



EAST  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance & Assets Committee held at 4:30pm on Thursday 23 June 2022 in the Council Chamber at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, CB7 4EE

### **PRESENT**

Councillor David Brown (Chairman)  
Councillor David Ambrose-Smith (Substitute for Councillor Mark Goldsack)  
Councillor Sue Austen  
Councillor Anna Bailey  
Councillor Ian Bovingdon (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Lorna Dupré  
Councillor Simon Harries  
Councillor Julia Huffer  
Councillor Bill Hunt  
Councillor John Trapp  
Councillor Alison Whelan

### **OFFICERS**

Emma Grima – Director Commercial  
Sally Bonnett – Corporate Unit Manager  
Maggie Camp – Legal Services Manager  
Jessica Clark – Finance Assistant Apprentice  
Spencer Clark – Open Spaces & Facilities Manager  
Tracy Couper – Democratic Services Manager  
Nicole Pema – HR Manager  
Ian Smith – Finance Manager  
Martin Smith – Business Development Manager  
Angela Tyrrell – Senior Legal Assistant  
Adeel Younis - Legal Assistant

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

John Hill – Managing Director ECTC  
Paul Remington – ECTC Chairman  
Nigel Ankers – ECTC Finance Manager

#### **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were submitted by members of the public.

#### **7. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Goldsack and Councillor David Ambrose-Smith was acting as Substitute Member.

#### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interests were made.

## 9. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the Finance and Assets Committee meetings held on 24 March and 19 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

## 10. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed Members that, in order to aid discussions, he had invited Paul Remington, John Hill and Nigel Ankers from East Cambs Trading Company to attend the meeting.

## 11. **MOTION FROM COUNCIL – ACCESSIBLE TOILETS**

The Committee considered the following Motion referred from full Council on 21 April 2022:

This Council notes that:

- Not every Council owned or managed public toilet in East Cambridgeshire is accessible for people with disabilities.
- The Government has decided that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people—known as Changing Places toilets—will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues. The Changing Places interactive map at <https://www.changing-places.org/find> indicates that there is not a single Changing Places toilet in the whole of East Cambridgeshire, and that the nearest Changing Places toilets for residents of the district are at Eddington, Bar Hill, and Mildenhall. Furthermore, East Cambridgeshire is the only district in Cambridgeshire for which no Changing Places grant funding was awarded by Government in March this year.
- The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible toilets to install new signage—two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words *Accessible Toilet* and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis and other invisible conditions. There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them.

This Council believes that:

- Provision of good quality, accessible, well-signed public toilets is important not only as a human right, but also for its potential to attract tourists to East Cambridgeshire and enable East Cambridgeshire residents to enjoy the amenities of the district.
- Every public toilet should be accessible for people with disabilities.
- Severely disabled people and their families or carers should be able to spend time in public places confident that a Changing Places toilet is available within a reasonable enough distance not to curtail their visit.

- People with invisible disabilities should be able to use accessible toilets without fear of stigma or discrimination.

This Council resolves to:

- Review disability access to every public toilet provision in East Cambridgeshire, and where this is not in place draw up a plan for installation of disability access arrangements, or make arrangements to replace the toilet with one which can be adapted and which is within a reasonable distance from the inaccessible toilet.
- Engage with businesses and partner organisations across East Cambridgeshire to identify premises, regardless of ownership, where a Changing Places toilet could be installed; work with them to access Government grant or other funding; and ensure that any Changing Places toilets so installed are properly signposted for visitors.
- Ensure that existing public toilets are signed in line with Crohn's & Colitis UK guidance; ask town and district centre retailers and leisure outlets to do likewise with their accessible toilets; and seek advice from Crohn's & Colitis UK on the information and training this Council should provide to council staff members to enable them to understand these conditions and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them.

