

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



# **Environment and Community Panel**

## **Agenda**

Tuesday, 20th April, 2021  
at 3.00 pm

**Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for  
the public to view on [WestNorfolkBC on You  
Tube](#)**



**King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX**  
**Telephone: 01553 616200**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Member

**Environment and Community Panel**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Panel which will be held on **Tuesday, 20th April, 2021 at 3.00 pm** in the **Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

**3. Declarations of interest**

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

Those declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.

**4. Urgent Business**

To consider any business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair proposed to accept as urgent under Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

**5. Members Present Pursuant to Standing Order 34**

Members wishing to speak pursuant to Standing Order 34 should inform the Chair of their intention to do so and what items they wish to be heard before a decision on that item is taken.

**6. Chair's Correspondence**

If any.

**7. Fens Biosphere (45 minutes) (Pages 9 - 22)**

To consider the report and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

**8. Work Programme and Forward Decision List (Pages 23 - 28)**

**9. Arrangements for Cabinet Members Questions at future meetings (5 minutes) (Verbal Report)**

To consider arrangements for Cabinet Members questions at Panel meetings going forward.

**10. Date of the next meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel is scheduled to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**11. Exclusion of Press and Public**

To consider passing the following resolution:

“That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.

**12. Food Waste Contract (30 minutes) (Pages 29 - 34)**

To consider the report and make any appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

To:

**Environment and Community Panel:** Miss L Bambridge, C Bower (Vice-Chair), A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, C Sampson (Chair), S Squire and M Wilkinson

**Portfolio Holders:**

Councillor S Dark – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Public Protection  
Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services and Climate Change  
Councillor E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

### **Officers**

Barry Brandford – Waste and Recycling Manager  
Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director  
Phillip Eke – Tourism Support Manager  
Peter Jermany – Principal Planner Policy and Water Management Officer

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK****ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 3.00 pm as a Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Sampson (Chair), L Bambridge, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, S Squire and M Wilkinson.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

Councillor S Dark – Portfolio Holder for Environment

**PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34:** Councillors I Devereux, A Holmes, J Rust and A Ryves

**OFFICERS:**

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

Stuart Ashworth – Assistant Director

Rob Wiseman – Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer

**EC165: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube.

[To watch the recording of the meeting click here.](#)

**EC166: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor S Collop

**EC167: MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

**EC168: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**EC169: URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

**EC170: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillors Devereux, Holmes, Rust and Ryves for item EC172.

**EC171: CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

[Click here to view the recording of this item.](#)

The Chair informed the Panel that he had received information from Councillor Bullen on Urban Wildlife. The information is attached and it was noted that the item would be added to the Work Programme.

**EC172: PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Assistant Director, Planning presented the report.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp congratulated those involved in the initiative and asked for clarification on the percentages of savings of carbon outputs across facilities. The Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer agreed to send the details to Councillors. With regard to surplus energy it was explained that it was more cost effective to use this on site, but there were options available to export it to the grid.

In response to questions from Councillor Bullen regarding Re:Fit and Ameresco and the Assistant Director outlined the procurement process and the framework agreements. It was also confirmed that some sub-contractors would be used.

Councillor Bubb commented that he hoped that British parts and local contractors were used where possible. He also asked about ongoing maintenance and it was confirmed that this was not covered by the grant funding.

Councillor Holmes addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He noted the short timescales involved and asked if the procurement of items would fit into this process. He also asked if Covid would have an impact on delivery. The Assistant Director explained that lots of work had been carried out to get the bid in and to move the project forward and the ordering of heat pumps etc would be considered.

Councillor Ryves addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He commented that the project would not make a massive difference to the Carbon output of the Borough and the Assistant Director explained

that savings should be realised after five years. It was also confirmed that the project was 100% funded by the Government and that all public services had the opportunity to bid for funding.

Councillor Kunes, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change commended the project and the cumulative impact of these projects on the environment needed to be considered.

Councillor Bambridge commented that consideration needed to be given to the maintenance of air source heat pumps.

In response to a question from Councillor de Whalley regarding the Guildhall, the Assistant Director confirmed that careful consideration would be given to the Listed Building and meetings to take the project forward were being held. In response to a question regarding air and ground source heat pumps and underfloor heating the difference between the pumps were outlined by the Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer and how they worked with underfloor heating.

Councillor Dark, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Protection, congratulated the Council on the successful bid for grant funding and explained that the Council was taking a lead and the Council should be proud of delivering this project and others that could come forward in the future.

