



CABINET - MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2025

NOTICE OF DECISIONS PUBLISHED ON 19 JUNE 2025

Item
Agenda Item 5: Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025-26
Purpose
To enable Cabinet to review and agree the list of outside bodies and nominations for representatives on those organisations for 2025/26.
Decision
AGREED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the appointments set out at Appendix A of the report note where required representatives to outside bodies cannot currently be fulfilled. Delegate to the Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders the addition or deletion of outside bodies as the need arises during the municipal year and appointment of members to vacancies on outside bodies during the municipal year.
Reason for Decision
Fenland District Council recognises the benefits of endorsing Outside Body appointments. It is the responsibility of Cabinet to confirm those appointments following the Annual Meeting of Full Council where the overall political proportionality calculations are confirmed. The appointments proposed reflect the Council's legal obligations and accepted convention in relation to the allocation of seats in accordance with political proportionality requirements.
Alternative Options Considered
There are no alternative options for consideration.
Interests
None
Background Documents
Report to Council – Committee Balance, Political Balance and Allocation of Seats, May 2025.

Item
Agenda Item 6 - Rural England Prosperity Funding 2025-26
Purpose
The Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund (REPF) builds on and is a top-up to the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and is available only to eligible rural local authorities in England.

The funding available to Fenland District is for £130k over a transitional one-year period 2025-26 and will support the continuation of the 2022-25 REPF rural business grant scheme.
Decision
AGREED to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend acceptance of Rural England Shared Prosperity Fund from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) for a one-year period 2025-26. • Recommend that officers be delegated to approve and liaise with the CPCA the Rural England Shared Prosperity Grant Funding Agreement 2025-26.
Reason for Decision
<p>The REPF helps support the delivery of the Council's economic growth and communities' corporate objectives.</p> <p>The business grant project has the greatest potential to deliver new, inclusive and sustainable growth opportunities for the district's residents and businesses.</p>
Alternative Options Considered
<p>The REPF is a specific funding opportunity with no comparable alternative options. Acceptance of the funding provides an opportunity to deliver the outcomes to be specified in the CPCA's REPF GFA and is a requirement of receiving the funding. The REPF agreement will be subject to appropriate legal oversight to ensure that Fenland District Council's position is adequately protected.</p>
Interests
None
Background Documents
None

Item
Agenda Item 7. Fenland Inspire! Projects Update
Purpose
<p>The Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26 outlines the list of capital investment initiatives identified by Cabinet members under the Fenland Inspire! banner. It is envisaged that these projects will enhance sports, leisure and heritage facilities, promote healthy lifestyles and preserve the district's unique character.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet members on progress to date and to highlight a number of potential risks associated with the Fenland Inspire! projects.</p>
Decision
AGREED to note the content of the report on Fenland Inspire! and resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reaffirm Cabinet's intent to use the Fenland Inspire! Programme to leave an inheritance for Fenland residents after FDC is abolished as a result of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

- to further note that the timescale for LGR is not yet certain, and that although it is currently thought likely that LGR will go ahead on 1st April 2028, there is at present no certainty as to the date of FDC's abolition, assuming that LGR goes ahead at all.
- to affirm that it is unacceptable for FDC to enter into spending commitments that it cannot meet and that FDC must therefore exercise caution in entering into spending commitments, in the interests of both current and future Fenland taxpayers.
- to note the significant increase in the estimated costs of the Fenland Inspire! Programme. It would clearly be inappropriate to progress all of the current elements of Fenland Inspire! although, once Government publishes a Statutory Instrument, to effect LGR, it can be reasonably assumed that LGR will go ahead on the date stated in the Statutory Instrument.
- to note that until Cabinet can reasonably assume that LGR will be going ahead, it would be imprudent to proceed with all of the Fenland Inspire! Projects, especially given that frustrated or wasted early costs on capital projects have to be accounted for as Revenue, rather than Capital, expenditure. However, several of the Fenland Inspire! Projects are already in the pipeline or are quite small in cost and low risk in implementation. Most of the projects have already received approval from Cabinet or Council to progress. Moreover, if FDC was to wait until it can be reasonably assumed that LGR will be going ahead, it is clear that FDC would have real capacity limitations in delivering all the projects in the programme.
- to approve that officers progress the projects, or parts of projects, listed in appendix 1.
- that the list of projects in Fenland Inspire! is not definitive. Projects may be added to or deleted from the list by Cabinet.
- that the Wisbech Chapel building improvement project is unsustainable and should be removed from the Fenland Inspire! Programme.
- that in light of the uncertainty surrounding LGR, Cabinet will suspend further work on all projects, other than those listed in Appendix 1 below) until a comprehensive report is brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet.
- that officers should, nevertheless, keep careful watch for external funding opportunities for all projects.
- the Leader will provide officers with an updated Schedule S, detailing which members are leading on which projects.

APPENDIX 1

1. Wisbech Park Splash Pad: phase one only
2. Wisbech 11/12 High Street
3. Manor Leisure Centre, Whittlesey
4. Chatteris Leisure Centre condition survey work
5. District wide assessment: new play equipment
6. New Village Green, Wimblington
7. Civil Parking Enforcement
8. St John's Chapels, March
9. New March Country Park: confirmation of land transfer agreement only
10. 3G pitches: preparing or submitting applications to the Football Foundation for external funding
11. Clarkson Memorial lighting and planters

Reason for Decision

Alternative Options Considered
No alternative options have been considered to date. However, as each project's scope and financial analysis progresses, alternative options may be explored in accordance with Members' wishes.
Interests
None
Background Documents
Fenland District Council Business Plan 2025/26 Cabinet report from 24.02.25 – Leisure Centre Facility Strategy – potential refurbishment and improvement projects: 240225 Leisure Facility Investment Proposals Shared.pdf

Additional information regarding these decisions is available from
Amy Brown – Tel: 01354 622452

The 26 June 2025 Deadline at 1700 hours is the expiry date for call-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel of any of the above decisions. These decisions will come into force and may then be implemented on 27 June 2025, with the exception of any that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel calls in.