An amendment to the Motion circulated to Members and tabled at the Committee, then was proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Hunt as follows:

This Council notes that:

- Not every Council owned or managed public toilet in East Cambridgeshire is accessible for people with disabilities.
- The Government has decided that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people—known as Changing Places toilets—will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues. ~~The Changing Places interactive map at <https://www.changing-places.org/find> indicates that there is not a single Changing Places toilet in the whole of East Cambridgeshire, and that the nearest Changing Places toilets for residents of the district are at Eddington, Bar Hill, and Mildenhall. Furthermore, East Cambridgeshire is the only district in Cambridgeshire for which no Changing Places grant funding was awarded by Government in March this year.~~
- There is a Changing Places toilet at the Hive Leisure Centre, Ely.
- The charity Crohn's and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible toilets to install new signage—two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words Accessible Toilet and the logo 'Not every disability is visible'. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis and other invisible conditions. There have been instances nationally where such individuals using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them.

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Cambridgeshire and enable East Cambridgeshire residents to enjoy the amenities of the district.

- Where possible for the Council, public toilets should be accessible for people with disabilities.
- Severely disabled people and their families or carers should be able to spend time in public places confident that a Changing Places toilet is available within a reasonable enough distance not to curtail their visit.
- People with invisible disabilities should be able to use accessible toilets without fear of stigma or discrimination.

This Council resolves to:

- Review disability access to every East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) owned public toilet in East Cambridgeshire, and report the findings to the meeting of Finance and Assets Committee in November 2022. The review should include details of the level of ECDC provision across the District, whether the current provision is capable of being adapted for accessible provision, and if so, the associated cost implications of the works.
- Notify Changing Places that there is provision of a Changing Places toilet at the Hive Leisure Centre, Ely and request that this is reflected on their website.
- When the next round of Changing Places funding is announced write to businesses and partner organisations to make them aware of the funding.
- Ensure that existing public toilets are signed in line with Crohn's & Colitis UK guidance.

Councillor Brown highlighted that the striking through in the second bullet point had inadvertently not appeared on the original version circulated to Members.

Councillor Dupré, as the proposer of the original Motion to full Council, clarified that the Changing Places toilet at The Hive Leisure Centre only was accessible by application at Reception and a charge of £3 was made for use of the shower. She expressed her severe disappointment at the narrowing of the Motion by the amendment and commented that this Council should be a community leader on important issues such as this. She would await the reporting of the findings of the review of all ECDC owned provision to the November meeting of this Committee but emphasised that, in the meantime, the facility at The Hive should be highlighted on our own website, as she had requested 2 months ago. Councillor Dupré again referred to the narrow and limited ambitions of the amended Motion, particularly the request to merely 'write a letter' to local businesses and partners when the next round of Changing Places funding was announced to make them aware of it, rather than actively promoting this to business and community partners as a true community leader would. Similarly, the deletion of references to staff training and promotion of signage for other non-council owned facilities showed a lack of commitment, imagination and ambition.

The seconder of the amendment and a number of other Members expressed their commitment to promoting such facilities and welcoming all visitors to the District. Discussion took place on the level of provision generally within the County as a whole and the complex issues involved in providing Changing Places toilets.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried by a majority and became the Substantive Motion.

Discussion then took place on the Substantive Motion. A Member expressed surprise at the level of indignation expressed with regard to the amendment, which seemed a reasonable and pragmatic approach, and they looked forward to the findings of the review. Another Member referred to the inability of the Council to require private bodies to provide such facilities but merely to encourage them. However, another Member highlighted the number of business in the Cambridge area that already had or were in the process of providing such facilities. A Member commented that this Council should be setting a similar good example to the community. Members then discussed in greater detail the nature of staff training that could be provided in the interests of promoting understanding and awareness of the issues. A Member commented that the discussion today demonstrated a lack of understanding of inclusion issues generally.

Summing-up as proposer of the original Motion, Councillor Dupré stated that reason for the original Motion had been the failure of this Council to bid for or secure any Government funding for Changing Places provision, despite all other District Councils within the County doing so. Therefore, the narrowing of the focus of the Motion by the amendment, was very disappointing and did not accord with the Council's Corporate Plan commitment to make East Cambridgeshire a better place to live, work and visit. However, Councillor Dupré stated that she would support the Substantive Motion as 'the least we could do' was 'better than nothing'.