Councillor Rust addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She raised concerns about the tight timescales to apply for the grant and the time allowed to spend the funding. She asked if the Local MP's could be lobbied to ask Government to give consideration to enable Councils to forward plan. She also referred to the contracts with Ameresco and if a review of the projects they have already carried out for the Council had been conducted. The Assistant Director referred to the Re:Fit programme and providers included within it.

Councillor Ryves addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and referred to overall carbon footprint of the Borough and the savings which would be achieved as part of this project. He didn't feel as if this project made significant savings, however it did send a message, and educating the public on carbon reduction was important. He also referred to car usage in the Borough, the transport policy, tree planting and carbon zero targets.

Councillor Kemp referred to car usage in the Borough and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and encouraging Council staff to walk and cycle to work. The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change explained that cycle paths and cycle ways were being looked at in development sites. He explained that a variety of measures were being looked at to reduce carbon.

**RESOLVED:** That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below:

1. As the value of the required separate contract is above £500,000 for these extra grant funded works, that Cabinet approve the utilisation of our existing Re:Fit delivery partners, Ameresco, to deliver the project on behalf of the Council.
2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the utilisation of the grant awarded under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, subject to the granting of any specific consents required for any of the buildings.

EC173: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

Councillor Bullen had swift boxes available for Members to use in their Ward if required.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC174: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**The meeting closed at 4.00 pm**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

<b>Open</b>		Would any decisions proposed:			
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b> Denver; all Downham Market Wards; Emneth with Outwell; Feltwell; Methwold; Tilney, Mersheland & Wiggshall; Upwell & Delph; Walsoken, West Walton & Walpole; Wissey	Discretionary	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide:		YES	
		Need to be recommendations to Council:		NO	
		Is it a Key Decision?		NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Paul Kunes E-mail: <i>cllr.paul.kunes@west-norfolk.gov.uk</i>		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds			
		Other Members consulted:			
Lead Officer: Peter Jermamy E-mail: <i>peter.jermamy@west-norfolk.gov.uk</i> Direct Dial: 01553 616239		Other Officers consulted: Phillip Eke, Stuart Ashworth, Alan Gomm, Corporate Management Team			
Financial Implications NO	Policy/Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES If YES: Pre-screening	Risk Management Implications NO	Environmental Considerations YES

Date of meeting: 10 May 2021

**FENS BIOSPHERE PROPOSAL**

<p><b>Summary</b> The Fens, including part of King's Lynn &amp; West Norfolk, is a candidate UNESCO Biosphere. This report seeks in principle support for its nomination for formal designation.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b>  <b>That the Borough Council expresses in principle support for the designation by UNESCO of a Fens Biosphere.</b></p> <p><b>Reason for Decision</b>  To provide support for the proposed designation.</p>
--

**1 Background**

1.1 Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes. The stated aims of biospheres are to connect people, economies, and nature to secure a future where all can thrive, meeting the needs of current and future residents and working towards providing secure and happy futures for all. Further, that biospheres aim to improve the natural environment, using new ideas, science, and technology to explore new ways of living every day in ways that solve global challenges.

1.2 Part of our borough lies within the proposed Fens Biosphere geography (see map Appendix A) and includes part of the proposed Biosphere Core Zone of the Ouse Washes, which already enjoys statutory protected status. There would be 3 zones within the Biosphere designation:

*The Core Zone:* these are the sites of specific conservation value like the Ouse Washes and Wicken Fen. They are already legally designated protected areas and are carefully managed to enhance their wildlife.

*The Buffer Zone:* this area surrounds the Core Zones; the Biosphere will support activities in this area which are strongly focused on linking people, science and conservation to support the Core Zones. These activities could include trialling new agricultural crops and techniques, encouraging communities to develop new spaces for nature or looking at how water resources can be managed on a landscape scale.

*The Transition Zone:* this is the outer zone which often contains the towns, cities and villages of the Biosphere. Because this is where most people live, activities will focus on ensuring that resident needs (housing, jobs, recreation and so on) are sustainable and, if possible, benefit wildlife and the environment.

1.3 A summary guide to The Fens Biosphere proposal has been produced and is attached as Appendix B.

1.4 The proposed Fens Biosphere was awarded Candidate Status by the UK Man and Biosphere Committee (UK MAB) and the UK National Commission for UNESCO in November 2019. This is the first stage in achieving Biosphere Reserve designation by UNESCO. The UK currently includes seven areas that have achieved designation. These are the Isle of Wight, Brighton and Lewes Downs, North Devon, Isle of Man, Galloway and Southern Ayrshire, Wester Ross and Biosffer Dyfi. If the Fens Biosphere were to achieve designation it would be one of 714 designated Biospheres in the world, located across 129 countries, and would be the only lowland Biosphere in the UK and the only Biosphere in the East of England.

