



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
31ST JULY 2023 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips, Mayor

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr D Warman

Cllr R Denness

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr L Fox

Cllr Rebecca Ward

County Cllr A Whelan

District Cllr C Whelan

4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gardner, Pitt, Wade, Austen and Moss-Eccardt. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH JUNE 2023 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 19th June 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record, with the correction of Cllr Wade to Cllr Ward under apologies. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048 and 2049 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 2045, item 6 – Cllr Banyard asked if the response to the member of public's question, regarding the Christmas Lights switch on had been emailed to them. The Clerk confirmed this had been sent the following day.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that he had presented the Freedom of the City of Ely to the Army and Air Force Cadets. He said it was a great privilege to do this and he had met some fine young people and their officers. He inspected the parade and had the opportunity to talk to many of the cadets. He gave a big thank you to his colleagues who were present for Ely Pride. It was a great day and there was wide recognition of the value of the Council's role. He also announced that there would be a by-election in Ely North following the resignation of Cllr Robinson. The process of replacing a councillor is laid down in electoral law and is not something that the Council can decide for themselves. It is a perfectly proper way of filling a vacancy on a democratic body, but there would be an expense to the Council.

6. QUESTION TIME

A member of the public, who was one of the main organisers of Ely Pride thanked the Council for their help and support for Ely Pride. They thanked the Mayor for his good speech at the event and the Maltings and Visit Ely staff for all their support and assistance. They hoped that all would be able to join them again next year for Ely Pride 2024 on the 3rd August 2024.

Another member of the public asked what progress had been made with the Maltings Cottage and the Clerk gave an update on this.

Cllr Denness thanked Cllr Gardner for all their hard work with organising and putting on Ely Pride.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. County Cllr A Whelan confirmed that the 20 mph consultation for Ely would go live on the 3rd August. She reported that the County Council were a good supporter of equality. She thanked the City of Ely Council and the organisers of Ely Pride. Cllr Banyard said that Stuntney Village Council had raised concerns regarding highways and asked who he should raise these with. Cllr A Whelan said that he should contact Cllr Coutts. Cllr Denness stated that she would be taking two possible bids for the LHI scheme to the Climate and Environment Committee for consideration. She was pleased to hear that the consultation for the 20 mph for Ely would be live shortly. Cllr Morgan informed Cllr A Whelan there were currently two petitions regarding the need for crossings at A142/A10 and Cam Drive. Cllr A Whelan informed Council there were currently four proposed schemes at the BP roundabout. These cannot be taken forward until funds have been allocated. She said the solution would be very expensive to undertake at this time and not done at the time of improvements to the road. With regards to Cam Drive she did confirm that this was within the Transport Plan for North Ely but cannot demand that this crossing be built as houses are not there yet. District Councillor C Whelan had provided a written report, which will also be attached to the minutes. Cllr Fox said that she hoped the council would get involved with installing bird boxes and planting of oak trees.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended Armed Forces Day; St Etheldreda Festal Eucharist; presentation of Freedom of the City to the cadets; Festal Evensong for St Etheldreda; High Sheriff's Garden Party at Wisbech; Ben's Yard pre-opening lunch; Aquafest; Atlantic Bridge Concert at the Cathedral; NSPCC Summer supper; Ely Choral Society concert at the Cathedral; Ely Folk Festival; Bishop's garden party; Royal East Anglian Regiment Reunion; Change of Command at USAF Mildenhall; presentation of certificates for language school; wreath laying ceremony to mark 70th anniversary of Korean War; Ely Pride and the classic car show.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan gave a report on the last planning meeting, which had not been quorate. Proposed comments will be circulated to the members of Planning B for approval before submission.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Street Naming & Numbering:- 53, 55 and 57 Old Bank, Prickwillow, Ely; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 Ben's Yard, Stuntney, Ely; 1-13 Eden Square, Ely.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) **PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE** – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 14th August.

(ii) **CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT** – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 29th August.

(iii) **ASSETS** – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be on the 7th August. The notes from the Christmas Lights Sub-Committee will be considered at the next Assets Committee meeting, as no members were in attendance who could speak on these.

