



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
7TH APRIL 2025 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr C Phillips, Mayor

Cllr R Trent

Cllr L Fox

Cllr Ní Dhónaill

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr D Warman

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Denness

Cllr S Sandhu

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ward, Holtzmann and Novick. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY 2025 AND
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th February 2025 were proposed by Cllr Banyard that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Whelan and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149 and 2150 refer. Matters arising:- Page 2146, Item 13 (i) – the extraordinary Personnel, Finance & Governance Committee meeting was no longer required so did not take place

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman was sorry that County Councillor Coutts had been unable to attend the meeting as he had wanted to thank him personally for his faithful attendance at the Council's Full Council meetings. He works very hard for the community and has shown himself to be a fine representative of the people. He wished him well in his retirement from the County Council. Cllr Morgan echoed what the Chairman had said. These thanks will be passed on to Cllr Coutts.

6. QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present, so there were no questions.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Written reports for March and April were received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. Copies of which will be attached to the minutes. District Councillor C Whelan informed councillors of the ECDC's meetings that had taken place. District Councillors Wade and Trent had nothing further to report.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended Ely Baby Bank; held his Civic Service in Ely Cathedral; attended the Rich Tea Club at the Countess Church; attended Ifar meal with the Ely Muslim Association; had lunch with the Elderberries at St Mary's Church hall; chaired the AGM of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association; attended the Visit Ely, Trials of Terror performance at Sessions House; attend Ifar and multi-faith event hosted by the Mayor of Cambridge and the Cambridge Muslim Council at the Guildhall, Cambridge; attended performance of Verdi's Requiem at Ely Cathedral and spoke to the Ely Cathedral Mothers' Union.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meetings which had been held prior to this meeting.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures:- Minster Place, Ely – 7 – 13.4.25; Broad Street – 7 – 9.5.25 (new water supply connection outside 80A and 80B Broad Street)

Street Naming – 401 Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely (new commercial unit)

Notification of TPO – 83B Cambridge Road, Ely; 50 Main Street, Prickwillow, Ely

Response from CCC Chief Executive regarding Cllr Whelan's letter re LBTIQ+ toolkit - Cllr Whelan informed councillors of the response received. This response was noted and it was felt it was positive. It was agreed to keep an eye on this matter and to keep the pressure on.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented a report of a meeting on the CIL Sub-Committee held on the 10th March 2025, which was unanimously approved. Councillors noted the applications for CIL funding from Assets Committee - £8000 to create a woodland cremation area within the cemetery and Prickwillow Village Hall - £115,381 to replace current play area in Prickwillow. Both of these applications were unanimously approved. Cllr Moss-Eccardt informed councillors of the regulations under the General Power of Competence that Section 137 payments cannot be made if the Council holds this Power. This was noted and agreed that any reference to grants made under Section 137 were incorrect and should actually have been recorded as grant payments under the General Power of Competence.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met.

(iii) ASSETS – No report as Committee had not met.

(iv) TOURISM – No report as Committee had not met.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Councillors noted the minutes from the Ely Ribe Association held on the 6th March 2025. Cllr Banyard informed councillors the location of the memorial stone had now been agreed and it will be fixed on the wall in the Maltings foyer.

13. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP REGARDING THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Members of the Strategic Plan Working Group gave a presentation on the proposed draft Strategic Plan. The Chairman thanked them for all the hard work that had gone into producing the draft Plan. The draft Strategic Plan will be circulated to councillors and staff for comments. It will also have to be decided if the document, once finalised, will go out for public consultation.

This item was discussed after item 19

14. TO CONSIDER ECDC'S OFFER OF LEASED BUILDINGS

Councillors agreed to seek legal advice on this matter before considering the matter again at the next Assets Committee meeting.

15. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Councillors unanimously noted and approved the annual review of the risk management procedures undertaken by the Clerk. It was agreed that in future year's there does need to be the addition under Insurance – Property – All equipment within the Council's play areas are not covered. This would be an action taken with regard to provision of an earmarked reserve budget for repair/replacement of damaged play equipment through vandalism. This is not necessary at the present time due to current CIL funds. These may, however, not be so high in the future.

16. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW UNDERTAKEN BY THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillors unanimously noted and approved the annual review of the risk management procedures undertaken by the Clerk.

17. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

Councillors unanimously noted and approved the annual review of the Council's direct debit payments undertaken by the Clerk

18. TO NOTE AND APPROVE THE AMENDED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 5.4, 5.7 AND 5.11 WITH REGARD TO CHANGES TO THE PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS

Councillors unanimously noted and approved the amended financial regulations with regard to changes to the procurement regulations. The Chairman signed the revised document.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Phillips proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no members of the press or public present.

19. TO CONSIDER TENDERS FOR THE BUILDING WORK AT OCH AND PROCESS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH PROJECT

Councillors considered the three tenders which had been received through the agreed process. Cllr Moss-Eccardt proposed the acceptance of the cheapest quote from CB6 Developments. This was seconded by Cllr Warman and unanimously approved. The award will be publicised on Contracts Finder.

20. FINANCE

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

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions	79.75	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	318.84	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	75.07	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	214.39	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	1411.14	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1072.62	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	238.32	Paid by direct debit
Information Commissioner's Office	52.00	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	62.29	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions	72.05	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	2449.07	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	696.17	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	452.22	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	688.78	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	65.47	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	871.18	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	102.24	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	29.06	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	297.22	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	236.30	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	4824.96	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	82.25	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	959.78	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	523.50	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	303.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	196.00	Paid by direct debit

20. FINANCE CONTINUED

John Audus (Electrical Contractor) Ltd	503.48	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1204.91	Paid by BACS
Pineneedle Design Ltd	468.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	130.00	Paid by BACS
Illumin8 Training Ltd	1164.00	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	108.60	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	382.95	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	64.68	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	297.24	Paid by BACS
V Rudkin	218.50	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	36.97	Paid by BACS
Gordon Harrison	1090.57	Paid by BACS
AC Environmental Services (UK) Ltd	1074.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	162.64	Paid by BACS
R Garden	250.00	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulleys	252.53	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	396.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	304.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	111.00	Paid by BACS
Churches Fire Security Ltd	145.08	Paid by BACS
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	55.27	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	85.28	Paid by BACS
ATS Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
R Delahaye	17.96	Paid by BACS
David J Richards Ltd	302.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	242.59	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	694.37	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	29.08	Paid by BACS
Savills (UK) Ltd	338.09	Paid by BACS
Simpsons (East Anglia) Ltd	390.00	Paid by BACS
Bannold Supplies & Services Ltd	220.52	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Marketing Ltd	678.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	54.42	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	156.91	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	171.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	56.99	Paid by BACS
Bannold Supplies & Services Ltd	55.13	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	228.00	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	390.00	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	71.96	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	321.08	Paid by BACS
Mrs C McGinley	66.00	Paid by BACS
Gordon Harrison	4504.54	Paid by BACS

20. FINANCE CONTINUED

The following invoice had been paid prior to the meeting

A Bennett	101.70	114756
CoolerAid Ltd	5.93	114757
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	785.25	114758
L Pridmore	20.00	114759
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	82.22	114760
Mr Hannaford	38.90	114761
ECDC	16.71	114755

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Minerva Publications	358.80	Paid by BACS
CAPALC	2021.98	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	668.26	Paid by BACS
Prepared Media Ltd	240.00	Paid by BACS
Kamarin Computers Ltd	3240.00	Paid by BACS
D Wailes	1800.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	65.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	170.00	114763
ATS Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
L Howell	120.50	114762
Shefs	864.00	Paid by BACS
Zurich Town & Parish	15290.03	Paid by BACS
J R Light & Sound	72.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	66.60	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	24.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Marketing Ltd	582.00	Paid by BACS
Cellair Ltd	138.00	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulleys	656.70	Paid by BACS
British Telecommunications	338.00	Paid by direct debit
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	225.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS
Julia's Tea Rooms Ltd	240.00	Paid by BACS
St Mary's Church	72.00	Paid by BACS
Mr O Theobald	50.00	Paid by BACS
Churches Fire Security Ltd	887.05	Paid by BACS
Abrey & Son Ltd	6300.00	Paid by BACS
FuelGenie	299.96	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	565.72	Paid by direct debit
Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Central Heating Services Ltd	228.00	Paid by BACS
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	1152.00	Paid by BACS
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit

20. FINANCE CONTINUED

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 24th February 2025

Salaries and wages	£38,758.07
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£12,336.05
Pension fund payments	£13,080.02

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliations for the periods ending 31st January 2025, 28th February 2025 and 31st March 2025.