1.5 To gain UNESCO Biosphere designation, the Biosphere initiative must show the widest level of local support, including that of local authorities. Although several local authorities within the candidate area have voiced support, to achieve designation, it is a requirement that this support be demonstrated through formal endorsement.

## 2 Proposal

2.1 A Fens Biosphere provides an opportunity to bring people, nature and science together to promote innovative, sustainable solutions to help address these challenges and create a stronger, more resilient Fens. It can be the catalyst for achieving a sustainable living Fens landscape, supporting more and better spaces for nature and a better place for people to live, work and enjoy.

2.2 Crucially, rather than restricting or hindering ambitions for a better economy and society, a Fens Biosphere can open up new opportunities and accelerate positive economic, social and environmental change, including:

- Accelerating the transformation to sustainability in farming, adding value to agriculture and safeguarding Gross Value Added (GVA)
- Society-wide commitment to managing water and other natural resources responsibly
- Building a Biosphere brand that signifies sustainability, a high-quality environment, and a place to visit and re-locate
- Diversification of the economy
- Leveraging in investment and achieving better returns on investment
- Building international profile and reputation, thereby generating additional investment."

2.3 It is important to note that supporting the Fens Biosphere proposal would not require any financial input from the Borough Council. The Steering Group is also of the opinion that no specific planning policy proposals need to be set out as existing strategic planning policy provides for all planning needs and the Biosphere will not attempt to interfere in planning matters and will respect existing legal protection/ designations for planning decisions.

2.4 It is also worth noting that Biospheres are not the same as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). AONBs are protected areas for conservation due to their significant landscape value. Once an area has achieved Biosphere status it is known as a Biosphere Reserve, but this does not mean that it is a protected area. Biospheres are not protected areas (apart from the already protected Core Zones) and as such cannot prohibit any activity.

### **Structure for the Biosphere**

2.5 The Fens Biosphere is a multi-sector partnership, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire ACRE and drawn from all sectors of life, working together to achieve UNESCO Biosphere status for the Fens.

2.6 The Chair of the Fens Biosphere Steering Group is Roger Mitchell (Cambridgeshire Conservation Forum, Natural Cambridgeshire), the Deputy Chair is David Thomas (Chief Executive Officer, Middle Level Commissioners).

2.7 Partners on the Fens Biosphere Steering Group are:

Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire;  
Natural England; National Farmers Union; Country Land and Business

Association; Environment Agency; G's: Cambs. Farm Growers Ltd; Cambridgeshire Geological Society; Anglia Ruskin University; Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; Cambridge Conservation Forum; Historic England; National Trust; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Water Resources East; University of Cambridge; The Fenland Trust; Middle Level Commissioners; St Ives Eco-Action; Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (represented by Phillip Eke).

## 2.8 Partners or Partnerships supporting the Fens Biosphere are:

Natural Cambridgeshire – Local Nature Partnership; Dame Fiona Reynolds: Master Emmanuel College; Fens for the Future; ADA – Association of Drainage Authorities; Centre for Ecology and Hydrology; University of East London; Great Ouse Valley Trust; PECT – Peterborough Environment City Trust; Kingfishers Bridge Nature Reserve; Ely Group IDBs; North Level IDB; and Redlist Revival.

2.9 The development of the Fens Biosphere is funded by the People's Postcode Lottery's Postcode Dream Trust as part of the Water Works project which is managed by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

## 2.10 The steps towards becoming a Biosphere can be summarised as:

- Find an organisation willing to take on applying to UNESCO: done.
- Find some funds for the organisation to do the job (in partnership with Wildlife Trust BCN): done.
- Define the Biosphere area: in progress.
- Get a partnership of interested partners together: done.
- Talk – to everyone about what the Biosphere should do and who wants to be involved: in progress.
- Define what the Biosphere will do, how and who will run it, how it will be funded: in progress
- Complete the application form, submit it in late Spring 2021, wait until 2022 or 2023 to hear if successful.

## **Conclusion**

2.11 Designation of The Fens as a Biosphere would raise the profile of the area bringing economic, social and environmental benefits to this part of the Borough at no financial cost to the Council. At this stage the support looked for is 'in principle' only. It is considered that it would be appropriate to give this 'in principle' support, particularly as the Council is represented on the Steering Group, while further details of the project and its geography are established.