Upon being put to the vote, the Substantive Motion as follows was declared to be carried unanimously:

Motion (as amended):

This Council notes that:

- Not every Council owned or managed public toilet in East Cambridgeshire is accessible for people with disabilities.
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- Notify Changing Places that there is provision of a Changing Places toilet at the Hive Leisure Centre, Ely and request that this is reflected on their website.
- When the next round of Changing Places funding is announced write to businesses and partner organisations to make them aware of the funding.
- Ensure that existing public toilets are signed in line with Crohn's & Colitis UK guidance.

## **12. ECTC BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report (X17, previously circulated) containing the ECTC Business Plan for 2022-23. The Director Commercial, in her capacity as Property & Commercial Director of ECTC, highlighted the achievements of the two key business areas of the Trading Company, Commercial Services and Property Development.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee proposed and seconded approval of the Business Plan.

A number of Member questions relating to this item had been provided prior to the meeting and these, along with answers provided by officers, are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Further questions/comments were raised in relation to the Plan and responses given as follows:

A Member asked about other actions required in respect of Kennett Garden Village going forward and it was reported that Palace Green Homes were working with the Delivery Board to develop and promote the Care and Commercial elements to ensure that they met the defined requirements.

A Member queried whether certain aspects of the Kennett scheme met IRFS requirements and was assured by the ECTC Finance Manager that this was the case.

Questions were asked on the Risk Ratings in the Risk Assessment which were responded to by the Board Directors.

A Member queried the long-term business model and what 'added value' was being provided by the Property Development area of the Trading Company. The Managing Director highlighted the contributions already made to both the Council as Shareholder and in community provision.

A Member commented that the wording in the Venn Diagram on page 4 of the Business Plan was not that normally associated with public sector bodies and the phrase 'affordable homes' was not referred to at all.

In response, another Member stated that references to affordable housing and meeting the needs of local communities appeared throughout the Business Plan and reminded Members of the reasons for the establishment of the Trading Company, which had come from direct consultation with the local community. The Company was 'commercial' with community benefits, in order to deliver the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan, and this had been achieved as promised. The Member congratulated the Trading Company on its lean organisational structure and gave examples of the outstanding services delivered by the Markets and Parks and Open Spaces Teams. The Property Development area had added value with the delivery of high-quality developments and affordable homes via CLTs. All of the above had enabled the Council to freeze Council Tax to benefit local residents. Therefore, the Trading Company Chair and Directors should be applauded.

It was resolved:

That the ECTC Business Plan 2022-23 attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved

**13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022/23**

The Committee considered a report (X18, previously circulated) containing the Economic Development Service Delivery Plan (SDP) for 2022-23. The Business Development Manager highlighted that this was a new SDP following a review of the service in 2021/22 and setting of new evidence-based priorities.

Approval of the SDP was proposed and seconded by the Chairman and Councillor D Ambrose-Smith.

A number of Member questions relating to this item had been provided prior to the meeting and these, along with answers provided by officers, are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Additional questions/comments were raised in relation to the Plan and responses given as follows:

With regard to Electric Charging Points, a Member commented that there were few in the District and a number were not functioning. Therefore, the Council needed to progress provision to meet the needs within the District. The Business Development Manager stated that whilst not a direct responsibility of the Team he would work with the Corporate Unit Manager to improve the infrastructure provision.

In response to a question regarding work with more rural communities, the Business Development Manager stated that this was progressed via the Communities and Partnerships Team.

With regard to occupancy rates at E-Space, it was explained that 80% was the break-even point.

With regard to a question on risk management, it was explained that individual service area risk assessments did not form part of the SDP.

In response to questions from Members, the Business Development Manager explained the interactions/involvement of the Team with the various companies, bodies and partnerships relating to digital connectivity within the District.

It was resolved:

That the Economic Development Service Delivery Plan 2022-23 attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.



