

Date of Publication of Decision List: 25 February 2025

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – THESE DECISIONS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN



**COUNCIL – 25 FEBRUARY 2025 – DECISION LIST**

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
1.	-	Public Question Time	To answer questions from members of the public.	Two public questions were received and responded to as detailed at the end of the Decision List.	-
2.	-	Apologies for Absence	To receive apologies for absence from Members.	Apologies were received from Cllr James Lay.	-
3.	-	Declarations of Interests	To receive declarations of interests from Members in respect of any items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.	Under agenda item 13, Council Tax, councillors were advised that whilst being a council taxpayer was a pecuniary interest, it was not a disclosable pecuniary interest and they did not have to apply for a dispensation to participate in the debate. Cllr Gareth Wilson declared a personal interest in agenda item 12. Cllr Charlotte Cane declared a personal interest in agenda item 13, as a tenant of the Council.	-
4.	-	Minutes – 17 October 2024 & 11 December 2024	To receive the Minutes of the last two Council meetings.	It was agreed:  That the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 17 October 2024 and 11 December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair, subject to the amendment of the words “County Council” to “County Councillor” in the third paragraph on page 5 of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2024.	Democratic Services and Elections Manager
5.	-	Chair’s Announcements	Announcement of items of interest.	The Chair made the following announcements:	-

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the absence of the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, the Director Operations was the lead officer for the meeting.</li> <li>The Council had been awarded DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation.</li> <li>On behalf of the Chair of the Audit Committee, the Chair asked that all councillors ensured that their declaration of interests forms were up to date and to complete their related parties declaration, as our external auditors had highlighted issues in these areas.</li> </ul>	
6.	-	To Receive Petitions	To receive public petitions.	No public petitions had been received.	-
7.	-	Notice of Motions Under Procedure Rule 10	To receive Motions.	No Motions were received.	-
8.	-	Notice of Rescission Motion under Procedure Rule 20	To consider rescinding the Motion in relation to the commencement of the New East Cambridgeshire Local Plan	It was agreed to: Rescind the Motion of Council on 17 October 2024, in relation to the commencement of the New East Cambridgeshire Local Plan.	
9.	-	To answer Questions from Members	To receive questions from Members of Council.	No questions from Members were received.	-
10	Z135	Pay Policy Statement	To receive and consider the 2025-26 Pay Policy Statement	It was agreed to: Approve and adopt the 2025-26 Pay Policy Statement.	HR Manager

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11	Z136	Recommendations from Committees and other Member Bodies	<p>Finance &amp; Assets Committee – 28 November 2024</p> <p>Finance &amp; Assets – 30 January 2025</p>	<p>1.a) <u>Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review 2024-25</u></p> <p>It was unanimously resolved:</p> <p>That the Mid-Year Review of the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer’s report, be noted.</p> <p>2.a) <u>2025/26 Annual Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy</u></p> <p>It was unanimously agreed that:</p> <p>That the movement in the figures of 2026/27 have been adjusted to the correct figures and checked and approval given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy</li> <li>ii. The Annual Investment Strategy</li> <li>iii. The Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement</li> <li>iv. The Prudential and Treasury Indicators</li> </ul> <p>2.b) <u>Constitution Update – Contract Procedure Rules</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the updated Contract Procedure Rules, at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved as an update to the Council’s Constitution.</p>	Director Finance

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12	Z138	East Cambridgeshire Trading Company ECTC – loan deadline extension request	To respond to East Cambs Trading Company's (ECTC) request for an extension to the loan repayment deadline from March 2027 to March 2029.	It was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. To approve the ECTC request for a loan repayment extension from March 2027 to 2029, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report; and</li> <li>ii. To authorise the Director Finance and Director Legal to amend the Loan Agreement and Debenture Agreement to implement (i) above.</li> </ul>	Director Finance
13	Z139	Revenue Budget, Capital Strategy and Council Tax 2025/26	To set out the Council's proposed revenue budget, capital strategy, and the required level of Council Tax in 2025/26 and assess the robustness of the budgets, the adequacy of reserves and update the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy	It was agreed to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The formal Council Tax Resolution which calculates the Council Tax requirement as set out in Appendix 1</li> <li>b) The draft revenue budget for 2025/26 and MTFS for 2026/27 to 2028/29 as set out in Appendices 2(a) and 2(b)</li> <li>c) A Council Tax freeze in 2025/26</li> <li>d) The draft Statement of Reserves as set out in Appendix 3</li> <li>e) The draft Capital Strategy and financing as set out in Appendix 4.</li> <li>f) The 2025/26 Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 5.</li> <li>g) The application of the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure 40% Business Rate relief (which will be fully funded by the Government through Section 31) as detailed in sections 6.6 to 6.7 of this report and any other Business Rate reliefs that may be announced in the national budget (as detailed in section 6.8).</li> <li>h) The changes to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and premiums for Long-</li> </ul>	Director Finance

