

**Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel – Questions and actions requiring a response.**

Minute No.	Item	Councillor	Question	Answer
24/65	Market Towns	Cllr Pitt	Electronic screens. What is the cost to continue the screens? Ongoing costs for two screens?	Response circulated to Panel via email.
24/58	Car Parking Strategy	Cllr Martin	An update regarding the car parking strategy.	<p>Officers are finalising the draft specification for this commission piece to inform the tender process which is expected to be run during July and August enabling works to commence September 2025.</p> <p>Regarding Cllr Martin's interlinked point relating to introduction of parking charges as per the budget papers agreed earlier in the year; Officers have raised the matter with the relevant Cabinet Members.</p>
25/10	Corporate Performance Q4	Cllr Taylor	Further information about Expressions of Interests - FE Cold Spots.	<p>The CPCA launched a programme in 2021 to address FE Cold Spots, areas with low skills participation and limited access to provision, identifying St Neots and East Cambridgeshire as key areas. A 2024 feasibility study, funded by a £4.5m grant, found insufficient demand for new FE colleges but highlighted a need for specialist provision in sectors like health, social care, construction, and digital skills.</p> <p>In February 2025, a Skills Capital Grant Funding programme was launched, attracting 10 applications for a £4.5m fund. Following a rigorous assessment, grants will be awarded to four providers, funding projects to support over 8,500 learners across St Neots, Huntingdon, and East Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Priority sectors include green technology, construction, health and social care, advanced manufacturing, and employability skills. The funding allocation includes £2.3m to St Neots, £1.5m to East Cambridgeshire, £466k to Huntingdon, and £230k in partial funding for a project spanning multiple areas.</p>

				<p>The funded projects aim to equip residents with employer-demanded skills, addressing local skills shortages and improving economic participation. Providers will report annually to the Skills Committee starting in September 2025, with a programme completion report expected in 2028. Future plans for the FE Cold Spots initiative will be considered in late 2025.</p> <p>At the CPCA Skills Committee on 16.06.25 there was a paper which confirmed the details about the bids however these cannot be released until the grant agreements have gone out w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> June. A press release will then follow once all agreements have been signed. A forum will also be set up to facilitate regular catchups with HDC and ECDC colleagues throughout the project.</p>
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