**14. LEVELLING-UP FUND ROUND 2 BID**

The Committee considered a report (X19, previously circulated) detailing a bid submission for Levelling-up Fund Round 2 (LUF 2) in respect of hybrid active travel and commercial space for Littleport.

Councillors D Ambrose-Smith and Hunt proposed and seconded approval of the bid.

Members commended the bid which would provide important infrastructure for Littleport. Questions were raised on the cycle route, which were responded to by the Business Development Manager.

It was resolved (unanimously):

That approval be given to the submission of a Levelling-up Fund Round 2 (LUF 2) bid to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in respect of hybrid active travel and commercial space for Littleport, as set out in the submitted report.

**15. FIRST HOMES INTERIM POLICY STATEMENT**

The Committee considered a report (X20, previously circulated) containing a draft First Homes Interim Policy Statement for the Council.

Councillors Bailey and Hunt proposed and seconded approval of the Policy Statement.

A Member question relating to this item had been provided prior to the meeting and this, along with answer provided by officers, is set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

A Member requested a copy of the document relating to how the judgement regarding the equalities implications was arrived at.

It was resolved:

That the First Homes Interim Policy Statement attached at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

**16. GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUND CRITERIA**

The Committee considered a report (X21, previously circulated) containing East Cambridgeshire Growth and Infrastructure Fund eligibility criteria utilising the Cambridgeshire Horizons money that the Council has received. The £2 million Fund would provide capital funding towards projects that meet the Cambridgeshire Horizons objectives to assist, promote, encourage, develop and secure sustainable growth, align with the Councils infrastructure priorities and are match-funded.

It was proposed that a cross-party Member scoring panel be established to score the applications consisting 7 Members: 4 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent. The recommendations of the Panel would be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee.

Councillors Bovingdon and Huffer proposed and seconded the recommendations in the submitted report.

A number of Member questions relating to this item had been provided prior to the meeting and these, along with answers provided by officers, are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

With the agreement of the proposer and seconder, revised wording was agreed to the 2nd recommendation to enable the fund to be re-opened for further applications, if the funding was not fully utilised.

It was resolved (unanimously) to:

1. Approve the scheme eligibility criteria set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report.
2. Agree that the fund will be opened for applications on Monday 11 July 2022 and close for applications on Friday 7 October 2022 and the Council reserves the right to re-open the fund for further round(s) of applications in the event that it is not fully utilised.
3. Approve the Growth & Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report.
4. Appoint 7 Members to the Growth & Infrastructure Fund Scoring Panel on a 4:2:1 basis, with nominations as follows:

Councillors Brown, Every, Daniel Schumann, Webber  
Councillors Dupré, Trapp  
Councillor Austen

*The meeting was adjourned from 6.42pm to 6.50pm for a brief comfort break*

## **17. FINANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report (X22, previously circulated) detailing the final outturn financial position of this Committee and the Council as a whole for 2021/22.

A Member raised a question on the savings due to staff vacancies and the impact of delays in recruitment on staff. It was reported that the Council did not intentionally hold vacancies on the establishment, but these had been the result of failures to recruit due to the current employment market. Corporate Management Team were actively monitoring the situation and working with Service Leads to maximise the ability to successfully recruit to vacancies.

A Member queried the success of the new Community Advice Bus and whether usage figures were available. The Director Commercial reported that a review of usage currently was being undertaken and a briefing note would be provided to Councillors once the results were available.

It was resolved:

That it be noted that:

- This Committee has a year-end underspend of £729,692 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £5,517,542.
- Overall the Council has a year-end underspend of £2,367,039 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £14,310,015.
- The overall position for the Council on Capital is an outturn of £480,750, which is an underspend of £4,279,694 compared to the revised budget

#### **18. 2021/22 TREASURY OPERATIONS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

The Committee received a report (X23, previously circulated) detailing the Council's Treasury operations during the 2021/22 financial year.