(iv) **TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE** – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 26th June 2023, which was noted and approved. The update on the service and town centre and the digital signage and Visit Ely App were all noted. Cllr Warman proposed approval for the increase in the Business Liaison Assistant's weekly hours from 10 to 13. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously agreed. Cllr Warman asked about the use of Sessions House by Visit Ely. The Clerk explained that there had already been a meeting between councillors, Ely Museum, Visit Ely and the Deputy Clerk to discuss how this could progress. There had also been a request to move forward with the Friends of Session House and they be involved in this as well. The Clerk said this would have to go back through the Assets Committee and will be added to the next agenda.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Executive Review – notes of a meeting held on the 26th July were noted.

Stuntney Village Council – Cllr Banyard informed members he had attended a Stuntney Village Council meeting and the summer fayre. He had also had a discussion with the owner of Ben's Yard and had issues regarding highways that he would discuss with Cllr Coutts. The village social club has now become the village hall and has obtained charity status.

City of Ely Allotments & Gardens Association - Cllr Denness reported she had attended the last meeting of the Association. There was a boundary dispute at Upherds Lane, which she had agreed to write to the resident about. There were also concerns regarding the transfer of the new allotments at Orchard Green, which she was working with them to try and resolve.

Trinity Dole – Cllr Phillips informed councillors he had attended the final meeting as Trinity Dole was merging with the Needham's Foundation. The Council's two representatives have a right to retain their representation on the new body. It will be called Trinity Needham's Charity. He looked forward to a new era in Ely's new larger charity.

13. TO COMMENT ON ECDC'S LOCAL PLAN – SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW (SIR): MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

Councillors considered the modifications but felt they could not make comments as they did not understand the justification for the changes proposed. They requested the Clerk contact ECDC to see if they would be able to provide a statement of reasons for the proposed changes. Once they have been able to understand these they would then be able to make comments.

14. TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ELY RIBE ASSOCIATION FOR COSTS FOR STAFF FOR RIBE VISIT TO BE COVERED BY COUNCIL

The Clerk had produced a report regarding this request, which was noted. Cllr Phillips proposed the recommendation of a maximum of £125 funding per individual to fund the staff development be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously agreed. This would be funded from the contingency budget. Cllr Banyard informed members he was looking to organise a cultural exchange and was in touch with an Ely choir with regards to a visit to Ribe in October 2024. He suggested that some councillors may also like to accompany them on that visit but they should not feel obliged to go.

15. FINANCE

Cllr Phillips proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	293.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2095.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	34.57	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	197.88	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	331.01	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	206.02	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	375.72	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	237.24	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	191.81	Paid by direct debit
TotalEngeries Gas & Power Ltd	7356.95	Paid by direct debit
TotalEngeries Gas & Power Ltd	224.79	Paid by direct debit
TotalEngeries Gas & Power Ltd	84.13	Paid by direct debit
TotalEngeries Gas & Power Ltd	17.25	Paid by direct debit
TotalEngeries Gas & Power Ltd	361.38	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1641.13	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	70.12	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	122.09	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	48.25	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	292.91	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	260.12	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	302.21	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	155.03	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	742.32	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	1861.11	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	736.69	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	282.81	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	106.41	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	201.23	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	92.92	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	859.68	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	452.40	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1036.89	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline	380.08	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	18.00	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	18.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	127.78	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	53.94	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	331.01	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	540.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	270.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	504.00	Paid by BACS
Kamarin Computers Ltd	2010.00	Paid by BACS
Grovemere Properties Ltd	600.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	41.48	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	212.50	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	692.99	Paid by BACS
Wicken Coronation Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1050.00	Paid by BACS
Zurich Town & Parish	245.55	Paid by BACS
P Sadgrove	30.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	222.00	Paid by BACS
LE Enterprices	531.25	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	210.90	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	540.00	Paid by BACS
Cottenham Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
N Booth	337.00	Paid by BACS
J Peck	203.30	Paid by BACS
March Brass 2000	250.00	Paid by BACS
Clearview Communications Ltd	7366.80	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	376.69	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	357.60	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Pineneedle Design Ltd	468.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	24.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department	178.80	Paid by BACS
Breckland Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
CAPALC	150.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	234.92	Paid by BACS
Mr R J Caracciolo	81.00	Paid by BACS
D Holt	75.00	Paid by BACS
H & J Cutlack Ltd	74.54	Paid by BACS
P Mansergh	62.40	Paid by BACS
Lantern Dance School	100.00	Paid by BACS
Target Print Ltd	478.00	Paid by BACS
Mr M Welch	50.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Art	403.20	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	99.87	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	256.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova	24.00	Paid by BACS
Littleport Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	347.42	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	350.00	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	552.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	416.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	122.10	Paid by BACS
Fullpip Ltd	299.40	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

