Cabinet – 17th November 2026

Report by: Interim Monitoring Officer

Lead Cllr: Executive Leader, Sarah Conboy

Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
Various – including Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives	Open	No

Report in Response to Overview and Scrutiny Panel Request

Executive Summary: The Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel has requested that Cabinet consider the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report, including its scope, findings, expenditure, value for money, implications for regeneration proposals and the Council's next steps. The Gateway 1 Report remains subject to factual accuracy and commercial sensitivity checks and is therefore not yet final. Officers consider that the timescale for the Cabinet meeting on 17th November 2026 does not allow sufficient time to finalise the report, complete governance checks and prepare a comprehensive Cabinet report. It is therefore recommended that an Extraordinary Cabinet meeting be held on 24th November 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Recommendations

1.1. Notes the resolution of the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel made on 4th November 2026;

1.2. Notes that the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report is not yet final and that the 17th November 2026 Cabinet meeting does not provide sufficient time to complete the necessary work and governance checks; and

1.3. Agrees that an Extraordinary Cabinet meeting be convened at 7.00 pm on 24th November 2026 to consider the report prepared in response to the Panel's resolution.

	Key Corporate Plan Priorities
1	*Doing our core work well.*
2	*Create a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.*

	Place Strategy Priorities
1	*Supports transparent and timely decision-making on place and regeneration matters.*

Report Author(s)

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report responds to the resolution of the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel on 4th November 2026 and explains the proposed arrangements for Cabinet to consider the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report at the earliest practicable opportunity

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

2.1 At its meeting on 4th November 2026, the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel resolved under Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.7 that Cabinet should consider the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report. The Panel requested consideration of the scope and deliverables, findings and recommendations, expenditure and value for money, implications for regeneration proposals in St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon, and the Council's proposed next steps, including publication and public engagement.

2.2 Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.7 requires the Head of Paid Service to place an item on the agenda of the next available Cabinet meeting where requested by a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel or full Council. The Gateway 1 Report is currently being reviewed for factual accuracy, commercially sensitive information and compliance with publication requirements agreed with Capital & Centric. It is therefore not yet final.

2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel resolution was made on 4th November 2026 and papers for 17th November Cabinet meeting were due to be published on 8th November 2026. This provides insufficient time to complete work with the external party, assess the report's implications and enable appropriate Officer advice to be incorporated, prepare a Cabinet report addressing all elements of the Panel's request and complete the required governance checks. It would in Officers professional opinion allow insufficient time for the proper consideration of the report, and to enable the relevant Officer input to enable the Cabinet to have due regard to proper advice and thus make an informed decision which respects established principles around good decision making and governance.

2.4 Officers therefore considered the next available scheduled Cabinet meeting would be 16th December 2026. However, to avoid unnecessary delay, convening an Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 24th November 2026 at 7.00 pm is recommended.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 The option of submitting the item to Cabinet on 17th November 2026 was considered but is not recommended because the Gateway 1 Report is not final and the available preparation time would not allow completion of the required officer analysis and governance checks. Waiting until the scheduled Cabinet meeting on 16th December 2026 was also considered but would delay consideration unnecessarily. An Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 24th November 2026 provides a proportionate balance between timely consideration and proper preparation.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel resolved on 4th November 2026 that Cabinet should consider the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report and requested that it be published with the Cabinet papers, subject to necessary and legally justified redactions.

5. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 If the approach outlined is approved, officers will continue to liaise with Capital & Centric to finalise the Gateway 1 Report, identify any necessary and legally justified redactions, prepare a Cabinet report addressing the five matters identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel, and publish the papers for the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting in accordance with access to information requirements.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

6.1 Council Key Priorities and Performance

6.1.1 The recommendation supports the Corporate Plan priority of "Doing our core work well" by ensuring that Cabinet considers the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's request through a transparent, constitutionally compliant and properly governed decision-making process. Convening an Extraordinary Cabinet meeting also supports timely member and public scrutiny of the Gateway 1 Report and contributes to the priority of "Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations" by enabling the implications for regeneration proposals in Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots to be considered without unnecessary delay.

6.2 Financial Implications

6.2.1 The recommendation relates only to the timing and arrangements for Cabinet consideration of the Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report. There are no direct capital or revenue implications arising from the recommendation. Any officer time and Democratic Services support required to arrange and service the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting will be met from existing approved budgets. No additional budget provision is requested and there is no impact on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The expenditure incurred on the Capital & Centric commission, including the assessment of value for money and any financial implications arising from future regeneration proposals, will be addressed in the substantive report to Cabinet.

6.3 Policy Implications

6.3.1 The recommendation concerns the timing and arrangements for Cabinet consideration. The substantive Gateway 1 Report will address any relevant policy implications.

6.4 Legal & Constitutional Implications

6.4.1 Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.7 requires an item requested by a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel to be placed on the agenda of the next available Cabinet meeting. Access to Information Procedure Rules 22.2 and 23.3 limit member

access to documents that remain in draft form and protect exempt or confidential information where applicable. Any redactions must be necessary, legally justified and applied in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 and the Council's Constitution.

6.5 Community Impact

6.5.1 Timely publication and consideration will support transparency and enable councillors and residents to understand the work undertaken and the implications for Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots.

6.6 Environment & Climate Change Implications

6.6.1 N/A at this stage. Any environmental or climate change implications arising from the substantive regeneration proposals will be addressed in the later Cabinet report.

6.7 Equality & Diversity Implications

6.7.1 No direct equality implications arise from the proposed meeting arrangements. Any equality implications associated with the Gateway 1 Report or future regeneration proposals will be assessed in the substantive Cabinet report.

6.8 Implications on Resources

6.8.1 Officer time will be required to finalise the Gateway 1 Report with Capital & Centric, assess its implications, prepare the Cabinet report and complete governance and publication checks. The Extraordinary Cabinet meeting will also require Democratic Services and other relevant officer support. Any additional costs should be identified and confirmed before publication of the final report.

6.9 Health & Wellbeing Implications

6.9.1 N/A at this stage. Any health and wellbeing implications arising from the substantive proposals will be addressed in the later Cabinet report.

6.10 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications

6.10.1 N/A. The recommendation relates to the timing of Cabinet consideration and has no direct Local Government Reorganisation implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The principal risks are premature publication of an unfinalised report, disclosure of commercially sensitive information, inadequate consideration of the Panel's requested matters, and avoidable delay. These risks will be mitigated by completing factual and sensitivity checks, obtaining appropriate legal and governance input, allowing sufficient preparation time and convening an Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 24th November 2026.

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

8.1 Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel resolution, 4th November 2026; Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.7; Access to Information Procedure Rules 22.2 and 23.3; Capital & Centric Gateway 1 Report, when finalised.

Document List	**Custodian**	**File Location**
Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel resolution, 4th November 2026; Council Constitution rules cited in the report	Huntingdonshire District Council	Council records / Constitution