

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2020 – 2021

(including reports from representatives for 2019/20)

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ECDC GUIDANCE FOR ELECTED COUNCILLORS APPOINTED TO JOINT/ OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Introduction

This guidance is solely intended for the purpose of providing general advice on the duties, obligations and liabilities that a Councillor will have if they are appointed to an outside or joint body. Councillors are asked to bear this in mind when exercising their judgement / trying to balancing their respective responsibilities as a Councillor and a nominated representative. The guidance cannot provide a detailed answer for all circumstances and consequently, if in doubt, a Councillor should seek further advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer.

2. General

In some cases, the Councillors appointed will be the Council representative and they will be expected to bring knowledge and expertise of the Council's Services (where appropriate), to represent the Council's views at meetings, or will be expected to look after those particular bodies' interests and to further their aims, not the District Councils.

In all cases Councillors should: -

- Operate within the rules, and/or constitution of the outside body;
- Report back, where appropriate, to the Council or relevant Committee;
- Behave ethically and follow, as far as applicable, the Members code of conduct;
- Take an active and informed role in the affairs of the outside body.

Councillors are not on an outside body to: -

- Represent their political party.

There are a number of types of outside bodies in which Councillors may become involved, either independently or, as a representative nominated by the Council to be appointed as:

- Directors;
- Trustee;
- Representative/Member of an unincorporated Association.

Some of the most common examples of outside bodies are:

- Charitable Trusts;
- Company limited by shares;
- Company limited by guarantee;
- Unincorporated association (like a Panel, or Board).

The structure of each type of organisation, the management and the rules that govern them will vary. However, there are a number of duties that will apply to the bodies concerned and these are listed below.

In carrying out their duties as a Director, Trustee or Representative/Member, Councillors must take decisions without being influenced by the fact that they are a Councillor. Their primary duty in acting as a representative making decisions for the outside body is to make these decisions in the interests of the organisation. However, Councillors should always ensure that their fellow Directors /Trustees are aware of the fact that they are Councillors.

3. The Members' Code of Conduct

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the East Cambridgeshire District Council Member Code of Conduct that was adopted on 26 July 2012. The Code and the ECDC Code of Conduct Guide¹ indicates that when a Member acts as a representative of

¹March 2013

the Authority on any other body, he must, when acting for that other body comply with the Authority's Code of Conduct. That body's Code of Conduct may also bind the Councillor.

A Councillor will have Personal Interest in matters relating to the outside body (if they are a member of that body or in a position of management/ control – eg if a Director) and when engaged on Council business/ meetings must declare this interest. If that applies, the Member can then (where relevant) still vote on an item, unless this relates to a financial or regulatory matter AND the reasonable person would, with knowledge of the relevant facts, regard this interest as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement (in which case the Councillor will have a Prejudicial Interest, which has to be declared and as a general rule the Councillor will have to leave the meeting for that item – unless they are exercising a Speaking Right under the Code of Conduct). In addition to considering these issues, the Members should ensure that, if they intend to vote (or take advantage of the Speaking Right) – they are not breaching any other duties that they owe to the outside/joint body/ nor be accused of being biased or having pre-determined a matter.

The Council's Code of Conduct requires Councillors to register their involvement in various organisations, and Members should ensure this is listed on their Register of interests form that Members send to the Monitoring Officer.

Registering Interests:

Under the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors are required to register their financial interests and other interests in the Council's Register of Interests within 28 days of their election or appointment. They must also notify the Council's Monitoring Officer, in writing, of changes to these details within 28 days of any such change.

NOTE: Some outside bodies may require the Councillor to treat the body's business as confidential. This may sometimes create a dilemma for the Councillor and may seem contrary to the idea of assisting public accountability. However, Councillors will have to bear this confidentiality requirement in mind and consider how that fits in with the duties detailed below.