A Member commended the strength of the Council's Treasury Management function and the well-written nature of the reports. However, he queried whether the predictions for the economy and interest rates in section 6 of the report remained realistic in the light of recent announcements on the British economy. The Finance Manager stated that the narrative related to the position at the end of March. A further update would be included in the half yearly Treasury update report, that would pick up more recent developments in the economy.

**It was resolved to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:**

**That the contents of the report on the Council's Treasury operations during 2021/22, including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.**

#### **19. ASSETS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report (X24, previously circulated) containing an update on Council-owned assets.

It was resolved:

That the update on Council-owned assets be noted.

## **20. ANNUAL REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee received a report (X25, previously circulated) containing the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Finance & Assets Committee. Members noted an additional report submitted by the Council representative on the LGA.

It was resolved (unanimously):

1. That David Chaplin be re-appointed as the joint ECDC/SCDC representative on the Waterbeach Level IDB for the remainder of the municipal year 2022/23, as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the submitted report.
2. That the annual reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies within the responsibility of the Finance & Assets Committee be noted.
3. That the vacancies on three Internal Drainage Boards and the process for seeking nominations be noted.

## **21. BUS, CYCLE, WALK WORKING PARTY**

It was resolved:

That the Notes of the East Cambridgeshire Bus, Cycle, Walk Working Party meeting held on 20 April 2022 be noted.

## **22. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE GROUNDS OF URGENCY**

It was resolved:

That the actions taken by the Chief Executive on the grounds of urgency with regard to Council Tax Energy Rebate and CIL funding for St Mary's Church building transformation project, be noted.

## **23. FORWARD AGENDA PLAN**

The Committee received the revised Forward Agenda Plan.

It was resolved:

That the Forward Agenda Plan be noted and the item on Growth and Infrastructure Fund applications approved at this meeting be added to the Agenda Plan for 24 November 2022 meeting.

**24. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS**

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining items because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Categories 1, 2 & 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**25. ECTC BUSINESS PLAN 2022-23 – EXEMPT APPENDIX**

It was resolved:

That the contents of the Exempt Appendix be noted.

**26. APPOINTMENTS, TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATIONS**

The Committee received a report, previously circulated, giving details of staff appointments, transfers and resignations for the period 1st January to 31st May 2022 and a summary of the Exit Questionnaire responses.

A Member requested that Councillors regularly be provided with details of staff leavers and new arrivals, as had been the policy in the past.

A Member queried how the Council compared with local, regional and national averages on the time of staff in post at the Council. The HR Manager agreed to provide information on this to Members.

Members made further comments on the problems of staff turnover and recruiting to vacant posts both locally and nationally.

It was resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

**27. ECTC MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee considered a report, previously circulated, containing the ECTC Management Accounts for the twelve months to March 2022. The ECTC Finance Manager introduced the report and gave an overview of its contents.

A Member had submitted a question in advance of the meeting and a response was provided and circulated at the meeting.

It was resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

**28. ECTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee received the Minutes from the Board Meeting of the East Cambs Trading Company held on 7 March 2022.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the ECTC Board meeting held on 7 March 2022 be noted.

**29. WRITE-OFF OF UNRECOVERABLE DEBT**

The Committee considered a report, previously circulated, detailing the write-off of 2 unrecoverable debts.

It was resolved:

1. That the recommendation in the paragraph 2.1 of the submitted report be approved.
2. That the contents of paragraph 2.2 of the submitted report be noted.

**30. EXEMPT MINUTES – 24 MARCH 2022**

It was resolved:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

*The meeting concluded at 7:31pm.*

Chairman:.....

