



A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 20)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) meeting held on 2nd September 2026.

Contact Officer: L Adams
01480 388234

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

Contact Officer: L Adams
01480 388234

3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 21 - 40)

a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and the notices of Key Executive decisions 1st October 2026 to 31st January 2027

b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

Contact Officer: L Adams
01480 388234

4. STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY ALLOCATION, ROUND 1 2026/27 (Pages 41 - 64)

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on Officer recommendations 1) to 4) from the Community Infrastructure Levy Spend Allocation Cabinet report attached.

Contact Officer: R Lyons
row.lyons@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

22 day of September 2026

Michelle Sacks

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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Please contact Miss Lauren Adams, Democratic Services Officer, Tel No. 01480 388234/e-mail Lauren.Adams@huntingdonshire.gov.uk 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 Committee/Panel.

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.

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1. People who live, work or own property within the Huntingdonshire District
2. Other interested members of the public.

This means that attendees within each priority group will be admitted in the order they arrive, subject to the number of seats available.

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Development Management, Licensing and Other Regulatory Hearings - If you have registered to speak or make representations in relation to an application or matter being considered by the Committee, a seat will be reserved for you.

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- Placards, banners, flags or similar items
- Knives, scissors or other sharp objects
- Whistles, air horns, loudhailers or other noise-making devices
- Bottles or other containers containing liquids, except drinking water intended for personal use during the meeting
- Any item that security staff reasonably believe could compromise safety or disrupt the meeting.

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Feedback

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 2 September 2026.

PRESENT: Councillor A Wood – Chair.

Councillors L Ascroft, A Blackwell, S Cawley, P Gammons, I D Gardener, M A Hassall, D McIlwain, G Seeff, W Smith, H Tobias and R Tomlinson.

APOLOGY(IES): Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Ioannides and R Martin.

17. MINUTES

The minutes from 1st July 2026 and the 29th July 2026 were amended to read:

Councillor R Tomlinson.

After which the Minutes of the meetings held on 1st July 2026 and the 29th July 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

19. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel.

Councillor Tomlinson proposed the establishment of a working group to develop terms of reference for an investigation into matters relating to Capital & Centric. He explained that, following discussions with officers, it was considered more appropriate for a working group to define the scope of the investigation in collaboration with the Corporate Governance Committee, ensuring a coordinated approach. The working group would report back to the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting, with the intention of commencing the investigation in November. Councillor Tobias seconded the proposal, subject to members receiving the necessary information and responses.

Clarification was sought on how the proposed investigation would interact with any review undertaken by Internal Audit. It was expressed that an independent assessment of the issues was needed and queried whether Internal Audit would be commissioned by the

Corporate Governance Committee, and how Overview and Scrutiny would engage with that process.

The Panel were advised that the purpose of establishing a working group was to consider how any investigation would align with the work of the Corporate Governance Committee, including any Internal Audit involvement, before reporting back with proposed terms of reference. It was confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny function was intended to examine the issues in detail, review relevant documentation, and question officers and Members where necessary. Unlike an Internal Audit review, the scrutiny process would take place in public. He added that commencing the process in November or December would allow the Council to begin its examination at an early stage in response to residents' concerns.

The Panel also heard that a number of proposals relating to investigations, reviews and audits of the Capital & Centric matter were currently under consideration, including correspondence circulating publicly and a motion submitted to Full Council. Councillor Tomlinson's proposal was welcomed as a formal mechanism to place the matter on the work programme and advised that Officers, including the Monitoring Officer, were considering the most appropriate route for any review, including whether it should be undertaken internally or externally. As the situation remained active and was evolving rapidly, he emphasised the importance of a coordinated approach. The establishment of a working group was supported to develop proposals in collaboration with other bodies and to avoid duplication of effort, while ensuring the matter was progressed in the most effective and efficient manner.

It was confirmed that Councillors Hassall, Seeff, Tobias and Tomlinson would form the proposed Working Group.

A Member noted that several items on the work programme, including Places for People, remained at the scoping stage. While there were some gaps in the programme, it was suggested that items should not be scheduled until the required scoping work had been completed to ensure effective preparation and scrutiny. Members were encouraged to complete outstanding scoping documents for items they had proposed if they wished them to be progressed onto the work programme. It was confirmed that requests for scoping documents had previously been issued.

20. OUTSTANDING RESPONSES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To note the responses outstanding from previous meetings.

The Panel received and noted the responses received in relation to questions arising at previous meetings of the Panel.

21. PRE-SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN TO 2046

By means of a report by Head of Planning, Infrastructure and Public Protection (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046 Sustainability Appraisal and Supporting Documents was presented to the Panel.

The Chair queried why a Member's position on the Local Plan appeared to have changed compared to the adopted Local Plan, noting that they had previously voted against it. The Panel heard that the Member considered their opposition to the previous Local Plan to have been a mistake and urged Members not to make the same error. The importance of having development guided by a robust, infrastructure-led Local Plan rather than being driven by developers was emphasised. Reference was also made to the significant amount of work undertaken over the previous three and a half years to prepare the Plan.

In response to a question, the Panel was advised that the term home in the report referred to an individual unit of accommodation of any form capable of being occupied by a single person, a family or other household. It was also confirmed that infrastructure planning was based on projected population growth arising from the number of new homes expected to be delivered across the district.

Clarification was sought on the number of homes referenced, noting that the figure stated at the meeting differed from that contained within the Local Plan. A request was also made for the proposal relating to Upwood to be referred to as Upwood rather than Ramsey in future references. The Panel was advised that the Local Plan provides for 32,200 homes between 2021 and 2046, of which approximately 4,200 had already been completed and 11,300 had existing planning permission. Regarding the naming of the proposal, Members were informed that, for consistency with the evidence base, it would preferably remain listed under Ramsey for the current consultation stage, with the potential for amendment at a later stage. The proposed approach was accepted.

In response to a question regarding infrastructure in rural areas, the Panel's attention was drawn to the Infrastructure Readiness Report set out in Appendix 7 to the report. It was confirmed that extensive consultation had been undertaken with infrastructure providers, enabling them to plan when infrastructure would be required and delivered. The Local Plan would provide certainty to support the phasing of development. A stepped trajectory had been included to allow infrastructure to be delivered alongside development throughout the Plan period.

Clarification was sought on whether development would take place only once infrastructure was in place. The Panel was advised that, in the absence of a Local Plan, planning applications could still be submitted by developers. However, an adopted Local Plan provides a clear vision for growth and a delivery trajectory, enabling Officers to work proactively with developers and infrastructure providers to ensure that necessary infrastructure is planned and delivered alongside development.

Concern was raised regarding the fallback position should the A141 scheme not be delivered, given its importance to infrastructure planning in North Huntingdonshire. The Panel heard that the Plan covers a 25-year period and that national planning guidance requires plans to remain flexible in response to changing economic circumstances. Members were informed that the Council had been working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined

Authority since 2018 to progress the A141 scheme and that the growth potential of North Huntingdonshire had been recognised within regional plans. The A141 remained a priority project and was expected to be delivered. However, it was acknowledged that circumstances could change and that the Council would review its position if required. Deliverability would form a key component of the Local Plan examination process, and the Council would continue to adapt its plans and work in partnership to support delivery. Members were also advised that implementation of the Plan would be continuously monitored.

Questions were raised regarding infrastructure capacity, particularly wastewater provision. It was noted that constraints in water supply and treatment infrastructure could affect the type of economic development supported in the district, with some employment sectors having significant water requirements.