4. The Duties of a Director

Background

Compliance with the Companies Acts/ other legislation:

The Companies Act 2006 introduced a partial codification and framework for Directors' general duties. Most of the duties listed below, however, were applicable before this was enacted (with the exception of "duty to promote the success of the company"). These duties apply to both Executive and Non-Executive Directors. In the main if a Member is a Director, they will be a nominee Director, and must ensure compliance with companies legislation, and acting in the interests of the shareholder, as failure to do so could lead to personal liability (fines, disqualification as a Director or prosecution).

Independent judgement:

The Director is under a duty to exercise independent judgement i.e. they should not fetter their discretion by simply voting in accordance with a Council mandate. It is possible, nevertheless, to take into account the interests of a third party body – so long as this is disclosed and the company's Articles of Association allows the Councillor to do so.

Promote the success of the company:

When acting as a Director, the Councillor owes a "fiduciary" duty to the company (which means loyalty to the company and a duty of care to act in its best interests, having regard to the interests of the members, shareholders, employees and creditors). The Director must consider what would promote the success of the company and have regard to the likely consequences of any decision in the long term. This replaces and expands upon the previous duty of "acting in good faith".

Reasonable care, diligence and skill:

A general duty of care and skill and diligence is imposed. But, when acting in this capacity, a Councillor is expected to act within their own knowledge/skill and seek expert advice when necessary (i.e. due diligence).

Conflicts of Interest/ Declare interests in proposed transactions or arrangements:

There may be actual or potential conflicts between the interests of the Council and the interests of the company. In such circumstances it would be inappropriate for the Councillor to take part in discussions upon such topics both as a Councillor and as a Director. If the conflict is a serious one or repeatedly presents itself then it may be appropriate for the Councillor to resign as a Director of the company. Equally if the Member has an interest in the proposed transactions, a declaration must be made of the nature and extent of such an interest. This will cover both the Councillors own interests as well as those where there is a conflict with the Council.

Directors are not allowed to make a private profit from their position. They must not allow personal interests to conflict with those of the organisation. They must therefore disclose any interests they or their family have in relation to the company's contracts. Whether they are then allowed to vote will depend upon the Articles of Association of the company.

To act within their powers:

Directors are under a duty to see that they do not act beyond the powers of the organisation. They must ensure that they do not exceed the powers conferred on them by the Memorandum or Articles, if they do so, they will be acting illegally.

Financial Responsibility:

Directors have a duty to ensure that the company operates within the limits of its financial resources, actual and expected. Even if a company has limited liability, Directors can incur personal liability for its debts and obligations in certain circumstances. Directors can also be held personally liable if they have allowed a company to operate, or continue to operate, where there was no reasonable prospect that it could pay its debts, and these are left unpaid after the liquidation of the company. It follows that Directors must pay scrupulous attention to their company's present and future liquidity, and ensure that their concerns and actions are minuted.

Guidance on the Companies Act 2006 and responsibilities can be found on the Companies House website (<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/companiesAct/publications.shtml>).

5. Charitable Trustees/ Trustees

Those who are responsible for the control and administration of a charity are referred to as Trustees, even where the organisation is a company limited by guarantee and they are not strictly Trustees. If the organisation is a company, then a Councillor will also be bound to act in accordance with the principles in 4 above.

In addition a Trustee must:

- act in accordance with the Trust deed and to protect the charity's assets. They are also responsible for compliance with the Charities Acts¹ and the Trustee Act 2000.
- not make a private profit from their position.
- perform their duty with the standard of care, which an ordinary, prudent business person would show. Higher standards are required of professionals and in relation to investment matters.
- ensure (if they are a Charitable Trustee) that the information relating to the Trust and Trustees is registered with the Charity Commissioners and that annual accounts and returns are completed and sent.
- ensure compliance with all relevant legislation for example in relation to tax and health and safety.

A number of useful publications are available on the Charity Commissioners website: www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

6. Unincorporated Associations

Groups, which are neither limited companies nor charitable trusts, may be “unincorporated associations” which have no separate identity from their members. The rules governing the Members duties and liabilities will (or should) be set out in the organisation’s constitution, which is simply an agreement between members as to how the organisation will operate.

