



A meeting of **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER / STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 15 JULY 2026** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Councillor B Mickelburgh to open the meeting with a 'Thought for the Day'.

Time Allocation: 2 Minutes

2. MINUTES (Pages 9 - 22)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st May 2026.

Time Allocation: 2 Minutes.

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non-registerable interests in relation to any Agenda item. See Notes below.

Time Allocation: 2 Minutes.

4. CHAIR'S ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Pages 23 - 24)

To note the Chair's engagements since the last Council meeting.

Time Allocation: 5 Minutes.

5. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion from Councillor D N Keane

Infrastructure Readiness and Evidence-Based Growth Planning

This Council notes that:

Huntingdonshire District Council is preparing a new Local Plan to guide development across the district to 2046.

Since work commenced on the Local Plan, national planning policy and housing targets have changed, with significant implications for future housing requirements across Huntingdonshire.

While no local authority has formally launched a judicial review, multiple councils, led by different political parties, have strongly pushed back on the revised housing targets. Some councils are seeking longer timescales, additional infrastructure funding, and adjustments to the local plan process.

To date, Huntingdonshire District Council has not publicly set out what flexibility, infrastructure support, transitional arrangements, or timetable adjustments it may seek in response to the revised national housing targets.

The emerging Local Plan must be supported by relevant, proportionate, and up-to-date evidence, including evidence on infrastructure, transport, viability, flood risk, water management, health, education, utilities, and community facilities.

Work remains underway to assess the transport implications of future growth, including through the A141 and St Ives Improvements Study, the Strategic Transport Assessment, and related transport evidence.

The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Infrastructure Delivery Study, and associated infrastructure schedules identify substantial requirements for highways, public transport, active travel, education, health services, utilities, flood mitigation, water management, community facilities, green infrastructure, and environmental infrastructure.

The Independent Review into bus franchising was published by the CPCA in June 2026, confirming a phased approach to bus franchising from 2027–2030.

The Local Plan relies on the assumption of expanding sustainable transport; therefore, this revised timeframe and scope of delivery should be accounted for. Residents across Huntingdonshire consistently raise concerns regarding the cumulative impact of development on roads, schools, healthcare provision, drainage, flood risk, public transport, and local services. Council believes that:

- a. Sustainable development requires housing growth, employment growth, and infrastructure delivery to be planned together.

- b. Public confidence in the Local Plan process depends upon decisions being informed by the most complete, current, and transparent evidence available.
- c. The cumulative impact of development across Huntingdonshire should be properly understood before strategic decisions are taken on the scale and distribution of future growth.
- d. Infrastructure capacity, funding, timing, and deliverability are central to whether proposed growth can be considered sustainable.
- e. A Local Plan that is not supported by clear evidence on infrastructure delivery risks being less effective, less credible, and less capable of commanding public confidence.
- f. Effective infrastructure planning requires close engagement with infrastructure providers, neighbouring authorities, the Combined Authority, and relevant government agencies.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Request Cabinet to bring forward a consolidated infrastructure readiness report, drawing on existing and emerging evidence relevant to the Local Plan, including transport, education, health, utilities, flood risk, water management, community infrastructure, green infrastructure, and environmental infrastructure.
- 2. Request that this report identifies, so far as the evidence allows, infrastructure requirements, delivery assumptions, funding sources, delivery responsibilities, key risks, material gaps, funding constraints, phasing issues, and delivery dependencies which may affect the preparation, soundness, viability, or deliverability of the emerging Local Plan.
- 3. Request that the report includes consideration of cumulative infrastructure impacts across Huntingdonshire, including the interaction between major site allocations, market town growth, village allocations, employment sites, and existing infrastructure pressures.
- 4. Request that the report be brought to Full Council before the Local Plan proceeds to its next formal stage, or, if that is not practicable, that Cabinet provides Full Council with a written explanation of how infrastructure risks will be addressed within the Local Plan timetable.
- 5. Reaffirm that Huntingdonshire's Local Plan should be prepared on the basis that housing, employment, infrastructure, and community services are planned together, with clear evidence of how growth will be supported, funded, phased, and delivered.

(b) Motion from Councillor R Coogan

Confidence in the Chair of Council

The Council notes that:

The concerns raised regarding Cllr Stephen Ferguson's conduct in his capacity as Chair of Huntingdonshire District Council.