The Panel was advised that it was not unusual for the full funding package for infrastructure projects to be unavailable at the outset of the plan-making process. Officers acknowledged existing infrastructure challenges and emphasised the importance of a planned approach to growth to enable the Council to work with developers, government, service providers and transport authorities to secure infrastructure alongside development. Without a Local Plan, development would be considered on an individual application basis, making it more difficult to secure strategic infrastructure. Members also heard that the Local Plan supported a range of employment opportunities and that water supply pressures were being addressed through planned investment, including new pipelines and water storage infrastructure expected during the 2030s.

It was observed that some residents had expressed the view that it may be preferable not to proceed with a Local Plan if there was a risk that it would not be found sound by the Planning Inspector.

The Panel was advised that independent examination is an important part of the Local Plan process, with Planning Inspectors commonly recommending modifications. Members were informed that the process is conducted transparently and in public. The Panel was also reminded that councils are expected to maintain an up-to-date Local Plan and that, without one, it becomes more difficult to resist inappropriate development proposals.

From a rural perspective, clarification was sought on the evidence supporting assumptions of a significant shift away from private car use, given the limited availability of alternative transport options in many rural communities.

The Panel was advised that Officers had worked with Cambridgeshire County Council on the Strategic Transport Study, which used the Combined Authority's latest CaPCAM transport model. Members heard that the model reflects Huntingdonshire's predominantly rural character by dividing the district into more than 200 areas and assessing factors such as growth potential and access to public transport. It was explained that major developments would be expected to incorporate significant active travel and sustainable transport infrastructure. However, in many rural villages private cars

would remain the principal mode of transport.

Clarification was sought on whether developers would be expected to provide transport links to employment sites for workers.

The Panel was advised that it was not uncommon for developers to subsidise public transport services during the early phases of development, particularly where passenger numbers were not yet sufficient to support a viable service. Such arrangements would depend on the nature of the development, the type of transport provided and operational considerations.

Issues were raised on behalf of residents of Ellington regarding the impact of development at Brampton Cross on the A14, particularly the diversion of HGV traffic through the village and the resulting damage. A request was made that developers should fund any necessary improvements to the A14 and A1 junctions arising from future proposals.

The Panel was reminded that the purpose of the agenda item was to consider the Local Plan and that Brampton Cross is not proposed as an allocation. However, the strength of local feeling regarding the site was acknowledged, and Members were advised that any future planning application would include opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

A question was raised concerning the consequences of failing to meet the 31 December deadline, including whether a risk assessment had been undertaken and the impact any delay would have on the Local Plan timetable.

The Panel was advised that failing to meet the 31 December deadline would have significant implications, as it would be difficult to carry the Local Plan forward under the new legislative arrangements. Members heard that there would be fewer consultation opportunities and that much of the work undertaken to date could not simply be transferred. Missing the deadline would require the Council to issue a notice of intent and restart the Local Plan process, resulting in an estimated delay of around 30 months. Officers also confirmed that a risk review would be considered.

The issue of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) was raised, with a query as to whether wider implications had been considered despite advice that it should not delay progress on the Local Plan.

The Panel heard that the Council would be in a stronger position with an up-to-date Local Plan in place, particularly one focused on delivering infrastructure across the district. Reference was made to other authorities that had already undergone local government reorganisation. Members were informed that Shadow Authorities could not formally commence the Local Plan process and were directed to Section 10 of the report, which outlined the implications of local government reorganisation for the Plan.

Concerns were raised regarding the financial implications of delaying the Local Plan and whether associated costs would need to be justified to both Members and the public. The Panel was advised that

Officers had a clear understanding of expenditure incurred to date and anticipated future costs. It was confirmed that approximately £780,000 had been spent on preparing the Local Plan so far.

It was confirmed that further costs were likely to arise during the examination process. Members were assured that a prudent approach had been taken throughout, including undertaking joint evidence studies with internal colleagues where possible.

The importance of infrastructure planning was emphasised, while recognising the significant dependencies and uncertainties involved in delivery. It was noted that much of the required social infrastructure would be secured through Section 106 Agreements, with reference made to an example where healthcare provision had not yet been fully delivered. Clarification was also sought regarding proposed healthcare expansion at Loves Farm and whether a risk assessment should form part of the Local Plan process.

The Panel was informed that the development included a district centre with provision for a healthcare facility. Officers advised that work had been undertaken with NHS England and the developer to determine the appropriate timing for bringing the facility into operation. It was noted that a sufficient population threshold was required to make a health centre viable and that challenges had arisen in securing infrastructure delivery through Section 106 Agreements.

The Chair noted that the provision of primary healthcare infrastructure was estimated to require between £19 million and £25 million. While acknowledging that interim facilities could be funded through Section 106 Agreements, clarification was sought on how the remaining funding for permanent healthcare provision would be secured.

The Panel was advised that developments are expected to mitigate the impacts arising from their own schemes. As such, a proportion of funding is sought through Section 106 Agreements, which typically provide capital contributions rather than revenue funding. Additional funding requirements would be pursued in partnership with the Integrated Care Board and the NHS through other funding mechanisms.

In response to a question, the Panel was advised that the delivery of water recycling centres would be phased in line with future investment periods and associated infrastructure delivery programmes. Members heard that funding intentions were set out within the Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water. It was also confirmed that other sites were available within the Council's five-year housing land supply.

It was advised that an easy-to-read version of the Local Plan had been requested to assist councillors in understanding the document and to improve transparency and accessibility for residents wishing to engage with the Plan.

In response to a question regarding affordable military housing, the Panel was advised that the definition of affordable housing has evolved over time and now includes provisions relating to military

housing. Members were informed that the Local Plan supports this policy approach. It was further explained that the policy is specifically worded to ensure that any such provision is supported by evidence of need demonstrated by the Ministry of Defence.

Clarification was sought on the evidence supporting the proposed level of growth in Little Paxton, noting that the proposal had increased from 220 homes to 410 homes. Concern was expressed that residents had previously been consulted on much smaller-scale developments and questions were raised regarding the basis for the scale of growth proposed.

The Panel was advised that the evidence supporting the proposed growth had been informed by additional work undertaken since earlier stages of the Local Plan process. This included the Stage 2 Water Cycle Study, the Infrastructure Delivery Study (Stage 2), and updated Strategic Transport Assessments, which had been used to assess the site's suitability and infrastructure requirements.

The Chair raised a query regarding sustainable drainage systems and whether their status remained non-statutory.

The Panel heard that their inclusion within the policy would lend greater weight in decision-making.

Clarification was sought on the weighting that would be given to the sustainability and environmental elements of the Local Plan. Concern was expressed that some objectives appeared highly ambitious and that reliance on biodiversity net gain could be difficult to quantify and measure in practice.

The Panel was advised that an Inspector would not assign weight to the Plan but would test the Plan and its policies against the supporting evidence provided.

Councillors D McIlwain and H Tobias left the meeting at 20:42

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

22. CAR PARKING STRATEGY

Meeting adjourned at 20:47

Meeting resumed at 20:57

Councillors D McIlwain and H Tobias rejoined the meeting at 20:57.

By means of a report by the Head of Economy, Regeneration & Housing Delivery and the Operations Manager, Parking & Markets Services (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), The Parking Strategy Report was presented to the Panel.