Date:

**FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE QUESTIONS—LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP**

| AGENDA ITEM                            | QUESTION  | ANSWER   |
|--|---|--|
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>P10               | Please confirm the value of the receipt and the costs released into the Profit & Loss in respect of Kennett. Is the whole of the receipt recognised in 2021/22? | £4,440,174 of revenue and £1,823,668 of costs were recognised in the 21/22 accounts. £1,660,174 was physically received, with the balance of £2,780,000 due in annual instalments over the next three years.   |
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>P11 Row 1         | Financial benefits from property development: how many of these would have been realised in any case if another developer had carried out these developments?   | These are payments that are due on any development (Land payments, S106, CIL) but the developments were brought forward by PGH. Other developers may not have considered the schemes viable due to requiring higher returns, as seen with the former Paradise Pool site. |
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>P11 Row 2         | Charges incurred from ECDC: if ECDC weren't needed to provide these services to ECTC, would ECDC not save these costs anyway?                                   | The services are provided within existing ECDC resources therefore there is a saving for the Council.  |
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>P15 Rows 9 and 10 | Inflation is into double figures, interest rates are rising fast, the economy is shrinking – do the scores given adequately reflect this perfect storm?         | The scores adequately reflect this. Sensitivity analysis has been done and there will be further and more detailed analysis carried out prior to any individual project business case being approved.  |
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>P16 Row 12        | If this risk results in the organisation being unable to deliver its business plan, does not the impact of that merit a score higher than 3?                    | This will always depend on the where the vacancy arises and how many vacancies. 3 is an appropriate score.   |
| Item 7 Appendix 1<br>SWOT Matrix       | Threats item 2 – is this factually correct? Other than Kennett, surely the ongoing operations are loss making?  | Yes, this is factually correct as it relates to the 22/23 business plan and the forecast for PGH is an overall profit after interest.  |
| Item 8<br>Para 3.2                     | Why did the Economic Development service not produce a business plan for six years? Which other services have not produced business plans?                      | This is historic and will not be the practice going forward.   |

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|                    |   | All other services have always produced Service Delivery Plans.  |
| Item 8 Appendix P1 | What is the extent of the service's ambition for electric vehicle charging points?                      | Economic Development is working alongside other services on the Councils Environment and Climate Change Strategy. In this year Economic Development will continue to conclusion its current activities, which have previously included feasibility work, grant applications and procurement.   |
| Item 8 Appendix P6 | To what extent is the Economic Development service working with communities as well as with businesses? | The Economic Development team works closely with the broad business community (sectors), skills and employment stakeholders and representative groups such as the Ely Cathedral Business Group, Federation of Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce. In addition, we have worked with the City, and Town Councils when preparing specific grant funding projects.  |
| Item 8 Appendix P6 | What are the current occupancy rates at each of the eSpace centres?                                     | ESpace North 100% ESpace South 100% (as at 22.6.22)  |
| Item 10 P2         | How have the equalities implications of the proposed local connection test been tested?                 | <p>The Council will not be selecting applicants for the First Homes, this will be done by the developer.</p> <p>The local connection criteria reflects that of other nomination agreements. Based on this a judgement was made on whether there is the potential for the criteria to result in unlawful discrimination or a less favourable impact on any group in the community.</p> <p>The final bullet point allows for special circumstances to be considered on a case by case basis.</p> |



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|-----------------------|---|--|
| Item 12<br>Table 3.5  | How and by whom has the variance of £63,865 in spending on the administration's crematorium been authorised?  | This spend is in line with the expenditure approved by Council on 31 July 2020.  |
| Item 12<br>Table 3.5  | Positive variances in this table are in general heavily related to vacancies and staff savings. What does this imply for services, delays in delivery, and staff morale?                    | Management Team and Service Managers continue to ensure that there are sufficient resources in place. Where vacancies arise, they are either replaced on a like for like basis, if this meets the needs of the service, or the post is reviewed to ensure that 1) there is still a requirement for the post and 2) are there any changes that need to be made to ensure the role is fit for purpose. |
| Item 12<br>Appendix 3 | What were the reasons for the variances in capital spending in the first section, other than waste vehicles, depot upgrade, and disabled facilities grants explained earlier in the report? | <p>The larger variances are explained in the narrative report, but the majority of other variances also relate to slippage on the programme, and will require funds to be rolled forward into future years.</p> <p>The overspend on vehicles relates to the purchase of a community bus to be used by housing, this was purchased using Covid related grant funding from Government.</p>             |