The Chairman thanked all the councillors as it was his last Council meeting before standing down as the Chairman. He said it had been a pleasure to have worked with them all during the last two years as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Cllrs Piers Coutts and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

All principal local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough need to respond to the Government no later than Friday 21 March to outline what they are considering for new, larger, unitary councils for our area.

The criteria continue to include an expectation that the new councils will cover populations of at least 500,000 unless there are special circumstances; and that existing district council boundaries will be the building blocks, again unless a strong argument can be made against this.

A further submission will need to be made to the Government in the autumn.

There will be advantages to moving to a unitary council system, not least more clarity and accountability over who is responsible for services such as street lights or waste. But it's clear that the Government is wanting a 'quick and dirty' solution, rather than taking the time—and consultation—to do it properly.

COUNCIL SHORTLISTED FOR FOUR NATIONAL AWARDS

Cambridgeshire County Council has been shortlisted as a finalist in four categories of the Local Government Chronicle Awards.

- Community involvement: two projects from the Fenland Youth Work Network supporting young people aged 11-18 who are at risk of serious violence, exploitation, and involvement in county lines.
- Health and social care: Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Project, working with survivors of domestic abuse with learning disabilities and/or autism.
- Future places: innovative connectivity projects including a private 5G Open Radio Access Network (RAN), development of an augmented reality experience, and enhanced mobile coverage analysis.
- Innovation: Cambridgeshire's 'Dig Once' policy, integrating fibre ducting into new transport infrastructure projects, resulting in a large CO₂ reduction and significantly less disruption to road users.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 11 June.

ASSETS & PROCUREMENT

Old Shire Hall

The (old) Shire Hall in Cambridge was put back on the market for disposal in February 2024, and attracted fifteen bids. Following evaluation this number was reduced to a shortlist of four.

An exclusivity period with Bidder A ended in October 2024 without a sale being completed. Subsequent discussions took place with the other bidders on the shortlist. An unconditional long leasehold bid from Bidder E has been recommended for acceptance, together with draft Heads of Terms.

Pending Committee approval, the Heads of Terms will be agreed, and an exclusivity period will be entered with Bidder E, with a view to exchange contracts within this three-month period.

County farms

There was an absolutely packed annual meeting of county council farm tenants in Landbeach early last month. The county council's rural estates team introduced the event saying that the council is looking for innovation and a reduction in its carbon footprint.

Martin Lines from Nature Friendly Farming Network, who farms near St Neots, spoke about improving farms' bottom line, biodiversity, and carbon footprint, and illustrating the multiple benefits of a nature-friendly approach to how he farms.

We need to eat less meat, but better meat, he says. And climate change is the biggest challenge. "We need to change agricultural practices, including a shift towards regenerative system thinking."

Many farmers have been affected by hare coursing and are concerned how vulnerable rural communities are.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Free breakfast club pilot

Fourteen primary schools across Cambridgeshire are set to run a free breakfast club as part of the pilot for a new Government scheme in April. 750 schools across the country have been selected to take part in an 'early adopters' scheme which will test the delivery of the programme before it is implemented nationally.

The pilot is set to launch in April and will run until July, before it is introduced across the UK. The schools chosen for the pilot will offer a free breakfast to all

pupils and at least 30 minutes of childcare before school. The fourteen Cambridgeshire schools selected are:

- Buckden CofE Primary School, St Neots
- Peckover Primary School, Wisbech
- Mepal and Witcham CofE Primary School, Ely
- Hartford Junior School, Huntingdon
- Hartford Infant and Pre School, Huntingdon
- Stapleford Community Primary School, Cambridge
- Upwood Primary Academy, Huntingdon
- St Laurence Catholic Primary School, Cambridge
- Great Wilbraham CofE Primary School, Great Wilbraham
- Meldreth Primary School, Royston
- The Spinney Primary School, Cambridge
- Kings Hedges Primary School, Chesterton
- Northborough Primary School, Peterborough
- St John Henry Newman Catholic VA Primary School, Peterborough

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson said that the free breakfast clubs would help break the link "between background and success" for families.