House of Marbles	454.56	Paid by BACS
E R Copley	9.00	Paid by BACS
Calico Cottage	315.60	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman

Ely NSPCC	50.00	114428
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	162.20	114429
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1288.52	114430
Burrows Newsagents	195.00	114431
Speedy Assets Services Ltd	597.48	114432
City Cycle Centre	46.49	114433
CoolerAid Ltd	143.81	114434
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	58.80	114435
Eden Farm Hulley's	350.05	114436
ECDC	2151.71	114437
Westair Reproductions Ltd	420.60	114438
Jewson Ltd	561.24	114439
S Thompson	3.65	114440
Soham Pest Control	99.00	114441
G & J Peck Ltd	44.47	114442
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	882.78	114443

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Harper Collins Publishers	43.97	114444
Jewson Ltd	261.34	114445
Two Bad Mice Publishers Ltd	241.20	114446
C Phillips	76.50	114447
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	59.56	114457
Eden Farm Hulley's	440.82	114449
Poets House	382.50	114448
Gordon Harrison	144.28	114450
Anglian Water	1039.72	114451
City of Ely Military Band	250.00	114453
Anglian Water	87.97	114455
A Bennett	31.50	114454
K Robinson	253.02	114452
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	282.20	114456
Konica Minolta Business Sols (UK) Ltd	212.88	114457
Millennium Pest Control	72.00	114458
ECDC	180.00	114459
HAGS-SMP Ltd	692.35	114460
Ely Museum	238.50	114461
Ely Museum	9474.25	114461
Speedy Asset Services Ltd	210.95	114462
VisitEngland	322.04	114463
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	304.00	114464
Studio Nova Ltd	12.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	12.00	Paid by BACS
Kamarin Computers Ltd	906.00	Paid by BACS
LE Enterprices	781.25	Paid by BACS
Liquidline	168.26	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

British Telecommunications	78.66	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd	728.11	Paid by direct debit
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	35.08	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	837.30	Paid by BACS
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	30.00	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	122.95	Paid by direct debit

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 19th June 2023

Salaries and wages	£36,676.95
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£11,539.85
Pension fund payments	£12,066.97

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the periods ending 30th June 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2023

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Financial update

Cambridgeshire County Council ended the past financial year (2022/23) with a overspend of just 0.2 per cent of its annual budget.

Despite growing inflation on all the goods and services the council buys, the council kept its overspend to just £728,000, a figure it had been predicting with some accuracy for the second half of the year.

The council set its 2022/3 budget in February 2022 at a time of great uncertainty, and during the year which followed inflation reached record highs, meaning that in-year the council had to manage more than £43M of additional pressures.

The final position shows that increases in some areas such as high levels of inflation in home to school transport, lower than expected income in some areas due to a slow recovery from COVID, and the impact of a national shortage (and consequent spiralling costs) of placements for children with very specialist mental health needs had largely been mitigated by underspends elsewhere.

The central issue remains however that Cambridgeshire County Council is woefully underfunded by central government, leaving residents of this county severely disadvantaged.

Cambridgeshire is a growing county, but despite this our funding formula remains fixed to population figures from more than ten years ago. In effect, while more Cambridgeshire residents are contributing to national taxes, our settlement has not been updated to supporting the area's direct local needs, leaving the council with problems to fix that will need many years of detailed work, not just short-term patching. The leaders of all four political groups on the county council wrote again to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up earlier this year, putting the case for change and a funding settlement which truly meets Cambridgeshire's local needs, but received no acknowledgement.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Holiday Activities and Food programme

The County Council's summer HAF programme, funded by the Department for Education, is open for bookings. Children in receipt of income-related free school meals can book a holiday scheme place for 64 hours, subject to availability. Each scheme offers enriching experiences, a meal and snacks.

The HAF Team can arrange transport for families unable to access the programme otherwise. Ukrainian and other refugee families are also eligible for places as well as families 'just about managing' financially. There is a video on YouTube youtu.be/WSOEjJlXY5c showing what's involved. And look out for the HAF Programme on Facebook and Twitter too.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/haf-provider-directory

Special educational needs support

Support for parents and carers of the approximately 15,000 children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in Cambridgeshire is now available at the click of a button through a new information hub. The website was developed with local experts including parents, health professionals, and community organisations such as Speak Out Council and PinPoint. The tool was produced to help families and young people to navigate the special needs journey and access information and advice.

send.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund

The Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund is now open for applications. Expressions of interest must be made by 24 September, and applicants who are successful at this stage will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.

