

**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON
9TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT SESSIONS HOUSE, LYNN ROAD, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Bold indicates a voting member of the Committee

Cllr C Ní Dhónaill

Cllr R Ward

Cllr M Banyard

Cllr S Sandhu

Cllr M Hucker

Cllr R Trent

Cllr R Moss-Eccardt

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Phillips

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING (HELD ON THE 3RD NOVEMBER 2025) AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on the 3rd November 2025, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Ní Dhónaill, seconded by Cllr Banyard and unanimously agreed. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages PFG 181, 182 and 183 refer. There were no matters arising.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

The budget updates, up to the 31st January 2026 were noted. There were no significant variances that councillors had concerns with. Cllr Hucker highlighted the interest that had been received to date from investments, which was higher than budgeted for, and suggested the council might be able to consider using these on supporting community groups or other worthwhile causes that the council may be aware of. Cllr Moss-Eccardt also suggested the council needs to consider the longer term budgeting with regard to the Local Government Reorganisation and the implications this could have on the council financially. These suggestions will be discussed at a future meeting.

5. TO NOTE REPORTS FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FROM VISIT ON THE 7TH NOVEMBER 2025

Members noted the reports from the Internal Auditor from her visit on the 7th November 2025. These were for the Council, the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell's House. There were no issues raised.

6. UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group meeting had not met. A meeting will be arranged shortly to discuss the issues raised during the consideration of the appointment of a new youth lead.

7. UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Sandhu reported he would be working through the actions still required to move this Plan forward so a final version could be agreed for public consultation. This would be a simple version of the Strategy.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
1ST JUNE 2026

8. UPDATE FROM CIL SUB-COMMITTEE AND TO RECEIVE CIL EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS UPDATE AND TO DISCUSS HOW CIL SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD WORK

The Sub-Committee had not met. The CIL expenditure analysis update, to the 31st January 2026 was noted. Members discussed what the CIL Sub-Committee needed to discuss at the next meeting and agreed it should decide if their role should be to either a) approve that the application meets the criteria or b) approve that the application meets the criteria and make a recommendation to approve to PF&G. It was also felt that CIL funding should link into the Strategic Plan, which at present it does not.

9. UPDATE FROM THE INCLUSIVITY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Phillips said they had however been in touch with local groups. He thanked and congratulated the Mayor on his Chinese New Year event at the Maltings, which had put the Council in touch with a growing Chinese community within the city. The council is flying the Pride flag for LGBT History month during February and the 18th February sees the start of Ramadan. He hoped that members would join in with the local community meals.

10. UPDATE FROM THE NORTH ELY HUB AND COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met.

11. UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS & PR WORKING GROUP

The Working Group had not met. Cllr Trent informed members work on the new website had now commenced.

12. REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTION PLAN

Members discussed this Action Plan and how the council might be able to move it forward and suggestions were made of possibly employing a youth worker to help with this. It was agreed that until the council had feedback with regards to what parishioners felt was needed, this could not move forward. It was felt questions could be included with the consultation on the Strategic Plan. Once feedback had been received this would be discussed again at a future meeting. The Clerk made members aware that it had been agreed at the last meeting to provide them with safeguarding training. A course had been identified and it was agreed details of this would be circulated to members, requesting they confirm if they would like to undertake as some members felt it was not necessary due to having undertaken this in their current employment.

13. TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF A NEW WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) FOLLOWING CLLR BANYARD'S INFORMAL MEETING WITH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Banyard reported on his informal meeting with councillors and had provided notes of this. He proposed a Working Group be formed to consider the implications of the LGR. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will email all members so if they wish to be on this Working Group they can put their name forward.

14. TO REVIEW AND ADOPT ACCESIBILITY STATEMENT FOR THE COUNCIL WEBSITES

Members considered the Accessibility Statement for the Council websites and unanimously agreed to approve and adopt this. It will be reviewed on an annual basis.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
1ST JUNE 2026

15. HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

There were no health and safety issues.

16. PERSONNEL ISSUES

There were no personnel issues.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on the 1st June 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
1ST JUNE 2026