Clarification was sought regarding parking provision in Godmanchester, specifically why Bridge Place had been included within the Godmanchester section of the report rather than being referenced under Huntingdon. The Panel was advised that all car parks had been included within the survey to provide a comprehensive evidence base. Members were informed that Bridge Place had been identified as an underutilised car park and that development work commenced in March 2026. It was also confirmed that Bridge Place had been included within the Godmanchester section because it falls within the relevant town boundary.

A query was raised regarding EV charging stations and the metric used to determine when a standard public parking bay should be converted into a dedicated EV bay. The Panel heard that the Council has a separate Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy which sets out its approach to investing in EV infrastructure across Council-owned car parks. Members heard that the Strategy is based on maximising grant funding opportunities, with deployment decisions informed by usage data, site locations and electricity grid capacity.

Questions were raised regarding the threshold at which a car park would be considered persistently underutilised and the criteria that would trigger a feasibility assessment for partial or full disposal. It was explained to the Panel that it was difficult to define a fixed threshold, as circumstances may change over time. Members were informed that underutilised car parks may still retain strategic value and that each site would therefore need to be considered on its individual merits.

Concern was raised that the Strategy did not appear to fully account for wider external developments that could influence parking demand, including emerging transport initiatives and major development proposals. A query was also raised regarding how the Council would respond to any associated increase in traffic and parking pressures. The Panel were informed that the previous strategy had been considered overly prescriptive. The new strategy was intentionally designed to provide greater flexibility, enabling individual car parks to be assessed on a case-by-case basis and allowing the Council to respond more effectively to changing circumstances and emerging evidence.

Confirmation was sought that any assessment relating to the repurposing or redevelopment of a car park would be undertaken before the Council made a formal commitment to proceed. The Panel was advised that none of the car parks identified within the data were currently considered suitable for repurposing, as all were experiencing high levels of usage, with some operating beyond capacity. Members heard that consideration should instead be given to expanding capacity where supported by evidence and capital funding.

Whilst acknowledging current usage levels, clarification was sought regarding how the Strategy would apply in future circumstances and at what stage elected Members would be involved in considering proposals to repurpose or redevelop car parks.

During discussions regarding potential recommendations to Cabinet,

the Panel indicated that any future site-specific proposals should be brought before the Panel prior to any commitment being made. Members emphasised the importance of wider Member involvement and scrutiny at an early stage.

The Panel was reminded of the distinction between the roles of Members and Officers, with Members responsible for setting strategic direction and Officers responsible for delivery. It was emphasised that Member involvement should be proportionate to the significance of proposals and occur at the appropriate stage.

Further information was requested on regarding the projected increase in parking demand over the Local Plan period. The Panel heard that the appendix to the report contained forward planning assumptions based on modest population growth.

A query was raised regarding whether regular reports would be provided to the Panel on car park performance and how any emerging issues would be addressed. The Panel was told that the aim is to direct demand towards underutilised car parks and maximise existing capacity before considering further investment.

The view was expressed that the report constituted a policy document rather than a strategy and should include clearer actions and timescales. It was explained to the Panel that the Strategy establishes the framework and criteria for decision-making, with specific actions and delivery measures to be developed subsequently.

The flexibility within the Strategy was welcomed and clarification was sought on how potential conflicts would be managed, such as balancing town centre regeneration objectives with higher parking charges in heavily used locations.

The Panel was advised that work was underway to ensure parking charges were applied more fairly. It was noted that town centres generally seek to discourage long-stay parking and that the Strategy provides flexibility in determining the use and duration of individual car parks.

Assurance was sought that the existence of two Park and Ride facilities would not result in the loss of existing town centre parking spaces. The Panel heard that such assurance could not be provided, although the matter could be considered further through the appropriate Combined Authority forum. The Panel also heard that the Action Plan includes occupancy studies to assess parking capacity. Members heard that initiatives to improve utilisation could include measures such as installing Amazon lockers. Once evidence on capacity and demand has been gathered, proposals could be developed and presented alongside associated budget bids.

The view was expressed that car parking appeared to be treated as a service rather than a commercial operation, and a query was raised as to why pricing had been considered separately. The Panel was advised that pricing had been separated from the Strategy to maintain focus on broader objectives rather than financial considerations. It was also noted that dynamic pricing had been considered but was not supported due to concerns regarding fairness.

In response to a question, the Panel was advised that matters relating to free parking fall within the remit of the Combined Authority. However, the Strategy includes consideration of concessions and opportunities to encourage greater use of underutilised car parks.

The Panel heard that matters relating to the Combined Authority fall within its remit. It was suggested that concessions and other measures could be considered to encourage use of underutilised car parks and help redistribute demand. Members heard that the Combined Authority would review the Council's data and assess outcomes and may amend grant arrangements as appropriate.

Reference was made to the distinction between the Strategy and the implementation plan, and clarification was sought on whether the findings of the implementation plan review, scheduled approximately 24 months after approval, would be reported back to the Committee. The Panel was advised that local government reorganisation creates uncertainty regarding longer-term implementation. Whilst some short-term improvements should be considered, responsibility for reviewing longer-term measures is likely to rest with a successor authority.

Concerns were raised regarding parking provision in Ramsey, including the impact of existing covenants, significant parking pressures and any proposals which could result in the loss of parking spaces. The importance of protecting parking capacity and taking local views into account was emphasised. The Panel were informed that available data showed the Ramsey car park to be the busiest in the district, confirming the scale of demand. Ongoing consultation and discussions with local representatives were noted, and it was acknowledged that any solution would need to carefully consider both covenant restrictions and local concerns.

The Panel was advised that several issues raised extended beyond the scope of the Parking Strategy and related more broadly to market town regeneration. Members were informed that further information on related projects could be obtained through the appropriate programme, and it was emphasised that such matters should be considered separately from the Parking Strategy.

It was noted that discussions had sought to ensure key car parks previously considered as part of redevelopment proposals were appropriately safeguarded. Members heard that the wording had been carefully drafted to balance flexibility with the protection of important parking assets and that suggestions for strengthening the wording would be welcomed.

It was suggested that the wording of the Strategy be strengthened in relation to the significant reduction, repurposing or redevelopment of car parks by requiring an assessment to be completed and published before any decision is taken.

Members discussed whether additional safeguards should be included within the Strategy. Officers advice highlighted that the Strategy forms only one part of the wider decision-making framework and that additional requirements could duplicate existing governance arrangements.

It was suggested that matters relating to the disposal or redevelopment of car parks may be more appropriately addressed through the Council's Disposal and Acquisition of Land and Buildings Policy. The importance of ensuring an appropriate evidence base is available prior to decision-making was emphasised.

The Panel was reminded that recommendations may be made to Cabinet, although Cabinet is not bound by them, and that existing constitutional processes are available to scrutinise future decisions.

It was proposed that regular parking performance reports be presented to the Committee and that town-specific action plans be developed to support implementation of the Strategy. In response, the Panel was advised that town-wide considerations would form part of future work on individual car parks and that performance monitoring could be considered through the Committee's KPI review arrangements.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

23. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT (QUARTER 1)

By means of a report by the Business Intelligence and Performance Manager (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the Corporate Performance 2025/26 Quarter 4 Report was presented to the Panel.

Further clarification was sought regarding the new targets which were showing as Green, with particular reference to the Empty Homes target. The Panel was advised that the update related to the strategy adopted in March 2026. It was reported that eight properties had been brought back into use and that progress was rated Green, reflecting positive progress against the objectives of the newly adopted strategy.