This Council believes that the Chair must command confidence across the whole Council and wider district, and must discharge the office with neutrality, impartiality, sound judgment, and respect for the Council's rules and legal obligations.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. That this Council has no confidence in Cllr Stephen Ferguson's continued ability to discharge the office of Chair in a neutral, impartial, lawful, and confidence-building manner.
2. That this Council calls on Cllr Stephen Ferguson to resign as Chair of Huntingdonshire District Council.

(c) Motion from Councillor R Coogan

Cutting Waste and Delivering Services

The Council notes that:

All councillors must retain their individual rights to speak, vote, ask questions, submit motions and represent residents, and that statutory political-balance requirements must continue to be met.

However, this Council believes that very small political groups should not create disproportionate administration, duplication or officer workload.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. amend the Constitution so that groups of five councillors or fewer receive only the recognition required by law, and no additional group-based administrative or procedural support unless expressly agreed by Council.

This Council believes this change will help cut waste, reduce bureaucracy and ensure Council time and taxpayers' money are focused on delivering services for local people.

6. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

To receive and respond to questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 10.1.

Time Allocation: 5 minutes

7. STATE OF THE DISTRICT

The Executive Leader Councillor S J Conboy to address the Council on behalf of the Joint Administration on the State of the District.

The Chair will invite the Leaders of the Opposition to respond to the address.

Time Allocation: 20 minutes

Time Allocation:

8. QUESTIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rules, all questions –

- Must be relevant to an item which the Council has powers or duties;
- Must not relate to an item which is included elsewhere on the Agenda;
- Should be limited to obtaining information or pressing for action; and
- Should not exceed two minutes in duration.

Questions should not divulge or require to be divulged, confidential or exempt information.

Time Allocation: 30 Minutes.

9. VARIATION TO PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS: ADOPTION OF NATIONAL SCHEME OF DELEGATION OF DECISIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Pages 25 - 36)

The Executive Councillor for Governance and Democratic Services, Councillor L Dewey-Beckett to present a report on the Variation to Part 3 of the Constitution – Responsibility for Functions: Adoption of National Scheme of Delegation of Decisions on Planning Applications for approval by the Council.

Time Allocation: 10 minutes

10. REPRESENTATIONS OF POLITICAL GROUPS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND PANELS (Pages 37 - 44)

To consider a report by the Elections and Democratic Services Manager on the representation of political groups on Committees and Panels in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the District Council's Constitution.

Time Allocation: 5 minutes

11. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2026

To approve additional meetings of the Cabinet and Council on 9 September 2026 and to approve the change to the meeting of the Employment Committee from 9th September 2026 to 23rd September 2026

Time Allocation: 5 minutes

12. CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2026/27 (Pages 45 - 124)

The Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance, Councillor N J Hunt to present the refreshed Corporate Plan for approval by the Council.

(The Plan was considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 1st July 2026 and Cabinet on 14th July 2026 and the Executive Leader will provide an update on the Cabinet's deliberations).

Time Allocation: 10 minutes

13. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor P Hodgson-Jones, Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee to present the Annual Report of the Corporate Governance Committee for 2025/26.

Time Allocation: 10 minutes

14. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 125 - 152)

Executive Councillor N J Hunt, former Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

Time Allocation: 10 minutes

15. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY - UPDATE (Pages 153 - 206)

This item provides an opportunity for District Council Members to ask questions on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority issues.

If Members wish to raise questions or issues requiring a detailed response, it would be helpful if they can provide prior notice so that the necessary information can be obtained in advance of the meeting.

Time Allocation: 5 minutes

16. USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS 2025/26 (Pages 207 - 212)

The Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules require the Executive Leader to report on Executive Decisions taken under Special Urgency provisions annually to the Council. A report by the Executive Leader is attached.

Time Allocation: 5 minutes

17. OUTCOMES FROM COMMITTEES AND PANELS (Pages 213 - 218)

An opportunity for Members to raise any issues or ask questions arising from recent meetings of the Council's Committees and Panels.

A list of meetings held since the last Council meeting is attached for information and Members are requested to address their questions to Committee and Panel Chairs.

Time Allocation: 5 Minutes.

18. VARIATIONS TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND PANELS

Group Leaders to report on variations to the Membership of Committees and Panels if necessary.

Time Allocation: 5 Minutes.

7 day of July 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 Mrs Lisa Jablonska, Elections and Democratic Services Manager, Tel No. 01480 388004 / e-mail Lisa.Jablonska@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.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

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.