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Report Ref.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Action by</b>
				Term Empty and Second Homes as detailed in sections 11.8 and 11.9 of this report.	
14	Z137	Community Infrastructure Levy	To consider changes to the Infrastructure List and Governance Arrangements	<p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve the Infrastructure List as set out in Appendix 2</li> <li>b) Approve the draft Governance Arrangements as set out in Appendix 3, and</li> <li>c) Authorise the Director Community, in consultation with the Chair of Finance &amp; Assets Committee, to spend CIL receipts from the Kennett Garden Village Development as detailed in 3.12 of this report.</li> </ul>	Director Community

Item No.	Report Ref.	Item	Issue	Decision	Action by
15		Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Update Reports	<p>To receive the reports from the Constituent Council representatives on the Combined Authority:</p> <p>Combined Authority Board (16 October 2024)</p> <p>Skills and Employment Committee (21 October 2024)</p> <p>Investment Committee (29 August 2024)</p> <p>Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee 25 October 2024)</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure Committee (4 November 2024)</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7 November 2024)</p> <p>Audit and Governance Committee (8 November 2024)</p> <p>Business Board (11 November 2024)</p>	<p>It was agreed:</p> <p>That the reports on the activities of the Combined Authority from the Council's representatives be noted.</p>	Democratic Services and Elections Manager

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			Combined Authority Board (13 November 2024)  Audit Committee (28 November 2024)		

**1. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Question from Ted Coney, Babylon Arts Trustee**

As you are going to be asked to vote on an amendment to the budget by the Lib/Dem and Independent group on money for Arts and Tourism, I understand this is in particular reference to Babylon Arts of which I am a trustee. Have your leaders sent you a link to our Business Plan? I think it is very important that you know what a great loss to the area, the Babylon Gallery will be to the city and wider area if it is forced to close because of lack of funding.

I was present as a trustee some 12 years ago when the councillors took our core funding away and have seen at first hand how difficult it has been to rely on just grants for particular projects and donations to keep going.

I very much hope that this time you can work together to restore some core funding so that we can carry on our vital work.

**Question from Peter Harvey (read out by the Chair)**

Given the council is committed to retaining community facilities, including cultural facilities:

- What is the council doing to support or facilitate Babylon ARTS in its quest for revenue funding to enable it to survive, given its loss could have an adverse effect on the local community?
- Who is the ECDC lead; member and/or officer, for arts development?
- What is ECDC policy on arts development in the district?

**Response from the Leader, Cllr Bailey to both questions:**

Cllr Anna Bailey stated that as a former Trustee of Babylon Arts, she recognised the significant role that it played in the community, as it was part of Ely’s vibrant culture and was important to the city’s tourism industry. She thanked volunteers for their work in keeping the venture going. She had met with Babylon Arts and recognised its reliance on individual grant

funding. She supported moves to ensure that it established a more sustainable operating model. She explained that as the funding of Babylon Arts was not an item on the meeting's agenda, its business plan had not been circulated to councillors.

Cllr Anna Bailey reported that back in 2013, the City of Ely Council had taken over responsibility for supporting Babylon Arts from the District Council, as part of a wider programme involving the transfer of assets. In 2017, the City of Ely Council also took over responsibility for tourism specific to the city of Ely. She congratulated them for the excellent work that they had done. Until recently, the City of Ely had provided support to Babylon with free use of the Maltings to run its cinema, although this had ended and steps were now being taken to establish a community cinema. The District Council's role in supporting the arts involved the provision of capital grants to support community facilities across the district, including the Viva community theatre in Soham and as well as other community facilities in the area. She had met with the City of Ely Council last week to talk about assets that were still in the freehold ownership of the District Council and the funding of Babylon arts was also discussed. Neither council wanted to see the loss of the Babylon gallery and the City of Ely Council agreed to refer a decision back to its committee to provide more time to liaise with Babylon arts to ensure that a more informed decision was made. The chair of Babylon was being kept up to date on these discussions.

**Supplementary Question from Ted Coney, Babylon Arts Trustee**

Ted Coney explained that as far as he was aware, the City of Ely had not funded Babylon Arts, although he was grateful for the free use of the Maltings, which had allowed Babylon to provide a cinema for the residents of Ely. He did not believe that that the City of Ely councillors had seen the Babylon business plan and so this had now been provided to the clerk. He asked that the business plan be circulated to all district councillors, as it was important that decision makers were provided with the facts.

**Response from the Leader, Cllr Bailey:**

Cllr Bailey explained that she could not speak for the City of Ely but that she would ensure that the business plan was circulated to all district councillors.