A query was raised regarding why a number of performance measures were rated Red. It was suggested that including details of actual performance achieved alongside targets would assist members in understanding the extent of any variance and how close the Council was to meeting its performance targets. The Panel heard that this was primarily due to quarter one data being based on a smaller sample size and ongoing service pressures. It was noted that the missed bin collection measure was below target; however, the target was a locally set and ambitious measure rather than an industry benchmark. Long-term staff sickness during the first quarter had also contributed to the number of missed collections. Members' attention was drawn to Appendix C, which included breakdowns of the data.

Positive feedback was provided regarding the resolution of a missed

bin collection once reported. Concerns were also raised regarding call waiting times, and clarification was sought as to whether these were the result of staffing pressures. It was explained that the service had experienced three vacancies within the team; however, these posts had now been filled. Members were informed that service improvements had already been observed since the appointments were made.

The Chair suggested that introducing a system which advises callers of their position in the telephone queue may help reduce frustration whilst waiting to speak to an adviser.

Officers were thanked for their work in delivering the Open Day at Eastfield House, with positive feedback provided on the event. A query was raised regarding wider staffing resource issues across the organisation, noting that several performance measures rated Red appeared to be linked to staffing pressures. It was suggested that this may be a matter for consideration by the Employment Committee, and clarification was sought regarding the role and purpose of the Sickness Review Group.

The Panel was advised that the Sickness Review Group was responsible for reviewing the Council's sickness management policies and procedures, including whether appropriate support and early intervention measures were in place for employees. Members were informed that the Group currently operated as an internal officer-led control mechanism.

A query was raised as to whether high levels of efficiency within the Contact Centre Team had resulted in reduced staffing levels and whether a smaller team may be contributing to current service pressures. It was confirmed that the vacancies referred to were longstanding vacant posts and that the associated budget savings did not represent a reduction in existing staffing levels. Officers confirmed they were satisfied that staffing levels within the Contact Centre were appropriate. It was also noted that call volumes had increased during the quarter, but officers remained confident that the service had sufficient resources to meet demand.

A query was raised regarding Action 31 relating to the Capital & Centric programme and why the action had been given a Green status. The Panel heard that the quarterly report did not reflect the most recent developments relating to Capital & Centric and that these would be reported in Quarter 2. Members were also informed that the performance measure related to regeneration activity more broadly, including the Market Towns Programme, and was not limited to the Capital & Centric project.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

Chair

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NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by: Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 21 September 2026
For Period: 1 October 2026 to 31 January 2027

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Page 21	Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place
		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
	Councillor S Claffey	Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce
		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN E-mail: Stephen.Claffey@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor L Dewey-Beckett	Executive Governance Services	Councillor for and Democratic	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Email: Liam.Dewey-Beckett@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor J Harvey	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Jo.Harvey@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor N Hunt	Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Nathan.Hunt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor J Kerr	Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene		c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07906 899425 E-mail: Julie.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Councillor B Mickelburgh	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration and Housing	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor D Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01733 794510 E-mail: Debbie.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Executive Councillor for Planning	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
- (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
- (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:-
- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
 - (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Strategic CIL Funding Allocation To decide on round 1 of Strategic CIL funding 2026-27 for applications over £100,000.00.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Row Lyons, Funding Project Manager Tel: (01480) 388782 or email Row.Lyons@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Harvey/T Sanderson	Performance & Growth

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Brington and Molesworth Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum*** Following the examination of the Brington and Molesworth Neighbourhood Plan this report proposes acting upon the Examiner's report to accept the modifications proposed and progress to referendum.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Natalie Elworthy, Planning Policy Officer Tel: (01480) 388443 or email Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
The Giddings, Hamerton and Winwick Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum*** Following the examination of the Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan this report proposes acting upon the Examiner's report to accept the modifications proposed and progress to referendum.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Natalie Elworthy, Planning Policy Officer Tel: (01480) 388443 or email Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Ramsey Communities Neighbourhood Plan examination outcome and progression to referendum*** Following the examination of the Ramsey Communities Neighbourhood Plan this report proposes acting upon the Examiner's report to accept the modifications proposed and progress to referendum.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Natalie Elworthy, Planning Policy Officer Tel: (01480) 388443 or email Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Alconbury Neighbourhood Plan*** This report proposes acting upon the Examiner's report to accept the modifications proposed and progress to referendum.	Cabinet	20 Oct 2026		Natalie Elworthy, Planning Policy Officer Tel: (01480) 388443 or email Natalie.Elworthy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	
NDR Rural Settlements List 2027/28 Annual review of Rural Settlements to facilitate the award of Business Rates Relief.	Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance and Section 151 Officer	11 Nov 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	

Matter for Decision Description of Decision	Decision Maker	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Council Tax Support 2027/28 Annual review of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.	Cabinet	17 Nov 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	
Homelessness Strategy*** Adoption of refreshed Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.	Cabinet	17 Nov 2026		Jon Collen, Housing Needs Resources Manager Tel: (01480) 388220 or email Jon.Collen@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Council Tax Base To set the Council Tax Base for 2027/28.	Chair of Corporate Governance Committee & Section 151 Officer	17 Dec 2026		Katie Kelly, Head of Customer Services, Revenue and Benefits Tel: (01480) 388151 or email Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		N Hunt	

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026-27 - Performance and Growth

Forward Agendas

Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review
30 th September	Strategic CIL Funding allocation <i>Tom Sanderson- Executive Councillor for Planning.</i>	
4 th November	Corporate Performance Report 2026/27 (Quarter 2) <i>Nathan Hunt -Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance</i>	Commercial Investment Portfolio <i>Jo Harvey- Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources.</i>
2 nd December		Civil Parking Enforcement Update <i>Julie Kerr- Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste & Street Scene</i> Places for People <i>Brett Mickelburgh- Executive Councillor Economy, Regeneration & Housing</i>
21 st January	2027/28 Revenue Budget & Medium-Term Financial Strategy, including the Capital Programme <i>Jo Harvey- Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources.</i>	Transformation Update <i>Nathan Hunt - Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance</i>

3 rd March	Strategic CIL Funding Allocation <i>Tom Sanderson- Executive Councillor for Planning.</i> Corporate Performance Report 2026/27 (Quarter 3) <i>Nathan Hunt -Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance</i>	
31 st March		

Future Topics

Item	Focus	Scoping / Progress	Target Meeting Date
Places for People Page 33	Relationship between the Council and PfP including any contractual arrangements (inc exclusivity, renewal date etc) Stock Disposal Programme – scale, impact and HDC influence Request for PfP to attend in future to explore questions to put to them. Focus on strategic elements and not casework (which would be inappropriate for Scrutiny and public session).	Further scoping requested by Officers and relayed to Members via email 13.08.2026 <u>Status: In Progress</u>	Dec 2026
	Background / previous consideration of topic		
	Item Format	Presentation/ Report	
	Portfolio Holder/ Responsible Officer	B Mickelburgh - Deputy Executive Leader, Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration & Housing P Scott - Head of Economy, Regeneration & Housing Delivery	

Item	Focus	Scoping / Progress	Target Meeting Date
Civil Parking Enforcement	Review of performance of CPE and Operational Delivery to date.	Update scheduled onto All Members Briefing for October 2026 in the first instance. Further scoping of the subject can be undertaken after the All Members Briefing. <u>Status: In progress</u>	All Members Briefing Oct 2026 Dec 2026
	Background / previous consideration of topic	Cabinet 15.04.2025 Civil Parking Enforcement Update Report.pdf	
	Item Format	Presentation/ Report	
	Portfolio Holder/ Responsible Officer	B Mickelburgh - Deputy Executive Leader, Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration & Housing P Scott - Head of Economy, Regeneration & Housing Delivery	