## **3 Policy Implications**

3.1 None.

## **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 None, no financial contribution is required.

## **5 Personnel Implications**

5.1 None.

## **6 Environmental Considerations**

6.1 Biospheres aim to improve the natural environment.

## **7 Statutory Considerations**

7.1 None, this is not a statutory designation.

## **8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

(Pre-screening report template attached)

8.1 There are no equality implications.

## **9 Risk Management Implications**

9.1 None.

## **10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted**

10.1 None.

## **11 Background Papers**

(Definition: Unpublished work relied on to a material extent in preparing the report that disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based. A copy of all background papers must be supplied to Democratic Services with the report for publishing with the agenda)

**Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment**

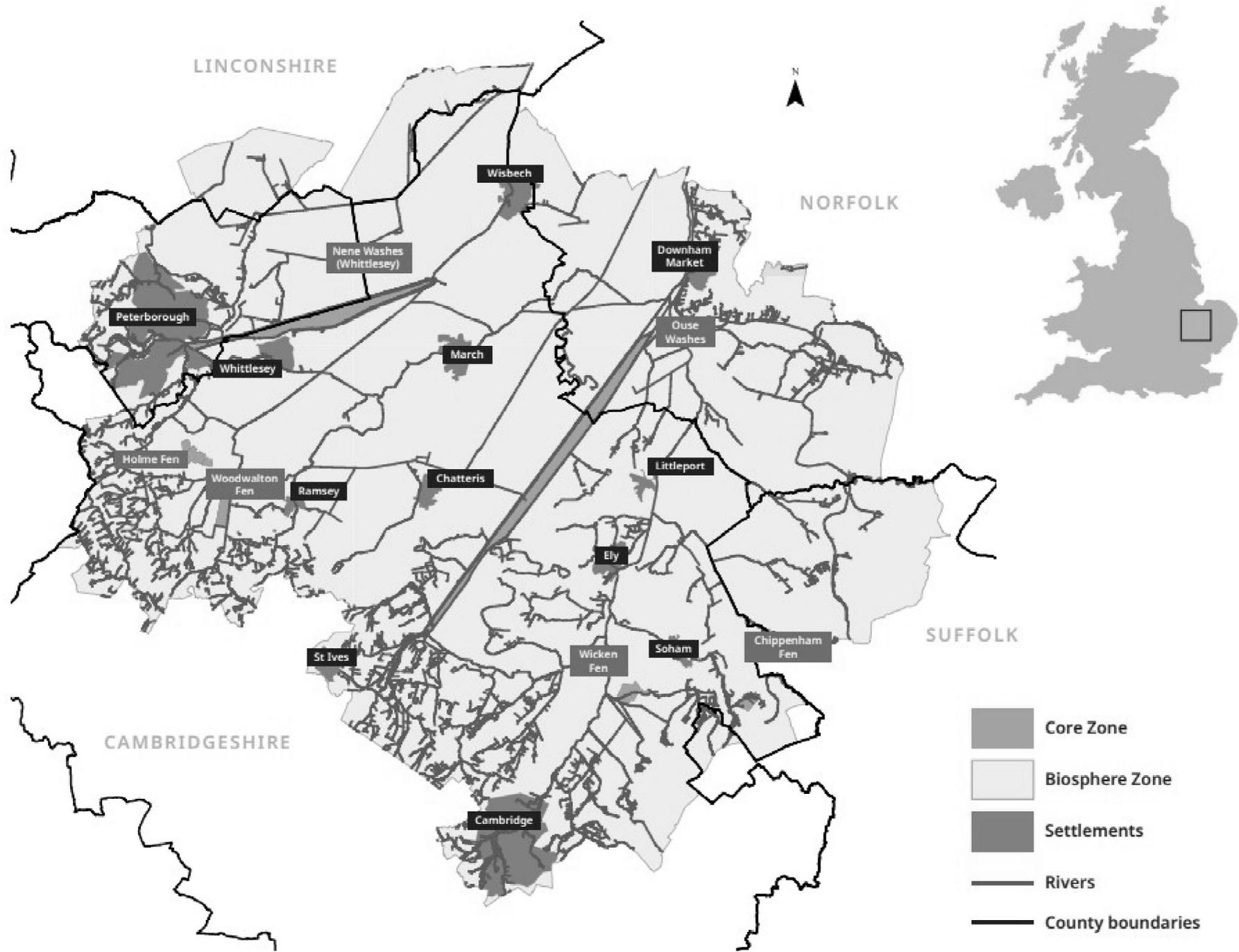
Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn & West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function	<b>FENS BIOSPHERE PROPOSAL</b>				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>	<p>Biosphere Reserve status is awarded by UNESCO to unique and valuable landscapes. The stated aims of biospheres are to connect people, economies, and nature to secure a future where all can thrive, meeting the needs of current and future residents and working towards providing secure and happy futures for all. Further, that biospheres aim to improve the natural environment, using new ideas, science, and technology to explore new ways of living every day in ways that solve global challenges.</p> <p>Not statutory.</p>				
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>				
<p><b>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</b></p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>N.B. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Age				x	
Disability				x	
Gender				x	
Gender Re-assignment				x	
Marriage/civil partnership				x	
Pregnancy & maternity				x	
Race				x	
Religion or belief				x	
Sexual orientation				x	

