

Insert:
Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth) – 29th July 2026

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager | Deputy Monitoring Officer

Lead Cllr: Cllr J Kerr - Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste & Street Scene



Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
All	Open	Yes

Report Title

Executive Summary: *In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and following publication of the Cabinet's decision relating to the Combined Authority Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy, the decision has been called in by three Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth).*

Recommendations

- 1.1. The Panel is invited to consider its response to the call in of the decisions of the Cabinet held on 14th July 2026 on the Combined Authority Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy
- 1.2. The Panel is also invited to consider whether to endorse the decisions of Cabinet or otherwise in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

Key Corporate Plan Priorities

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

Place Strategy Priorities

- 1 *Supporting economic growth*
- 2 *Boosting town centre vitality and Improving accessibility*

Report Author(s)

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to respond to the call in request from Councillors Gardener, Martin and Tomlinson in regard to the Cabinet decisions on the Combined Authority Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy.

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 2.1** The Cabinet, at its meeting on 14th July 2026, considered a report outlining a proposal for the Combined Authority Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2** The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) received a report at their meeting on 1st July 2026 on the proposals as part of a pre-decision scrutiny process and the Panel's comments were conveyed to the Cabinet by way of the report attached as Appendix 2. Cllr J Kerr, Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene was in attendance at the meeting of the Panel. The draft Minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 14th July 2026 are attached as Appendix 3.
- 2.3** At the Cabinet meeting on 14th July 2026, Members made reference to the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth), who had put forward two recommendations in relation to the report. Both recommendations were considered by Cabinet and responded to in the meeting.
- 2.4** In response to questions from the Cabinet regarding the recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) to wait for the Car Parking Strategy before making a decision, the Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene, Councillor Kerr advised that the consequence of doing so could lead to the Mayor withdrawing the offer and so to avoid the risk of that occurring and the loss of benefits to residents, the decision to proceed was made by the Cabinet.
- 2.5** The recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) requesting the Business Case was welcomed by the Cabinet and will be provided.
- 2.6** Furthermore, the Cabinet was keen that the Mayor listened to the discussion of the meeting and of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) meeting.
- 2.7** The Cabinet approved the following –
 - 2.7.1** noted the proposal for grant funding which has been made by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA);
 - 2.7.2** noted that sufficient powers exist for Officers to accept said grant funding in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder;
 - 2.7.3** endorsed that Officers, on behalf of the Council, should undertake steps to formally accept the funding, including formalising necessary grant agreements and payment profiles etc;

2.7.4 agreed to the use of the grant funding to implement a 'free after 4pm parking Monday to Friday' scheme based on the recommended option (at section 3) as set out within the report; and

2.7.5 delegated responsibility for the implementation of the aforementioned scheme to the Corporate Director (Place) in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste and Street Scene as necessary including:

- a) to make and confirm necessary changes to the Parking Places Orders where required and to make and confirm the Notice of Variation required to implement the agreed charges;
- b) to make changes to the Parking Places Orders where required and to make and confirm the Notice of Variation to reinstate the current (until 1800 Monday to Friday) chargeable hours from 1st April 2028 or sooner if the operation of the scheme results in unintended or unforeseen detrimental impacts including but not limited to financially impacting the Council (e.g. where loss of income exceeds the grant contribution), or other detrimental impact occurs to people, place or the Council as a consequence of operation; and
- c) to undertake any other activities necessary to implement, vary or cease the scheme including any necessary changes and reinstatement works.

3. CALL-IN

3.1 Members are reminded of the guidance for call-in as set out in paragraph 15.1 and Appendix B of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules of the Council's Constitution; attached in this report under BACKGROUND PAPERS Council Constitution.

3.2 The decision has been called in by three Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth), Councillors Gardener, Martin and Tomlinson.

3.3 The Panel plays an important part in the Constitution in regard to the effective scrutiny of Cabinet decisions. It is important that Members are assured that Cabinet decisions have been taken with due process, that Cabinet has acted reasonably and has properly considered the advice and information before them including any pre-decision comments from Scrutiny. The Panel does not have the power in the Constitution to overturn, amend or substitute an executive decision. If after the consideration of the matter relating to the call in it believes that the decision of Cabinet was not in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules then it has powers to make new recommendations, to refer back for reconsideration to Cabinet, and in limited circumstances initiate a referral to Council. The Panel has three options, which are as follows –

- take no further action, if the Panel decides not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision shall take effect from the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting;

- if, having considered the matter, the Panel may refer back to the Cabinet for consideration, with a report being prepared setting out in writing the detail and reasons for the Panel's concerns. These could be new reasons and / or additional concerns from those submitted already to Cabinet which have already been fully considered and may relate to whether the Cabinet took account of relevant information, has fully considered all aspects, has acted reasonably and followed due process. If referred back to Cabinet, they would then be required to meet and reconsider their decision within 10 working days, before making a final decision; or
- refer the decision to Council. This would only be relevant where the Panel considers the decision may be contrary to the approved policy or budget framework.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Financial Implications

- 4.1.1** The financial implications arising out of this call-in are an additional meeting has had to be called, and Officer time and expenditure incurred in that regard. Furthermore, any delay to implementing the decisions made by the Cabinet or changes to those decisions may have financial implications.

4.2 Legal & Constitutional Implications

- 4.2.1** This report has been produced in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Rules of the Council's Constitution.
- 4.2.2** The Local Government Act 2000 established the power of overview and scrutiny to review executive decisions before implementation but does not prescribe grounds for call in or require councillors to provide reasons when requesting a call in. Any such requirements arise from the Council's Constitution rather than statute. The Constitution does not require a specific reason for the call in, however it does describe the call in process as "*consideration of any matter referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to a call in of a decision*". This does imply that information as to the basis for the call in would be provided to enable Members to consider the matter in full, for Officers to provide advice upon and the Executive Councillor to be able to respond. This report is unable to provide any further detail to the Panel on the reasons for the call in.
- 4.2.3** Considered legal opinion is that there was no duty upon the Council to consult in relation to this matter.
- 4.2.4** The considered opinion of the Council's Section 151 Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer is that the process undertaken to date is in accordance with Council's Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules. within the Constitution.

5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 5.1** The Panel is invited to consider the call-in of the decisions of the Cabinet relating to the Combined Authority Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy.

6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Report presented to Cabinet on the Mayoral Car Parking Subsidy: 14th July 2026

Appendix 2 – Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) 1st July 2026

Appendix 3 – Draft Minute of Cabinet: 14th July 2026

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Council Constitution](#) – Appendix B Pre-decision scrutiny and Call-in processes