Item	Focus	Scoping / Progress	Target Meeting Date
Commercial Investment Portfolio	Scrutiny of the Commercial Investment Portfolio. Potential to improve financial performance. Scrutinise current underperformance, including void units and reduced income. Review actions to attract new tenants, particularly for properties outside the HDC area, and consider advice received from letting agents. Assess whether underperforming assets should be retained, with at least a medium-term strategy in place. Confirm that rent reviews are undertaken promptly. Provide information on the condition and EPC ratings of all properties. Review key financial metrics, noting that loan-to-value and interest cover ratios are currently not being met.	Scoping form received from Member. Discussions with relevant Officers underway. <u>Status: In Progress</u>	Nov 2026
	Background / previous consideration of topic	Cabinet 16.09.2025 Report Template for Cabinet / Committee Reports	
	Item Format	Report	

	Portfolio Holder/ Responsible Officer	J Harvey - Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources M Raby- Facilities Manager - Hard Services	

O&S Topics Identified For Further Consideration

Subject	Brief	Status
Corporate Enforcement Policy	Requesting an update on Planning Enforcement – how will this work with the new policies. Requesting an update on Licensing Enforcement	Discussions in place with relevant Officer and consulting with the Chair of Licensing and the Planning Enforcement Team Leader. Have requested further scope from Cllr.
Housing Strategy	• What is the cost to the Taxpayer? • Homes that require adjustments • Complaints in Housing • Noted that HDC has both a Housing Strategy and a Homelessness Strategy in place alongside metrics within the Corporate Plan on this topic. Also noted that HDC does not own Local Authority Housing Stock.	More info and scoping requested from Cllrs to refine the request and no response received. Overview & Scrutiny (P&G) 01.04.2026 Housing Strategy Refresh - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Land to Develop	• Request to invite Capital Centric to present to the Panel • Request to discuss the Blue Light Scheme • Whether there is scope for a Working Group	Discussions with Head of Service. Future Capital & Centric report likely to come through Panel in any event based on future decisions – see July 2025 report. Regeneration Opportunities Report- Huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Community Infrastructure Levy	• What is the broad support for Town and Parish Councils? • Concern that applications are digital and that there is a generational technology barrier to access this • Does CIL favour bigger communities? • Smaller Parishes have less resources to submit applications do they loose out to bigger parishes? • What will happen to CIL reserves with the integration following LGR?	Email circulated to Members with links to previous published papers. Paused pending consideration of forthcoming report on topic.
Procurement	• How is this adding good social value? • Would like to understand how the Council are optimising this. • Understanding from Officers that this is about wider social value and the impact on communities. Also noted that Corporate Governance Committee cover procurement compliance.	Topic passed to Corporate Governance Committee (CGC)

KPIs	• Possibly a change in behaviour • Maybe don't use just averages • Need more performance, satisfactory and customer processes • Possibility of scrutinising best practice • Would like more detail on what causes failures and how to improve • Scope to set up a Working Group to look at the matter. • Suggested consideration of: ○ The wider reporting network of metrics across the public sector ○ The Government's plans for the Local Outcomes Framework and HDC's preparedness for this ○ The approved HDC Performance Management Framework ○ Assessment of metrics that could add value – alongside assessing the work needed to create them and time to value with the LGR timescales	Emails sent to relevant Members to schedule meetings.
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Working Groups

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Working Group
Members: Cllrs L Ascroft, R Ioannides & R Martin Lead Officer: K Hlalat, enquiries to L Adams
Progress: August 2026: Initial meeting invites sent to Members to establish Terms of Reference for the group. Next Steps: Meetings to be scheduled as required to allow involvement in proposed works.

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Overview and Scrutiny Panel (P&G) – 30/09/2026

Cabinet – 20/10/2026

Report by: Row Lyons

Lead Cllr: Councillor Tom Sanderson

Executive Councillor for Planning



Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
All	Open	Yes

Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation, round 1 2026/27

Executive Summary: CIL is restricted in how it can be used through Legislation, and under Regulations 59 (1) and (3) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) local authorities must spend the levy on delivering infrastructure needed to support the development of their area through:

- increasing the capacity of existing infrastructure or
- repairing failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support new development.

This report contains information on the CIL funding round that closed 31st July 2026.

1. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to review and comment on;

- 1.1. Recommendations 1) – 4) of the Community infrastructures Levy Cabinet funding report

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O&S (P&G) – 30th September 2026
Cabinet – 20th October 2026

Report by: Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection

Lead Cllr: Cllr Tom Sanderson
Executive Councillor for Planning



Wards
All

Open / Exempt
Open

Key Decision?
Yes

Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation, round 1 2026/27

Executive Summary: CIL is restricted in how it can be used through Legislation, and under Regulations 59 (1) and (3) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) local authorities must spend the levy on delivering infrastructure needed to support the development of their area through:

- increasing the capacity of existing infrastructure or
- repairing failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support new development.

This report contains information on the CIL funding round that closed 31st July 2026.

Recommendations

- 1.1. Agree officer recommendation at Paragraphs 3.1-3.5 to APPROVE funding for the remodelling of Ramsey Junior School.
- 1.2. Agree officer recommendations at Paragraph 3.6-3.10 to APPROVE funding for a community sports hub at Longsands School, St Neots.
- 1.3. Note the updates on delivery in relation to the projects previously allocated or in receipt of CIL funding commitments (see Appendix 1).
- 1.4. Note any new allocated CIL projects for £100,000.00 or less approved by delegation on 8th September 2026 (see Appendix 2).

Key Corporate Plan Priorities

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Improving quality of life for local people |
| 2 | Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations |

Place Strategy Priorities

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Pride in Place |
| 2 | Health embedded |

Report Author(s)

Row Lyons, Funding Project Manager (row.lyons@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to invite the Cabinet to consider recommendations relating to infrastructure projects seeking funding of more than £100,000.00 in whole or in part from an amount of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 2.1** Up to 5% of CIL receipts each financial year may be retained for administration costs. 15% - 25% of CIL receipts, the meaningful proportion, are passed to parish/town councils in line with the CIL Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Localism Act 2011. The remaining 70-80%, the strategic proportion, which is available for Huntingdonshire District Council as the charging authority to spend on the provision, improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure to support the growth/development of its area.
- 2.2** CIL is intended to be used on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development. It can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure if that is considered necessary to support new development.
- 2.3** Under the stage 1 governance arrangements approved by Cabinet in June 2024, Cabinet is to consider applications for CIL funding over £100,000.00. Any requests of £100,000.00 or less have been considered and approved in line with delegated authority and are detailed for information at Appendix 2. The total amount of funding to be considered for allocation in a financial year will not exceed £500,000 for allocations of £100,000.00 or less, including those for non-parished areas.
- 2.4** Prior to this funding round, approximately £45 million of CIL has been allocated to 77 projects across Huntingdonshire, supporting the delivery of over £145 million of infrastructure. This has contributed to delivering infrastructure across the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 to meet Local Plan growth.
- 2.5** The stage 2 governance review was set out to Cabinet and approved by them in February 2026. This has set out the Strategic Allocation of CIL to form the Strategic Priority Programme for delivery along with the use of CIL funding, or 'forward funding', towards infrastructure projects that form part of the Council's wider Capital Programme. Within this the Corporate Director (Place) and the Corporate Director (Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Leader, Executive Councillor for Finance, and the Executive Councillor for Planning have delegated authority to determine the level of allocation of CIL funding to be awarded towards projects which form part of the Councils agreed Capital Programme.
- 2.6** The determination of CIL requests as set out in this paper have been considered in accordance with HDCs interim governance procedures for CIL, as well as ensuring compliance with the fundamentals as set out in the established legislation. This is important to ensure a fair, transparent and lawful process, which

is robust to challenge and/or complaint. Officers have undertaken the assessments on this basis.

