HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER/STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 20 October 2026.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Conboy – Chair.

Councillors S Claffey, L Dewey-Beckett, J E Harvey, N J Hunt, J E Kerr, B A Mickelburgh, D L Mickelburgh and T D Sanderson.

28. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

30. STRATEGIC CIL FUNDING ALLOCATION

A report by the Funding Project Manager was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) inviting 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.

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Councillor Sanderson introduced the report, reflecting on the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance & Growth).

The Cabinet noted the importance of ensuring infrastructure kept pace with growth, the value of sports and leisure facilities in promoting health and wellbeing, and the support and advice provided by officers to applicants throughout the funding process. Particular reference was made to the monitoring and collection of CIL payments and the distribution of funding to Parish and Town councils. The proposals were commended and officers were thanked for their work.

In response to comments from the Cabinet, the Executive Councillor for Planning referred to a planning application considered in Ramsey the previous evening, and highlighted the flexibility afforded by neighbourhood planning and local CIL spending priorities.

Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that

(1) the officer recommendation at Paragraphs 3.1-3.5 for funding for the remodelling of Ramsey Junior School, be agreed;

(2) officer recommendations at Paragraph 3.6-3.10 for funding for a community sports hub at Longsands School, St Neots, be agreed;

(3) the updates on delivery in relation to the projects previously allocated or in receipt of CIL funding commitments, be noted; and

(4) the new allocated CIL projects for £100,000.00 or less approved by delegation on 8th September 2026, be noted.

31. PROCUREMENT OUTCOMES - THE SOCIAL VALUE POLICY

A report by the Risk Manager was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) presenting a proposed Procurement Outcomes – Social Value Policy for approval.

The Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce, Councillor Claffey introduced the report, and made reference to the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities & Partnerships). In recognising the Panel's recommendation to defer the approval of the Policy, he advised that following officer training in November, Members would be invited to a demonstration of the system, including worked examples, how commitments were measured, monitored and evidenced. He would also welcome the Policy returning through the Scrutiny process once there were actual procurement outcomes to report, so Members could assess whether the promised additional benefits were being delivered. However, having examined the evidence in detail, it was not believed that deferring the approval of the Policy was necessary, and he was satisfied that there was a sound framework upon which to proceed.

In response to questions from the Cabinet, the Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce advised that:

- the Policy would avoid creating unnecessary barriers for smaller and local businesses;
- local suppliers would not receive an automatic advantage but would be assessed against clear and fair criteria;
- social value outcomes would be monitored and evidenced through contract management arrangements;
- future reporting would enable Members to assess whether the Policy had delivered employment, skills and community benefits for Huntingdonshire residents; and
- suppliers would be required to demonstrate additional benefits beyond normal contractual obligations.

The Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce proposed that the reference to local supplier participation being within the "PE Postcode" on page 4 of the Policy, be amended to "based within the Huntingdonshire District boundary". The amendment was duly seconded and when put to a vote was carried unanimously.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the proposed Procurement Outcomes – Social Value Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to the amendment to page 4 of the Policy, that local suppliers are defined as 'based within the Huntingdonshire District boundary'.

32. GIDDINGS, HAMERTON AND WINWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION OUTCOME AND PROGRESSION TO REFERENDUM

A report by the Planning Policy Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking agreement to act upon the Examiner's report into the joint Giddings, Winwick and Hamerton Neighbourhood Plan leading to a referendum on whether or not it should be brought into force as part of the statutory development plan. It also set out a timetable for this process.

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Councillor Sanderson, introduced the report.

The Cabinet commended the work undertaken by the Parish Council, and encouraged residents to participate in the upcoming referendum.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report to accept the recommended modifications and progress the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.

33. RAMSEY COMMUNITIES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION OUTCOME AND PROGRESSION TO REFERENDUM

A report by the Planning Policy Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking agreement to act upon the Examiner's report into the Ramsey Communities Neighbourhood Plan leading to a referendum on whether or not it should be brought into force as part of the statutory development plan. It also set out a timetable for this process.

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Councillor Sanderson, introduced the report.

The Cabinet commended the Town Council and Steering Group, and highlighted that the Plan was an important tool for managing Ramsey's future development, and ensuring that residents could influence how growth would take place. Residents were encouraged to engage in the forthcoming referendum and have their say on the future of the Town. Furthermore, the protection of settlement gaps was highlighted, as well as enhancements to local green spaces contained within the plan.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report to accept the recommended modifications and progress the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.

34. ALCONBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION OUTCOME AND PROGRESSION TO REFERENDUM

A report by the Planning Policy Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking agreement to act upon the Examiner's report into the Alconbury Neighbourhood Plan leading to a referendum on whether or not it should be brought into force as part of the statutory development plan. It also set out a timetable for this process.

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Councillor Sanderson, introduced the report.

In discussing the report, the Cabinet gave consideration to:

- protecting Alconbury's identity as a distinct village;
- ensuring affordable and smaller homes were provided to meet local needs;
- supporting rural exception sites;
- addressing flood risk and preventing inappropriate development in remote locations; and
- the engagement with Anglian Tater who had been recommended as an addition to the list of relevant stakeholders.

The Cabinet welcomed the work undertaken by the Parish Council, and noted the Plan's emphasis on preserving village character, while meeting local housing needs.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report to accept the recommended modifications and progress the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.

35. BRINGTON AND MOLESWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN EXAMINATION OUTCOME AND PROGRESSION TO REFERENDUM

A report by the Planning Policy Officer was submitted (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) seeking agreement to act upon the Examiner's report into the Brington and Molesworth Neighbourhood Plan leading to a referendum on whether or not it should be brought into force as part of the statutory development plan. It also set out a timetable for this process.

The Executive Councillor for Planning, Councillor Sanderson, introduced the report.

The Cabinet commended the extensive work undertaken by local residents, and encouraged participation in the forthcoming referendum.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that the District Council should act upon the Examiner's report to accept the recommended modifications and progress the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.

Chair