix D and the register of reviews of Commercial Investment Strategy propositions at Appendix E be noted.

43. REVIEW OF BEARSCROFT FARM LOCAL LETTINGS PLAN

Further to Minute No. 17/80 and with the assistance of a report by the Housing Needs and Resourcing Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Cabinet received an update on the initial letting of 51 affordable rented properties on the Bearscroft Farm development site.

It was reported that whilst it was still too early to determine the success of this lettings plan, anecdotal feedback from Cross Keys Homes has been positive and there were signs that the Bearscroft development had made a positive start to delivering a mixed and balanced community.

Having noted that the Executive Councillor for Housing, Planning and Economic Development had undertaken to provide a more comprehensive report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) at a later date when further information was available, it was

RESOLVED

that the review of the initial lettings on the Bearscroft Farm development site be noted.

44. HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK JOINT GROUP MINUTES

The draft Minutes of the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group meeting held on 12th October 2018 were received and noted.

Chairman

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Rural Settlement List – Business Rates

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) – 4
December 2018
Cabinet – 13 December 2018

Executive Portfolio: Councillor Gray – Executive Councillor for Resources

Report by: Revenues and Benefits Manager

Ward(s) affected: Hemingford Grey

Executive Summary:

The Local Government and Rating Act 1997 requires that each rating authority must compile and maintain a Rural Settlement List comprising settlements with a population of less than 3,000.

The intention of the Rural Settlement List is to allow the Council to grant rate relief from paying business rates to qualifying post offices, village shops, public houses and petrol stations.

Data from the County Council indicates that the population of the parish of Hemingford Grey now exceeds 3,000.

However, settlement areas do not need to be based solely on ward or parish boundaries. It is possible to define an area which would allow rural rate relief to be awarded to qualifying businesses.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to classify Hemingford Grey as a defined area for the purposes of the Rural Settlement List that would enable rural rate relief to be awarded beyond 1 April 2019.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Rural rate relief is applied to village shops, post offices, public houses and petrol stations in rural areas with a population of less than 3,000. A Rural Settlement List must identify the boundary of each settlement whether by defining the boundaries (for example, ward or parish boundaries) or referring to boundaries in a map or other document. This means that the Council can define the boundary of a rural settlement by reference to maps rather than accepting ward or parish boundaries to be the boundary of the settlement.
- 1.2 Population data compiled by Cambridgeshire County Council is used to determine the size of the rural settlements within the Huntingdonshire area. Latest population figures indicate that the population of the parish of Hemingford Grey now exceeds 3,000. This would mean that rural rate relief could no longer be applied to qualifying businesses if the parish as a whole was considered to be a rural settlement. However, by classifying the area within Hemingford Grey as two defined areas based on geographical features, the population would remain under 3,000 and rural rate relief could be awarded.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The towns and parishes within Huntingdonshire are all designated as one of three types of settlement:

Urban settlements – population above 3,000

Rural settlements – population below 3,000

Defined settlements – population above 3,000 but the parish has been designated as a rural settlement by defining areas within the parish.

Defined settlements already established within Huntingdonshire are Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy, Fenstanton, Ramsey Forty Foot, Ramsey Mereside, Ramsey Heights, Ramsey St Mary's and Farcet and a number of businesses benefit from the award of rural rate relief as a result.

- 2.2 Rural rate relief is applied to businesses in rural settlements with a population of less than 3,000. It applies where the only village shop or post office has a rateable value of up to 8,500 or the only public house or petrol station has a rateable value of up to £12,500. Qualifying businesses are entitled to 50% mandatory relief. The Government proposed to increase this to 100% in the 2016 Autumn Statement but to date the legislation has not been amended. However, they have indicated that local authorities should use their powers to award 50% discretionary relief which is then re-imbursed through a Section 31 grant which in effects grants 100% relief.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 3.1 With a population of over 3,000, Hemingford Grey could be designated as an urban settlement and mirror the other major towns and villages within the district. This change of status would mean that any businesses that currently receive mandatory or rural rate relief would lose this relief from 1 April 2019.
- 3.2 A decision could be made to classify the parish of Hemingford Grey into two defined areas. The parish lends itself to adopting this approach as there is a clear geographical divide between the main village and the new development based on London Road. This would mean that the population in the two defined areas would be less than 3,000 and rural rate relief would apply.

- 3.3 A similar approach was taken when determining that the neighbouring parish of Fenstanton should be made up of two defined areas.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 4.1 The Rural Settlement List – Business Rates report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) at their meeting on 4 December 2018.
- 4.2 Following a comment from a Member on why rural rate relief was not more widely applied, the principles, aims and practicalities of rural rate relief was explained to the Panel.
- 4.3 The Panel agreed that Cabinet should classify Hemingford Grey as a defined area for the purposes of the Rural Settlement List that would enable rural rate relief to be awarded beyond 1st April 2019.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 If agreed, rural rate relief will be applied to qualifying businesses in Hemingford Grey from April 2019.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND / OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This supports the corporate vision of accelerating business growth and investment by supporting economic growth in market towns and rural areas.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There is no direct cost to HDC of awarding rural rate relief. Funding for both the mandatory and discretionary elements is received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 7.2 Members must be cognisant to the fact that as Parishes grow, there may be further settlements where populations exceed the 3,000 threshold and could be considered appropriate for designating as defined areas.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the parish of Hemingford Grey is classified as having two defined areas to allow rural rates relief to be awarded to qualifying businesses.

9. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Proposed rural settlement list

Appendix 2 - Map of proposed rural settlements

Appendix 3 – Map showing proposed defined areas within Hemingford Grey

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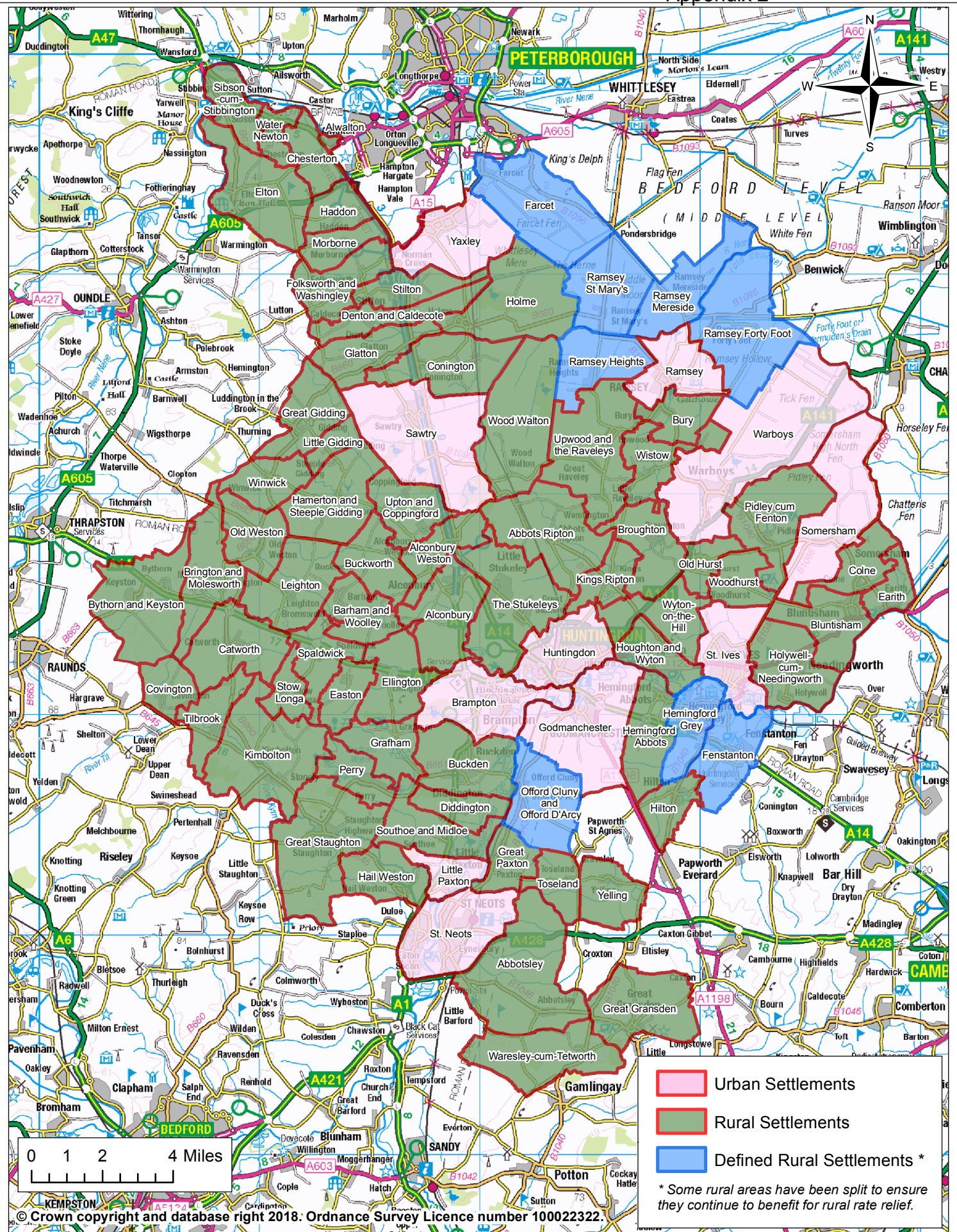
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST

Abbotsley	Hemingford Grey*
Abbots Ripton	Hilton
Alconbury	Holme
Alconbury Weston	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Alwalton	Houghton & Wyton
Barham & Woolley	Kimbolton & Stonely
Bluntisham	Kings Ripton
Brington & Molesworth	Leighton Bromswold
Broughton	Morborne
Buckden	Offord Cluny*
Buckworth	Offord D'Arcy*
Bury	Old Hurst
Bythorn & Keyston	Old Weston
Catworth	Perry
Chesterton	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Colne	Ramsey Forty Foot*
Conington	Ramsey St Mary's*
Covington	Ramsey Mereside*
Denton & Caldecote	Ramsey Heights*
Diddington	Sibson-cum-Stibbington
Earith	Southoe & Midloe
Easton	Spaldwick
Ellington	Stilton
Elton	Stow Longa
Farcet (village area only)*	The Stukeleys
Farcet (rural area)*	Tilbrook
Fenstanton (village area only)*	Toseland
Folksworth & Washingley	Upton & Coppingford
Glatton	Upwood & the Raveleys
Grafham	Waresley-cum-Tetworth
Great & Little Gidding	Water Newton
Great Gransden	Winwick Wistow
Great Paxton	Woodhurst
Great Staughton	Woodwalton
Haddon	Wyton-on-the-Hill
Hail Weston	Yelling
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	
Hemingford Abbots	

The boundaries to be used are those which currently define the relevant parish with the exception of those marked by an asterisk (*)

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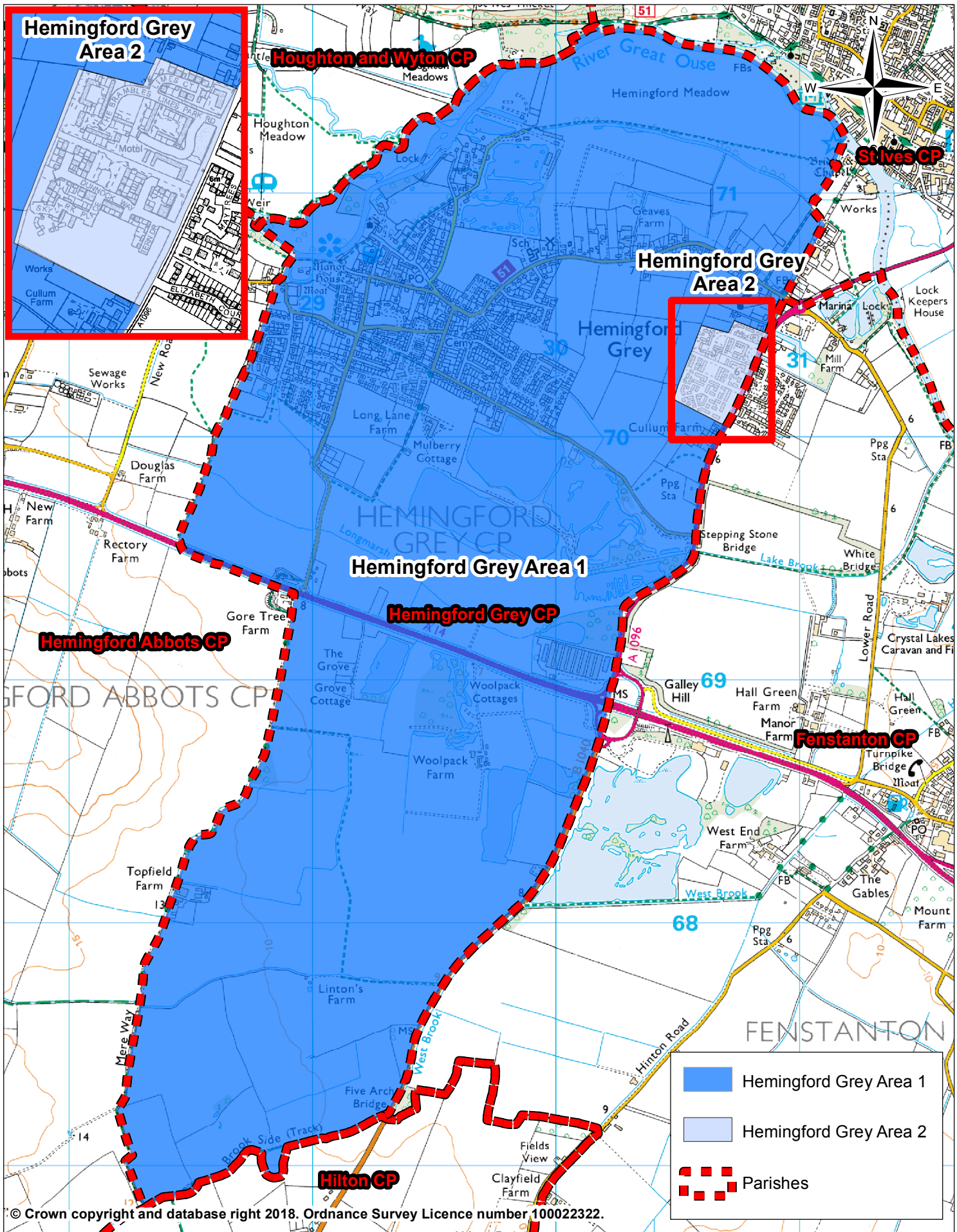
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Urban Settlements

Date:	03 October 2018
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Rural Settlement List
Hemingford Grey

Date:	02 October 2018
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Section/Department:	Spatial Team
Scale:	1:20,000 @ A4

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