The scheme has been welcomed by the headteachers' union, though they fear that the funding allocated by Government will fall short of the cost, and have said it is 'crucial' that concerns are addressed before the national rollout.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Security support for domestic abuse survivors

The council has renewed a scheme which helps survivors of domestic abuse to feel safer and more secure in their own homes.

The scheme provides additional security measures which can delay or prevent a perpetrator from entering a property. It supported 525 people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between April 2023 and March 2024.

Measures offered depend on the level of risk, and may include window alarms, additional bolts, lock changes, security advice, video doorbells, dummy cameras, and response lights. The service is available for all types of housing, whether owned, privately rented, or social housing.

The contract will be funded by a Safe Accommodation grant from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), enabling the council to carry out its statutory duty.

Benefits of play

The committee received a report last month on the benefits of play, which concluded: “five place-based teams within the Communities service will continue to provide support to community organisations, including town and parish councils, who have an ambition to create or update spaces for young people. This support extends to training in good practice in engaging young people throughout the process.”

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Hare coursing

We are pleased indeed to see more arrests in connection with the dreadful and intimidating disorder across Fenland and East Cambridgeshire in January. The Chief Constable has acknowledged that the response at the time wasn't good enough. It's important that the guilty parties are found and brought to justice, and that a strong message is sent and received that this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated.

Sunnica update

There is no programme in place yet for delivery of the Sunnica solar farm. Sunnica have said it will take time to mobilise and prepare. The relevant local authorities believe it is unlikely they will receive any documents for discharge of requirements any time soon—this may not be until 2026. Sunnica needs to start within five years of consent being granted.

Responsibility for the majority of these next steps will be for East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk Council.

A Battery Fire Safety Management Plan will be required, and this will go to both County Councils to consult with the respective Fire and Rescue Services. Sunnica have yet to confirm the type of battery as new types with different materials are coming to market all the time; this is a key ask when Sunnica start to produce details for submission to discharge requirements. The Health and Safety Executive has stated it does not wish to be a consultee to the Battery Fire Safety Management Plan.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Fen roads trial

A trial to investigate new and innovative ways to repair soil affected roads has been agreed by the council.

£1.5M of external funding has been secured, and an extra £5M of capital funding has been assigned specifically to repair and reconstruct soil affected roads

before the end of the next financial year. The £1.5M from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority is for the development, design, and delivery of possible long-term solutions to address roads built over peat soils.

Some of the trial options could include using lightweight recycled products, an 'ultra-low' carbon material, or a technique that involves treating materials on site to improve their strength and durability. The exact processes will be decided on following further design and development work.

The plan is to trial this on the B1099 Upwell Road near March. This is because it is built over peat soils, forms part of Cambridgeshire's rural road network with both heavy vehicle and agricultural traffic making it comparable to a lot of other similar routes, and is due for renewal soon.

Design work including on-site investigations and stakeholder engagement would start in May. The aim is for the trial to begin in summer next year.

Flood affected roads

Flooding at Mill Lane Little Paxton and other key flood affected roads was discussed at the Highways & Transport Committee on Tuesday 4 March.

Mill Lane in Little Paxton forms an important link between St Neots, Little Paxton and the A1 trunk road in Huntingdonshire and has two bridges over the River Great Ouse. High rainfall in 2024 led to the road being closed due to flooding on four occasions. These closures were lengthened by the damage to the road surface caused by fast-moving floodwater. In October 2024, the road was repaired and strengthened at a cost of approximately £15,000.

St Neots Flood Action Group have already carried out considerable research into the historic drainage of the area surrounding Mill Lane. Officers from the Flood Risk team met them on site in January along with officers from the Environment Agency. The chair of the Flood Group has identified some small scale works that could be completed to reduce the frequency and duration of flooding of Mill Lane and these are subject to further investigation.