The upper limit for bids is £40,000, and these must be for community capital projects to improve or upgrade community buildings and assets, while supporting the council to achieve at least three of its strategic ambitions.

- Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes.
- Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable.
- Health inequalities are reduced.
- People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs.
- People are helped out of poverty and income inequality.
- Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.
- Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/cambridgeshire-priorities-capital-fund

Decentralisation projects

The committee is being asked to endorse a series of pilot decentralisation projects, starting this month. In East Cambridgeshire two projects are proposed.

- A jointly led pilot to connect care leavers with universal support networks in the local community and the resources available to connect young people with their family history and life story through library and archive resources.
- Through East Cambs Climate Action Network (CAN) to explore how the county council can support a local community to develop a community energy plan, using the council's community energy policy.

Quality of life survey

The County Council has launched a countywide survey, speaking to a random sample of 5,500 residents to understand their views on the quality of their lives. The council aims to make this an annual survey so it can track the responses over time to see how council decisions and policies—and the work of other public sector bodies in the county—affect residents' views.

The telephone survey, run by an independent market research company *Thinks Insight*, aims to speak to 1,100 people aged 18+ living in each of the five Cambridgeshire district areas. The company will also be talking to people from specific groups who are less often heard from including people who may have been homeless or are from migrant or Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities. If you are approached the market research team will identify themselves as working on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and will give the council's main contact number to allow people to check. No one will be asked for identifying personal details, or any financial information.

The council is also planning a specific piece of work with younger people via our youth engagement teams.

However, anyone in Cambridgeshire who wants to do so can take part by responding online until Friday 4 August.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/quality-of-life-survey

Equality, diversity and inclusion

The council has developed a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy. This focuses on the council's workforce, communities and services, with three guiding principles—taking evidence-based action, listening to the voices of everyone, and having a transparent and robust approach that delivers meaningful change.

CONSTITUTION & ETHICS

Changes to the council's constitution

The council requested, and has now received, an independent review of its governance arrangements, carried out by the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny.

The report made a number of recommendations which were considered by the council's Constitution & Ethics Committee last month. The committee agreed to recommend these changes to the Full Council for consideration at its meeting this month. They include the addition of performance and strategic partnerships to the responsibilities of the Strategy & Resources Committee, and the creation of a new Assets & Procurement Committee.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Memory Wood

On 15 June the Leader of the Council joined pupils from Fulbourn primary school to mark the naming of a Covid memorial woodland at Lower Valley Farm in Fulbourn. The county council planted the woodland earlier this year, and the pupils held a competition to name it. Memory Wood was the winning entry, and we unveiled the name board.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Defra has now published guidance on how it wishes to see Local Nature Recovery Strategies being prepared. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority is responsible for the preparation of Cambridgeshire's strategy, and has contracted this responsibility to the county council together with Natural Cambridgeshire.

Meanwhile work on the county council's Biodiversity Strategy is progressing well, with survey work ongoing this month to provide a baseline of the biodiversity status of the council's important sites and help identify plans for enhancement.

Energy projects

Babraham Park & Ride: all the panels on the solar carports in the main car park have now been installed, and work is to follow on the remainder of the car park. 35 EV chargers will be installed later this year, fifteen of these on behalf of the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

St Ives Park & Ride: all solar carports have been constructed, and the next step is to build the microgrid energy centre and substation which will allow the project to connect to the grid and switch on.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvements

The Highways & Transport Committee has delegated to the relevant Executive Director authority for the approval of recommendations for this year's Local Highways Improvement schemes.

There was a notable shortage of applications from East Cambridgeshire and Fenland this year at 12 and 15 respectively, compared to Huntingdonshire (38), South Cambridgeshire (42) and Cambridge (55) where a large number of bids will be unsuccessful due to the intense competition.

The proposed application window for the next round of bids is as follows.

- Application window opens: Friday 27 October 2023
- Application window closes: Friday 12 January 2024 midday
- Feasibility studies undertaken: February to May 2024
- Panel meetings: June and July 2024
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: September 2024

Local 20 mph schemes

The applications for these schemes are currently being assessed and applicants will be informed in the next few weeks as to which schemes will be installed during 2023-2024.