	Other (e.g., low income)			x	
--	--------------------------	--	--	---	--







FENS  
BIOSPHERE

# FENS BIOSPHERE: BIG SKIES, BIG VISION

for a brighter, more sustainable future



Photo courtesy of Bill Blake Heritage Documentation

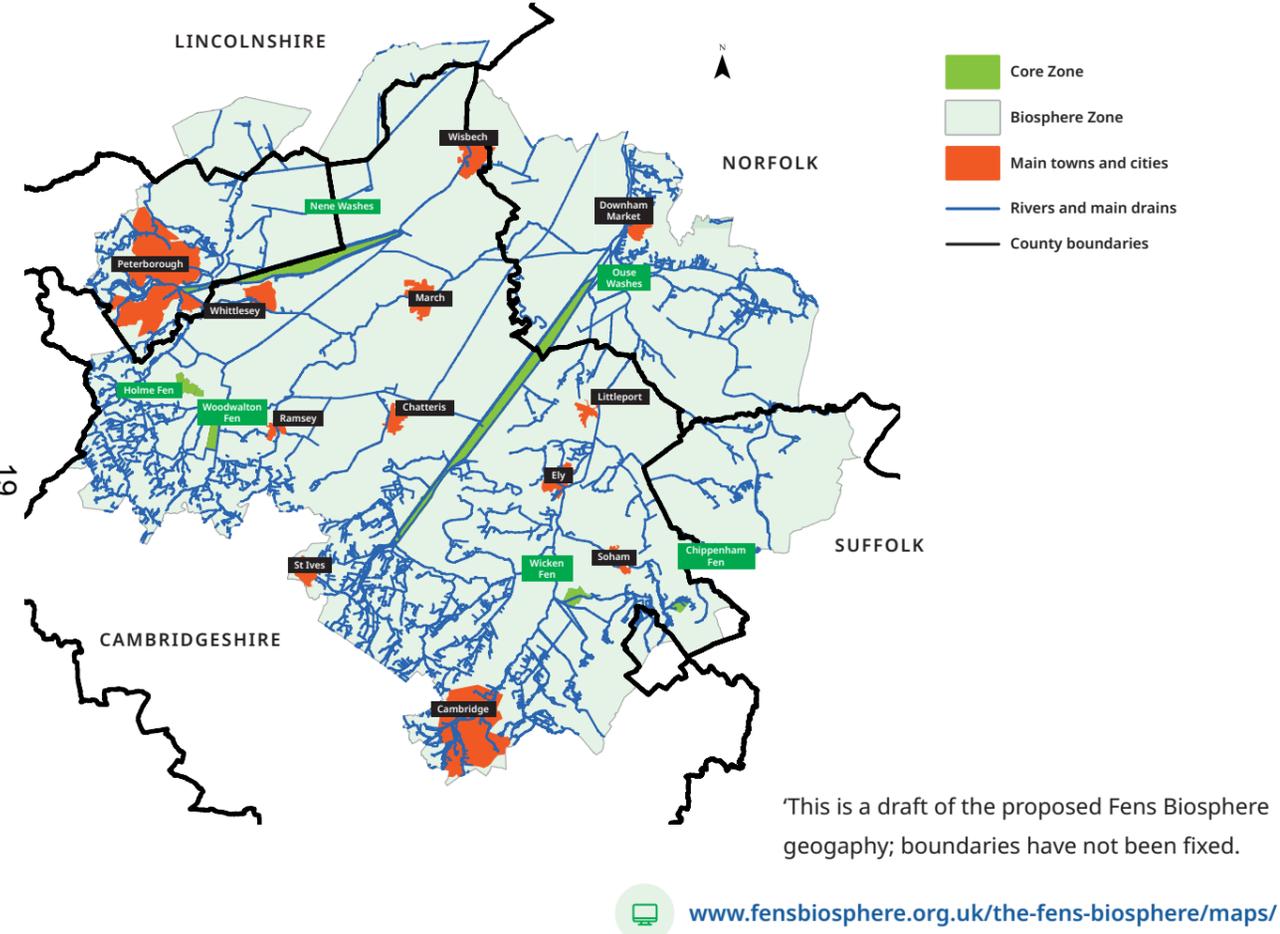
A Brief for Local Authorities

[fensbiosphere.org.uk](https://fensbiosphere.org.uk)