Work to investigate and address flooding across Cambridgeshire more widely is already under way and St Neots is included within this project. The Environment Agency is also undertaking a *Great Ouse Strategic Intervention Study* to better understand the current and future flood risk from river and surface water sources across the Great Ouse Catchment.

A programme to upgrade electronic flood signage is also under way. The first place to receive this will be Little Paxton, and new signs are also planned for Earith, and for Welney Wash in conjunction with Norfolk County Council. These are all expected to be installed by June.

£100,000 will be allocated towards short-term interventions to support flood risk and improved recovery times at Mill Lane Little Paxton, and £150,000 for a high-level options assessment for three key flood affected roads at Little Paxton, the A1123 at Earith, and the B1040 at Whittlesey.

Highways procurement

The current highways contract in place with Milestone Infrastructure is set to expire on 30 June 2027, with an option for up to five years extension dependent on performance. The contract has not delivered the efficiencies and service levels expected or required by the Council.

The current model of sub-contracting under the contract does not enable value for money to be easily demonstrated and there is a lack of contract options and investment in skills, processes and systems. CDM [Construction (Design & Management)] and health and safety compliance has been poor in the past but is improving. Response times and quality of work are continued concerns.

Based on an assessment of options for the future post-2027 a mixed economy model was agreed. It will include:

- In-house delivery for Asset Management, Design, Commercial Management, Client Management, routine maintenance works
- Contract(s) for reactive/cyclical works, emergencies, winter maintenance
- A Professional Services Contract
- Use of Frameworks to deliver planned maintenance and major schemes.

Highways spending

Capital maintenance and improvement works

On Tuesday 4 March the Highways & Transport Committee agreed proposals for spending on capital maintenance and improvements. This includes the additional £8.146M from Government for highways maintenance.

The total capital budget for highways maintenance and improvements in 25/26 is £59.332 million. This is funded through a combination of grant funding and council investment.

A full list of proposed capital maintenance and improvement works for Sutton division and the rest of Cambridgeshire can be found at

<https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/c/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2350/Committee/62/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx> (Item 7, Appendix A).

Active travel hierarchies

A hierarchy for active travel routes across the county has been agreed. This will be used to help prioritise maintenance and repairs of routes used by pedestrians and cyclists in future.

The updated hierarchies can be seen on the online map at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/active-travel-hierarchy-map> and maps for each district area are also available at

<https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccclive/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/c/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2350/Committee/62/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx> (Item 10, Appendices 6 to 13).

International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP).

The County Council recently carried out a survey of all its A-roads, using the International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP). This assesses the potential risks associated with the highways infrastructure and its surroundings, and provides a star rating for each of four different road user types—pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, and vehicle occupants.

Key points from the study are that:

1. The County's older rural A-road network presents the greatest risks to all road user types should collisions occur and is 1-star rated on significant lengths, including on the A10, A141, A142, A505, A605, A1096, A1101, A1123, A1198, A1304 and A1421.
2. Where the A-roads enter a restricted speed limit / zone then the star rating typically increases.
3. The star rating for cyclists on rural A-roads without a segregated cycle facility is generally 1-star. When such a facility is in place, a rating of 3, 4 or 5 stars is generally seen.
4. Where there is no pedestrian facility the iRAP study does not produce a star-rating as it assumes that a pedestrian should not be walking there. iRAP can only score facilities that are provided. It can therefore be assumed that a route without a footway / parallel path that did nonetheless accommodate pedestrian movements would have a *de facto* 'zero-star' rating. The iRAP assessment is helpful in highlighting routes that have no pedestrian provision, although to understand the actual risk of collision, the level of pedestrian usage would need to be understood.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Mayor has now signed into effect a decision to introduce franchising of bus services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This would put control of routes, fares and timetables into democratic hands, and enable profit-making routes to subsidise socially needed but less used ones. However, as he is not standing again in May, this will be for his successor to implement.

The Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee considered plans for the completion of the Local Nature Recovery Plan by the end of this calendar year.

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South