Road safety schemes

Road safety schemes progressing this year are

- Puddock Road south of Ramsey Forty Foot
- Swaffham Heath Road conversion of crossroads to staggered junction
- A141 south of Wimblington investigation
- Various minor improvements countywide

Keeping Trade on Track

A new report from England's Economic Heartland and Transport East shows the nationwide business and political support for increasing rail freight capacity at Ely junction.

The report, called *Keeping Trade on Track*, highlights the importance of delivering the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement scheme, which would significantly increase the amount of rail freight heading to the Midlands and north from Felixstowe, alongside improvements to regional passenger services.

A brochure was formally launched in Westminster on 19 June at a meeting of the East of England All-Party Parliamentary Group.

The Ely Area Capacity Enhancement scheme supports UK economic growth and levelling-up by increasing access to global markets to and from the Midlands and north, where 70 per cent of containers from Felixstowe are destined.

According to Network Rail, 2,900 extra freight services would be able to operate to and from Felixstowe each year, removing 98,000 lorry journeys from the road annually, reducing congestion by 5.6 million hours and cutting carbon emissions by 1.7 million tonnes over 60 years. Extra passenger services between Ipswich and Peterborough and from King's Cross to King's Lynn via Ely could also mean 277,000 extra rail passenger journeys. The scheme has a very high benefit-cost ratio, returning over £4.80 of benefits to the UK for every £1 invested

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Combined Authority's new Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee met last month, where among other things it was agreed that notes should in future be published of the meetings of the Combined Authority's Climate Partnership.

An induction day at the Combined Authority, bringing together for the first time officers, Board and committee members, and Overview & Scrutiny and Audit & Governance members was held recently. As a substitute on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Piers was invited, but unfortunately it clashed with another commitment; he hopes to attend when the session is next available.

The Skills & Employment Committee has received Labour Market & Skills Profiles for each of the Cambridgeshire districts. East Cambridgeshire has ten per cent of Cambridgeshire's population, and has a similar proportion of residents at each qualification level to both Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and England. It has an employment rate of 86.1 per cent, and an unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent—both higher than Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and England. It has a higher population of retired people and a lower proportion of students.

In 2022 wages were four per cent lower than the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough average and one per cent lower than the England average. In 2019 the district was the 283rd most relatively deprived out of 317 English local authorities when looking at children who live in income deprived households.

Participants aged 19+ in further education and skills dropped by four per cent between 2020/21 and 2021/22, while apprenticeships increased by two per cent.

FIRE AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and Fire Authority councillors have been left surprised and concerned after being given notice that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is withdrawing from its highly successful Combined Control collaboration at the end of 2024.

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

District Council Report for July 2023

Cllr Christine Whelan

East Cambs Community Fund

The District Council's East Cambs Community Fund grant application window closes on 11 August 2023. The aim of the scheme is to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life of residents in East Cambridgeshire. Details and eligibility criteria at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund
Questions or requests for more information to Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555 or by email at stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk

Pride of Place grants

The District Council has launched a 'Pride of Place' Grant scheme, with a £100,000 pot available to distribute to Parish Councils and other community groups. The 100 per cent grants can be for a variety of projects, but with the central theme of being used to create, tidy up or enhance somewhere special in the local community, and at the same time benefit the natural environment. A maximum of £15,000 per grant is available, but a grant application can be for as little as a few hundred pounds (the council has reserved £20,000 for projects under £1,000). Applications can be submitted until 30 September 2024 or until all funds have been spent. Details, terms and conditions at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/pride-place-grant

Safer Community Fund

Community groups and parish councils in East Cambridgeshire are being encouraged to apply for up to £5000 in funding for projects designed to reduce levels of crime. The Safer Community Fund has been set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to help communities address known problems such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti and fly-tipping. All projects must be completed in a 12-week period.

For more information and to apply please email Joanne.Andow@eastcambs.gov.uk

Community safety toolkits

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety partnership website now includes a number of free to access toolkits.

Statement of Community Involvement

The District Council has updated its Statement of Community Involvement, a statutory document which sets out how the District Council will consult on planning matters and how it will engage with and support parish and town councils with their Neighbourhood Plans. Statements of Community Involvement must be updated every five years.

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-development-framework/statement-community-involvement-sci>

All Council Meetings, agendas and minutes are on the District Council website. And are live streamed.

Full Council

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5XSjZ1jMWE>

The Finance and Assets Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTPMBIHUhd4>

Operational Services Meeting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFhrRSH9_wE

Audit Committee Meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RziDCNUFf0>