# A BIOSPHERE FOR A BRIGHTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Photo courtesy of Bill Blake Heritage Documentation



This is a draft of the proposed Fens Biosphere geography; boundaries have not been fixed.

## WHY A UNESCO BIOSPHERE?

**UNESCO Biosphere designation** provides a unique opportunity for the Fens to become a leader in sustainable growth and development and achieve global recognition.

A Biosphere will help Local Authorities address socio-economic issues and facilitate sustainable and inclusive growth. Rather than restricting or hindering ambitions for a better economy and society, a Fens Biosphere can be a catalyst, opening up new opportunities and accelerating positive economic, social and environmental change.

Biosphere status will ensure a bigger vision for the Fens can be achieved through wider cross-sector collaboration, supporting existing plans and initiatives, driving prosperity, and sharing learning from across the world.

### Where are we with the UNESCO nominations?

The Fens is an ideal candidate to become a Biosphere, given its strong identity, exceptional environment and biodiversity, significant cultural heritage and the commitment of a wide range of stakeholders working together towards a sustainable future. UNESCO and the UK Man and Biosphere Committee strongly believe this area would benefit from the global Biosphere accolade.

A group of multi-sectoral partners have been working closely together over the last two years to bring forward proposals for submission of the Fens Biosphere nomination to UNESCO. This has included involvement and consultation at an early stage with both Members and Officers from Local Authorities that form part of the Fens Biosphere area.

Biosphere proposals will only be presented to UNESCO once all decision-makers and other key stakeholders in the area have endorsed the plans and recognise the added value this would bring to their work and the area as a whole.



“The Fens are one of our most significant landscapes, full of history and meaning yet sadly diminished in their value for nature. We need to put that right, by pursuing a vision for sustainable land use that works for people, nature and the economy in the long term. The Fens Biosphere project provides an exciting opportunity to find solutions for this incredible landscape that respect the past and honour the future. I’m delighted to be involved.”

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel College Cambridge, Fens Biosphere Ambassador



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE ECONOMY?



Enabling a balanced and resilient economy

### A Biosphere for a balanced and resilient economy

The economy of the Fens is a tale of two halves: the Fens' rural economy contrasts starkly with high economies and growth areas such as Cambridge and Peterborough. There is a need to address the widening income and equality gap between these areas and rebalance the economy of the Fens. There are also concerns about limitations to growth, as a direct result of serious water stress and flood risk in the Fens, which may worsen with climate change, jeopardising the Fens economic future.

Biosphere status can bring people and organisations together to develop a shared vision for the future of the Fens which addresses these challenges. It will support better management of the natural capital of the Fens, create a sense of connectedness to the Fens, and contribute to a sense of place and better quality of life. This will encourage people to re-locate, work from home or set up business in rural areas, helping the Fens' rural economy to diversify and become more balanced.

A Fens Biosphere will also grow and diversify the economy, by:

- Attracting new funding and investment
- Adding value to the agri-food economy and enhancing its sustainability and resilience
- Growing the green economy by investing in collaborative R&D in land, water, climate and nature management
- Strengthening the Fens brand, driving growth in tourism and leisure, and adding value to local produce.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR COMMUNITIES AND PLACE MAKING?

A Biosphere will help reduce social inequalities, encourage sustainable living and improve quality of life and well-being for all.

There is great diversity across the Fens Biosphere area in terms of quality of life and well-being, with challenging socio-economic issues relating to education, skills, jobs, access to green space, health and well-being and connectivity (transport and digital). Local Authorities already have a range of initiatives to address these issues and recognise the importance of local environments and sustainable, inclusive growth.