- 2.7** As the review of the CIL funding process and its associated governance is now moving to the next phase, to link into the Infrastructure Delivery Strategy and Plan being prepared to support the update to the Local Plan; once this work is completed, future rounds of CIL awards are likely to be judged against any updated processes.
- 2.8** It is important to be able to demonstrate how a decision has been reached, with clear reasons, in order to uphold the integrity of the process, and ensure that the decision can be understood even if it is not agreed with. If Members are minded to reach alternative conclusions to those as recommended in this report, reasons for this should be clearly articulated and evidenced where possible.
- 2.9** Going forward it is intended that the CIL funding rounds will follow the following structure with round 1 opening 1st week June – Last week of July, decisions in September. Round 2 opening 1st week November - Last week of December, decisions in March. Outside these dates should the CIL funding be more urgent then the 'Exceptional Circumstances' option may be followed as applicable.
- 2.10** For the avoidance of doubt a summary of progress on successful bids to date can be found at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 sets out the decision made on bids of <£100k.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Ramsey Junior School reconfiguration & Expansion

3.2 Applicant: Cambridgeshire County Council Parish: Ramsey

CIL Funding Requested: £234,939.59 (50%) Total project cost: £469,879.17

3.3 Assessment:

Statement of intent	Met and reason
The primary use of CIL is to fund infrastructure that is directly linked to supporting or mitigating the impact of growth and new development.	Met – The project clearly links the need for additional school places to local housing growth in the catchment area.
CIL funded projects can also contribute towards achieving the outcomes identified in the Council's Corporate Plan and Place Strategy.	Met – This project aligns with Priority 2 – Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations of the Corporate Plan and Journey 1 – Pride in Place of the Place Strategy.

CIL should be used in a way which leverages other sources of funding for greater impact.	Met – This is a 50% CIL ask which represents good value for money, with the County Council funding the rest of the cost.
A new approach to allocating CIL should follow a programme-led, evidence-based approach.	Met – The supporting information shows the link between the need for this project and local growth.
A new approach to CIL should recognise the Importance of working with partners to deliver infrastructure.	Met – This project represents partnership working between the County Council and the school.
There should be greater alignment between local and district-wide priorities.	Met – As the need for this project is linked to local housing growth and this will mitigate it this is a district wide priority. The need for further junior spaces was also highlighted in the Local Plan to 2036 Infrastructure Delivery plan – Infrastructure Schedule.

3.4 Summary: The need for this project was anticipated in the Local Plan to 2036, and the supporting evidence links local growth to the need for this project.

This project will increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the junior school to match the infant school; it is a 50% CIL ask and so represents good value for money.

This project aligns to the Corporate Plan, the Futures Place Strategy and the need for local education is featured in the Ramsey Neighbourhood Plan.

3.5 Recommendation: Approve, subject to:

- Planning permission being granted
- Any surplus project funds reducing the CIL contribution accordingly.

3.6 St Neots pitches & community sports hub

3.7 Applicant: Astrea Academy Trust

Parish: St Neots

CIL Funding Requested: £540,000.00 (24%)

Total project cost: £2,230,000.00

3.8 Assessment:

Statement of intent	Met and reason
The primary use of CIL is to fund infrastructure that is directly linked to supporting	Met - There has been growth in St Neots and Little Paxton, and these additional sports facilities would support this growth. Not only will it be used by the

or mitigating the impact of growth and new development.	school but also by the wider community with good links to local sports clubs.
CIL funded projects can also contribute towards achieving the outcomes identified in the Council's Corporate Plan and Place Strategy.	Met - This aligns with Priority 2 - Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations of the Corporate Plan and Journey 1 – Pride in place & Journey 3 – health embedded of the Futures Place Strategy.
CIL should be used in a way which leverages other sources of funding for greater impact.	Met – This is a 24% CIL ask with multiple funders.
A new approach to allocating CIL should follow a programme-led, evidence-based approach.	Met – The supporting evidence showed the links to growth and the partnership working.
A new approach to CIL should recognise the importance of working with partners to deliver infrastructure.	Met – This is linking Astrea Academy, Longsands and several sports clubs. They have also included a neighbouring Parish Council. It's great to see how having the sports clubs on-site is planned to increase membership.
There should be greater alignment between local and district-wide priorities.	Met – With links to the Local Plan and sports strategies this is a district priority.

3.9 Summary: This is an ambitious project which is looking to increase the sports provision within St Neots. The additionality to sports would include hockey pitch, a 3G pitch and a table tennis provision amongst others. The need for additional sports provision was noted in the Local Plan and in HDC sports strategies.

The school has worked hard to look at opportunities within the community to use the additional sports facilities and, even how they can advertise the out of hours clubs to their students.

The project has support from within the Town, the neighbouring Parish, the local M.P. and even national sporting institutions.

With the support of the Football Foundation and the partnerships in place the outcomes of this for the district will be fantastic.

3.10 Recommendation: Approve, subject to:

- Full project funding being secured
- Planning permission and all other necessary consents being obtained.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & NOT RECOMMENDED

- 4.1** In June 2026, stakeholders were invited to submit on-line proforma applications for funding from the Strategic Proportion of CIL, in line with Council Guidance on Allocation and Spending webpage. Communications were issued to infrastructure providers including the County Council, NHS, Emergency Services, Town & Parish Councils and HDC Members. The Council website was also updated to announce a new round; plus social media posts were issued. The projects submitted during this funding round have been reviewed to ensure they meet the criteria for Strategic CIL funding.
- 4.2** CIL is intended to be used on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development. It can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure if that is considered necessary to support new development.
- 4.3** There is further information on CIL available on the HDC website Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk. This includes detail on the Statement of Intent key principles:
- the primary use of CIL is to fund infrastructure that is directly linked to supporting or mitigating the impact of growth and new development.
 - CIL funded projects can also contribute towards achieving the outcomes identified in the Council's Corporate Plan and Place Strategy
 - CIL should be used in a way which leverages other sources of funding for greater impact.
 - the use of CIL should be considered alongside other developer contributions to maximise site-specific benefits (for example: Affordable housing).
 - a new approach to allocating CIL should follow a programme-led, evidence-based approach.
 - a new approach to CIL should recognise the Importance of working with partners to deliver infrastructure.
 - there should be greater alignment between local and district-wide priorities.
- 4.4** There is currently approximately £22 million of unallocated CIL available for future infrastructure projects, and of this a minimum of £3-5million has been committed for non-HDC projects.

5. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 5.1** The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

6. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 6.1** Depending on the decision made by Cabinet the following next steps will happen.

- 6.2 Approve** – If approved the applicant will be contacted and offered the funding with any conditions approved by Cabinet. A legal agreement will be completed and then the funding will be paid as per the schedule in the agreement. Projects are monitored regularly and details of these projects are noted in the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS).
- 6.3 Decline** – If the project is declined, we reach out to the applicant to explain why, and if applicable support them through re-applying.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

7.1 Council Key Priorities and Performance

- **Improving quality of life for local people** through investment in education, recreation, health and community infrastructure.
- **Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations** by ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with housing growth and supports sustainable communities.
- **Doing our core work well** through the transparent and evidence-based allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding in accordance with adopted governance arrangements.

The proposals also support the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy, particularly the themes of Pride in Place and Health Embedded, through investment in educational provision and community sports infrastructure.

7.2 Financial Implications

7.2.1 There is currently approximately £51.9 million within the CIL fund, comprising amounts held for parish and town council payments, CIL administration, previously allocated projects and the unallocated strategic CIL balance. CIL is levied on qualifying development, and receipts are received over time as developments commence and progress. In accordance with legislation, the relevant proportion of receipts is paid to town and parish councils twice annually. Given that future receipts and neighbourhood payments are dependent on the timing and delivery of development, the overall CIL fund balance ¹cannot be forecast with certainty. The table below therefore sets out the impact of currently approved expenditure commitments on the known CIL balance.

7.2.2

Financial Year	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Expenditure (allocated)	£9,604,039	£1,640,369	£11,128,000	£7,013,388
Net Impact (CIL Pot balance)	£42,269,231	£40,628,861	£29,500,861	£22,487,473

¹ The table above illustrates the impact of current expenditure commitments on the CIL balance. Future CIL receipts have not been included, as income is dependent on the timing, commencement and delivery of development and cannot be forecast with sufficient certainty. The projected balances therefore represent a prudent position based on current known commitments only and do not take account of future CIL income that may be received during the period. As a result, the actual balance is likely to be higher, subject to future development activity and the associated CIL receipts generated.

7.3 Policy Implications

7.3.1 The proposals are considered to be in alignment with the Councils agreed policy framework.

7.4 Legal & Constitutional Implications

7.4.1 Regulation 59 (1) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a charging authority to apply CIL to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of] infrastructure to support the development of its area. It may also, under Regulation 59 (3), support infrastructure outside its area where to do so would support the development of its area.

7.4.2 Passing CIL to another person for that person to apply to funding the improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of] infrastructure is also permitted under Regulation 59 (4).

7.4.3 Section 216 (2) of the Planning Act 2008 as amended by Regulation 63 of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended) stated that infrastructure 'includes [and is therefore not limited to]:

- a) roads and other transport facilities,
- b) flood defences,
- c) schools and other educational facilities,
- d) medical facilities,
- e) sporting and recreational facilities,
- f) open spaces.'

7.4.4 The levy may not be used to fund affordable housing.

7.4.5 Under current governance for CIL decisions for application for £100,000.00 or less are delegated to the Executive Leader, Executive Councillor for Planning, Corporate Director (Place) and the Head of Planning, Infrastructure & Public Protection.

7.5 Community Impact

7.5.1 Each CIL funded project should have a positive impact on its local community through improving the local infrastructure and this will be noted in the summary of the project.

7.6 Environment & Climate Change Implications

7.6.1 If a project includes environmental benefits that have been included in its application submission, then this will be noted in the project summary.

7.7 Equality & Diversity Implications

7.7.1 The proposed projects are expected to have a positive impact on equality of opportunity. The expansion of educational provision at Ramsey Junior School will improve access to school places for local families, while the St Neots Community

Sports Hub will provide enhanced access to sporting and recreational facilities for a wide range of users. There is no evidence that the recommendations would have an adverse impact on any protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

7.8 Implications on Resources

7.8.1 Staff resource to administer and monitor the allocation of the CIL. This is funded, in part, by the administration costs permitted from the CIL receipts.

7.8.2 Staff resource from elsewhere in the Council will be used in preparing funding bids and implementing successful cases.

7.9 Health & Wellbeing Implications

7.9.1 The proposed investment in sports and recreation infrastructure at Longsands School will directly support improved physical activity, health and wellbeing outcomes across the local community. Improved educational infrastructure at Ramsey Junior School will contribute to community wellbeing by ensuring adequate local school capacity to meet the needs arising from growth.

7.10 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications

7.10.1 CIL funding rounds are anticipated to continue throughout the LGR process, with a minimum of £3-5 million being allocated for the rounds.

7.10.2 Legal agreements are entered into with all third parties who are allocated CIL funding to ensure a smooth transition into the new authority.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1.1 The key impact from not considering the CIL spend will be the potential for certain infrastructure projects not being delivered and match funding lost.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS– LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

9.1

Document List	Custodian	File Location
Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government	<u>Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2019</u>
Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	<u>Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan</u>
Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Infrastructure Schedule	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	<u>Infrastructure Delivery Plan - Infrastructure Schedule</u>

Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Delivery Plan Addendum	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Delivery Plan Addendum
Community Infrastructure Levy Governance Review June 2024	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Community Infrastructure Levy Governance Review June 2024
Community Infrastructure Levy Governance Review June 2024 Appendix 1	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Community Infrastructure Levy Governance Review June 2024 Appendix 1
Community Infrastructure Levy CIL Governance – Phase 2 – Strategic Allocation	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Community Infrastructure Levy Governance Review June 2024
Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Funding Statement 2025/26	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024/25
Corporate Plan	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Corporate Plan 2025-26
Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy
Huntingdonshire Leisure and Sports Facility Strategy	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Huntingdonshire Leisure and Sports Facility Strategy
Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030	Huntingdonshire District Council Joint Administration	Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030

APPENDIX 1 - Update on 'live' Projects previously approved to-date.

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
New village hall, Fenstanton	Funding a new village hall in Fenstanton	£880,000.00	£75,000.00	COMPLETED
Approved by Cabinet - 16 th July 2020				
B1040 W heatsheaf Road/Somersham Road Accident Reduction Scheme	Junction safety improvements	£1,200,000.00	£500,000.00	The land for the scheme has been secured and they will be moving towards construction starting later this year.
Approved by Cabinet - 18 th March 2021				
High Street improvements, St Neots	A comprehensive programme of schemes designed to enable the redevelopment of several strategically chosen areas of St Neots town centre and bring change to strengthen the economy of St Neots.	£15,422,033.00 (funding envelope as project details developed)	£4,830,000.00	They have had delays but the forecast is still to complete in 26/27.
Approved by Cabinet 28 July 2020				
Hinchingbrooke Country Park Improvement Project, Huntingdon.	Part of larger project, the bid seeks funding for: •Pathway improvements and	£2,995,184.00	£1,495,184.00	•Phase 1 of the project has now been successfully completed, including contractor mobilisation, site establishment, access road works and the associated