A Biosphere will add value, helping Local Authorities support local communities and places by:

- Raising awareness and understanding of the local environment

- Creating a shared sense of connectedness, ownership and pride of place
- 'Nudging' people to adopt 'green' behaviours and healthier lifestyles
- Encouraging environmental improvements which provide multiple benefits, including recreation and health and well-being
- Supporting education, training, skills and job opportunities in the green economy
- Contributing to better infrastructure through environmental design and planning
- Increasing the return on investment and levering in additional funding.



Benefiting local communities and reducing social inequalities



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE?

A Biosphere will protect and invest in the Fens' natural and cultural capital, for the benefit of people, the economy and the environment, and build its resilience.

Natural capital provides the foundation for people's lives and businesses, including the soils to grow our food, the water resources to supply our drinking water, the biodiversity of our ecosystems, and the landscape we live in. Biodiversity loss and climate change are the greatest threats to our society, and engaging communities in the conversations necessary to address these challenges is not easy and can be overwhelming for many.



Protecting and investing in the area's natural and cultural capital

A Biosphere will improve natural resource management and climate resilience in the Fens by:

- Developing a shared understanding of the Fens' natural capital and climate change, and how key issues such as loss of peat and carbon release can be addressed.
- Supporting the development of a community-based climate change programme to help communities consume resources wisely, reduce emissions, and develop a closer relationship with nature.
- Promoting knowledge exchange in agriculture by showcasing best practice in sustainable farming and encouraging new research and innovation.
- Collaborating with local authorities, land managers and other stakeholders to plan ecological networks and nature's recovery.



Photo courtesy of Pete Johnson

## WHO IS INVOLVED AND HOW WILL IT WORK?

A Biosphere will bring people and organisations together, and complement and strengthen local initiatives.

The Fens Biosphere proposal is still in development. If created, this might be its longer term outcomes and impacts:

- In the short term, a new and more joined up vision and strategy for the area will lead to new partnerships and joint funding bids to stimulate the economy and enhance the environment.
- In the medium term, by 2030, the Biosphere will have attracted funding and inward investment, to develop the green economy, showcase good land management practices, tackle climate challenges,

enhance nature and address community challenges, with residents expressing a greater sense of optimism and recognising the area as a good place to live and work.

- In the longer term, before 2050, the Biosphere will have contributed to a stronger and sustainable economy in the Fens and enhanced Gross Value Added. This will lead to an improved natural environment, Net Zero carbon, sustainable soil and water management and stronger, more inclusive communities.

These medium and longer term targets align with the 2030 targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 target date for the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero.

# WHAT NEXT

Working together, the Fens Biosphere partners plan to submit the UNESCO nomination form by late Spring 2021.

Before this date we wish to: -

- Engage with key Members and Officers to discuss how the plans for the Fens Biosphere can support and accelerate existing strategies for sustainable development.
- Consult with key Members and Officers to finalise the Fens Biosphere area boundary.
- Engage further with Councils and Committees through provision of presentations and online seminars on the specifics of the Fens Biosphere for each Local Authority area and discuss how we can best align the Fens Biosphere with policies, strategies and forward action plans of:
  - Cambridgeshire County Council; Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk; West Suffolk Council; South Holland District Council; Fenland District Council; Huntingdonshire District Council; East Cambridgeshire District Council; South Cambridgeshire District Council; Cambridge City Council; Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
- Hold an online event on 13 January 2021 'The Fens Biosphere: Big Skies, Big Vision', to support understanding and discussion about the impact of the Fens Biosphere.
- Feed Members' and Officers' comments and ideas into the UNESCO nomination form so that the Fens Biosphere is a collaboration between all local authorities, NGOs, educational institutions, agricultural representatives, and private sector partners.
- Secure Local Authorities' support for the Fens Biosphere as signatories to the nomination form.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for engagement and development of Fens Biosphere plans and ideas during its next stages.

## MOVING FORWARD

This work has been funded by the People's Postcode Lottery Postcode Dream Trust and the development of the Fens Biosphere is currently facilitated by Cambridgeshire ACRE to enable the initial stages to be carried forward. In the medium term, the aim is for [partners](#) to come together and form a not-for-profit Community Interest Organisation. This will allow the Fens Biosphere a suitable identity and governance model to ensure its successful future.

**Read the full report:** The Social and Economic Value of a Biosphere for the Fens; Cumulus Consultants Ltd at <https://www.fensbiosphere.org.uk/resources-advice/reports-and-downloads/>

For further information

Visit our website:

[www.fensbiosphere.org.uk](http://www.fensbiosphere.org.uk)

Find us also on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Contact details

**Mark Nokkert**

Programme Manager - Tel: 01353 865030

Email: [mark.nokkert@camsacre.org.uk](mailto:mark.nokkert@camsacre.org.uk)



The Fens Biosphere Partnership is supported by funding from the People's Postcode Lottery Postcode Dream Trust as part of the Water Works project awarded to the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

Cambridge ACRE is registered in England as a charity (no.1074032) and a company limited by guarantee (no.3690881).

## ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022

DATE OF MEETING	TITLE	TYPE OF REPORT	LEAD OFFICER/ ATTENDEE	OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES
<b>9<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b>	Appointments to Task Groups and Informal Working Groups	Operational	Democratic Services Officer	
	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Operational	Democratic Services Officer	
	Urban Wildlife		Alan Gomm	To consider a request from Councillor Bullen
	Update on HMO's and Housing Standards		John Greenhalgh, Mark Whitmore and Sean Quinn	Requested by the Panel at their meeting in July 20
	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	Policy Development	Henry Saunders and Dave Robson	
<b>13<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>				
<b>31<sup>st</sup> August 2021</b>				
<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>				
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2021</b>				

<b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>				
<b>15<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>				
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</b>				

**To be scheduled**

- Shop mobility
- Prevent and County Lines – last update presented to the Panel in October 19.
- Contaminated Land Strategy Review
- Gayton Road Cemetery
- Urban Wildlife.
- Presentation from the IDB on their role and function
- Peat Bogs and CO2 emissions
- Anti Littering Campaign
- Together for Rivers Campaign
- Wild East Nature Recovery Programme
- The Docks
- Update on Flood Risk and Management from the Environment Agency – last update was December 2020. Annual Update.
- Update on Youth West Partnership – last update was in Jan 21 – next update requested for Jan 22

**FORWARD DECISIONS LIST**

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
10 May 2021						
	Parkway	Key	Council	Project Delivery Asst Dir Companies and Housing Delivery – D Gagen		Private - Contains exempt Information under para 3 – information relating to the business affairs of any person (including the authority)
25	Lynnsport one	Key	Council	Project Delivery Asst Dir Companies & Housing Delivery – D Gagen		Private - Contains exempt Information under para 3 – information relating to the business affairs of any person (including the authority)
	Fens Biosphere	Non	Cabinet	Climate Change and Commercial Services Asst Director – S Ashworth		Public
	Food Waste Collection	Key	Council	Environmental Services and Public Protection Asst Dir Operations and Commercial – M Chisholm		Private - Contains exempt Information under para 3 – information relating to the business affairs of any person (including the authority)

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
15 June 2021						
	Revenue Outturn 2020/2021	Key	Cabinet	Leader Asst Dir - M Drewery		Public
	Capital Programme and Resources 2020-2025 Outturn	Key	Cabinet	Leader Asst Dir - D Drewery		Public
	Tree Planting Strategy	Non	Cabinet	Climate Change and Commercial Services Asst Director – S Ashworth		Public
	Local Plan Review Documentation – Pre Submission	Key	Council	Development Exec Dir – G Hall		Public
26	Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework – Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GI / RAMS)	Key	Cabinet	Development Exec Dir – G Hall		Public
	Pay Award 2021-22	Non	Cabinet	Leader Exec Dir – D Gates		Public
	Caravan Site Management Fit and Proper Person Scheme	Non	Cabinet	Housing Asst Dr – J Greenhalgh		Public
	Town Deal	Key	Cabinet	Business Development Asst Dir Housing & Place – D Hall		Private - Contains exempt Information under para 3 – information relating to the

						business affairs of any person (including the authority)
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
3 August 2021						
	Update to the Major Project Board Terms of reference	Non	Cabinet	Leader Asst Dir Property & Projects – M Henry		Public

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
21 September 2021						

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
16 November 2021						

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
11 January 2022						

Date of meeting	Report title	Key or Non Key Decision	Decision Maker	Cabinet Member and Lead Officer	List of Background Papers	Public or Private Meeting
8 February 2022						

	Budget	Key	Council	Leader S151 Officer Asst Dir Resources		Public
	Capital Programme	Key	Council	Leader S151 Officer Asst Dir Resources		Public
	Treasury Management Strategy	Key	Council	Leader S151 Officer Asst Dir Resources		Public
	Capital Strategy	Key	Council	Leader S151 Officer Asst Dir Resources		Public

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Report title</b>	<b>Key or Non Key Decision</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Cabinet Member and Lead Officer</b>	<b>List of Background Papers</b>	<b>Public or Private Meeting</b>
15 March 2022						

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Agenda Item 12

Document is Restricted