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Approved at Cabinet 17th March 2022	associated lighting and signage. - Upgrading the existing car park. 5 new play zones Associated management costs			temporary arrangements required to enable the main construction programme. The project has now progressed into Phase 2, which includes the main construction and landscaping works. The project remains on programme, with completion currently forecast for spring 2027. There are currently no anticipated delays to the overall completion programme.
New health facility, Alconbury Weald.	New primary health care facility at Alconbury Weald.	£7,888,400.00	£6,013,388.00	The ICB has commissioned the support of NHS Property Services (NHSPS), including its Development Management and Town Planning teams, to support the development and delivery of a new primary care health centre. The project represents a significant milestone in planning healthcare infrastructure to support the continued growth of the Alconbury Weald community. Net steps include RIBA Stage 2 concept design and preparing the Reserved Matters submission strategy.
Approved by Cabinet – 18 th October 2022				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Car park extension, Somersham.	Community car park extension	£20,480.90	£15,480.90	The car park extension is due to begin early September and should take two weeks to complete.
Approved by delegation– 7 th February 2023				
Community Centre Extension, Ramsey.	Extend and re-configure the layout of the Ramsey Community Centre including a commercial sized kitchen. The re-configuration from one to three rooms will allow more groups access to an oversubscribed building.	£260,000.00	£100,000.00	COMPLETED
Approved by delegation – 16 th April 2024				
Guardroom community hub, Bury.	To transform the former RAF Guardroom building into a multifunctional hub including the Parish Council, hot desk space, and community space for sports and social activities.	£2,359,900.00	£1,500,000.00	Contractor selection and announcement are imminent, ecological work begins in September, and completion is anticipated by Spring/Summer 2027.
Approved by Cabinet – 15 th April 2025				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Leisure improvements, Sawtry.	Replacement & reinstatement of the pool plant and reconnecting the heating, air handling and water, replacement of the pool cover and disabled hoist.	£600,000.00	£360,000.00	COMPLETED
Approved by Cabinet – 15 th April 2025				
Regional College ‘Retrofit’ skills training facility, Huntingdon.	A training centre at Huntingdon Campus to provide for retro fit skills, including solar panel installation, various insulation techniques, heat pump installation and associated electrical skills.	£725,912.00	£200,000.00	Works are well underway and are due to finish at the end of September.
Approved by Cabinet - 14 th October 2025				
Replacement playground, Kimbolton.	Replacement play equipment at Mandeville Hall Community playground.	£106,115.56	£61,632.81	COMPLETED
Approved by Cabinet – 14 th October 2025				
New 3G Pitch, HDC One Leisure St Ives.	Installation of a second full size third generation floodlit artificial turf pitch at One Leisure, St Ives.	£1,400,031.26	£300,000.00	Planning permission for the additional 3G pitch was granted in August 2026. The project is currently expected to be completed by April 2027;

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Approved by Cabinet - 14 th October 2025				however, this is an indicative timescale and remains subject to final funding approval, the outcome of the procurement process and any subsequent changes to the delivery programme.
Cromwell Museum Expansion Project, Huntingdon.	Funding to restore, convert and fit out a new museum.	£6,308,000.00	£1,000,000.00	Working with Caroe Architecture & working with the Conservation Officer, they have an initial proposed solution to how they will use the building and the beginnings of detailed plans, they have started consulting with key stakeholders. The plans will be used next to consult with specialists on fire, structural integrity, environmental impact, catering and our museum designers. Invasive surveys on the building have been completed, and this information will be used to further refine the plans along with the stakeholder feedback and specialist advice, meaning that they will have plans up to RIBA Stage 2 by late September/early October. This and detailed costings by a Quantity Surveyor will enable us to develop and submit their first stage Heritage Lottery Fund bid
Approved by Cabinet – 14 th October 2025				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
				after Christmas.
King George V Pavilion redevelopment, Huntingdon.	Demolition of the existing structure and creation of a new pavilion with compliant changing rooms, modern support facilities, social space and equipment storage.	£1,000,000.00	£125,000.00	The Cricket Pavilion project, the contract has been awarded to the Universal Group and phase one of the project is due to commence on the 24th August 26 with the demolition of the Old Cricket Pavilion.
Approved by Cabinet - 14 th October 2025				
Grafham community shop replacement	Replacement of community shop.	£91,457.00	£46,415.00	Works due to be completed by 31 st December 2026.
Approved by delegation – 5 th February 2026				
Sports and Health Hub improvements, HDC One Leisure Huntingdon	Improvements and extension to One Leisure Huntingdon to create a new Sport and Health Hub	£30,500,000.00	£10,000,000.00	Construction works have started and works are due to complete in 2028.
Approved by Cabinet – 17 th March 2026				
3 New Padel courts, Huntingdon.	To install three covered and floodlit padel courts at King George V playing fields.	£600,000.00	£300,000.00	Works are being carried out alongside the Huntingdon Hub programme and are due to complete in June 2028.

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
New construction skills workshop at Cambridge Reginal College, Huntingdon.	Purchase and installation of a workshop for construction students at the Huntingdon Campus of Cambridge Regional College.	£350,540.00	£150,000.00	Good progress has been made on the installation of the non-permanent workshop and it is almost complete. Final installations are due during August and early September.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
Enhancements and improvements to Paxton Pits, Little Paxton.	Enhancement of the site by creating new pathways, new play features and additional shelters and seating.	£375,000.00	£200,000.00	Currently going through procurement, working with HDC Officers to commence shortly after.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
Relocation of Abbey 6th form college, Ramsey.	To move the 6th Form College onto the Cambridgeshire County Council-owned part of the site through repurposing/refurbishing an existing building.	£2,620,065.65	£1,310,032.80	Project on track to complete in August 2027.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Reconfiguration and refurbishment of fire station, St Ives.	Modernisation of the fire station in St Ives.	£962,700.00	£400,000.00	Project has been expanded but it is still on track to complete by December 2027.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
SAPHIRE (St. Neots Academy for Professional and Higher Innovation, Research and Education) constructional skills centre, St Neots	Installation of a new occupational skills training facility within a new Skills Build Centre.	£1,748,000.00	£450,000.00	This project continues to make positive progress, with key legal, funding and delivery arrangements being advanced to support the development of the new facility. The professional delivery team is now established, with project management, design and cost consultancy support in place, enabling the project to progress through its next phase of planning and development. The project team continues to work collaboratively with stakeholders and delivery partners to progress the necessary agreements and project planning activities.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Youth centre, St Neots.	Conversion of a retail unit on the Market Square to create a Youth Centre.	£998,819.00	£500,000.00	Contractor selection and announcement are imminent, ecological work begins in September, and completion is anticipated by Spring/Summer 2027.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
Increase in primary school of two classrooms, Warboys.	Expansion of Warboys Primary Academy to support SEND places locally.	£2,758,266.00	£828,000.00	CCC are reviewing the business case for this project with a further update due mid-September.
Approved by Cabinet - 17 th March 2026				
Internal improvements to community centre, Ramsey	To make internal improvements to the community centre including an industrial kitchen.	£355,217.00	£97,000.00	COMPLETED
Approved by delegation -18 th May 2026				

Project Name	Description	Project cost at allocation	CIL funding offered	Update
Works to Warner Pavilion to create a youth centre, St Ives.	To refurbish and extend the Pavilion to create a Youth Hub and improved community space.	£217,000.00	£100,000.00	Preparing to go to tender for electrical and mechanical surveyors, shortly after will be able to go to tender for the building works.
Approved by delegation - 15 th May 2026				

APPENDIX 2 - Huntingdonshire Infrastructure Project Bids submitted for consideration in first funding round 2026/27 for £100,000.00 or less – Decisions.

Further detail on the reason for decline has been provided to the applicants.

Project proposed	Location	CIL funding requested	Total project cost without VAT	CIL as a % of total EXCL VAT	Decision
New play area	Buckden	£100,000.00	£200,000.00	50%	Decline
Solar battery storage to create resilience.	Fenstanton	£22,680.00	£25,200.00	90%	Decline
Footpath improvements	Great Gransden	£40,000.00	£80,000.00	50%	Approve
New footpath	Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	£48,000.00	£80,000.00	50%	Approve
New MUGA at Holywell school	Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	£47,500.00	£86,195.00	55%	Approve
Library improvements	Huntingdon	£65,000.00	£165,000.00	39%	Approve
New play hub	Ramsey	£37,500.00	£75,000.00	50%	Decline
Financial & digital skills hub	St Neots	£50,000.00	£100,000.00	50%	Decline
Infrastructure expansion at MAGPAS	The Stukeleys	£100,000.00	£440,000.00	23%	Approve