Usually the organisation’s constitution will provide for a management committee to be responsible for the everyday running of the organisation. Management Committee members must act within the organisation’s constitution and must take reasonable care when exercising their powers.

7. Liability issues (Insurance and Indemnity):

In cases where Councillors and Officers act in a decision-making capacity specifically in connection with the business of the outside body, as opposed to merely exercising their role as a representative of the Council, then they will be regarded as serving the particular body rather than the Council. In that case, Members should only actively participate in the business of that body, if insurance is provided.

The Council's insurance cover will extend to Councillors and Council officials assisting outside organisations as advisers or observers, either facilitating exchanges of views or information as an extension of their Council duties or otherwise representing the Council, but the Council's insurance cover does not extend to indemnify Councillors and officials who serve in an executive capacity on an outside body.

For further/ specific guidance, please contact the Council’s Monitoring Officer.

¹ Different sections of the Companies Act have come into force since 2006, most recently the duties detailed above, since 1.10.2007

¹¹ Guidance is available on the Charity Commission website: http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/ccpubs3.aspx#pub

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

It is the Council's policy that elected Member representatives on outside organisations may claim from East Cambridgeshire District Council travelling allowances, where such allowances are not payable by the organisation concerned. The entries for each organisation in this booklet indicate whether or not they will pay expenses.

It is important that, where allowances are payable by the organisations, representatives submit any claims to them accordingly.

Non-Member representatives may only claim expenses where they are payable by the organisation concerned.

PRIORITY CATEGORY OF OFFICER SUPPORT

- (1) Nominated officers to provide Members with regular support on a proactive basis, and attend meetings where appropriate (including those outside bodies where officers attend at present).
- (2) Nominated officers to provide ad hoc support on specific agenda issues and act as a contact for feedback and implementation of action points. The onus will be on the Member to contact the nominated officer to facilitate these arrangements.
- (3) Current arrangements to continue where Members should liaise directly with Democratic Services (Committee) section.

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVES	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER
Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee	David Ambrose Smith (Lead Member) Julia Huffer (Substitute)	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox
Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Alan Sharp (Lead Member) Julia Huffer (Substitute Member)	Director, Operations: Jo Brooks
Citizens Advice West Suffolk	Amy Starkey (Lead Member) Alan Sharp (Deputy)	Communities & Partnerships Manager: Lewis Bage
Community Safety Partnership	Lis Every Lead Member Christine Ambrose Smith Jo Webber (Substitute) Alan Sharp (Substitute)	Neighbourhood Support Officer: Shona McKenzie
East of England Local Government Association	Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)	Chief Executive: John Hill
Health & Wellbeing Board	Julia Huffer	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox
Historic England – Heritage Champion	Lis Every	Planning Manager: Rebecca Saunt
Local Government Association	Joshua Schumann	Chief Executive: John Hill
Local Government Association – District Councils' Network	Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)	Chief Executive: John Hill
Paradise Centre Management Committee, Ely	David Ambrose Smith	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand
RECAP Board (formerly Waste & Environment Forum, Cambridgeshire Councils Association)	Julia Huffer	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox
Sanctuary Housing Services Ltd – East Cambridgeshire Management Committee	Christine Ambrose Smith Jo Webber	Housing & Community Safety Manager: Angela Parmenter
Soham and District Sports Association	Ian Bovingdon Dan Schumann	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS	REPRESENTATIVES	LEAD OFFICER
Burnt Fen	Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett (lay member)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Cawdle Fen	Christine Whelan Simon Harries Michael Rouse Rupert Moss-Eccardt Vacancy Vacancy	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Haddenham Level	Gareth Wilson Steve Cheetham	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Littleport and Downham	Christine Ambrose Smith David Ambrose Smith Lorna Dupré Jo Webber Paul Cox (lay member) Mark Taylor	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Middle Fen and Mere	Ian Bovingdon Victoria Charlesworth Alec Jones Dan Schumann Derrick Beckett (lay member)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Padnal and Waterden	David Ambrose Smith Lis Every Alison Whelan Paul Cox (lay member) Edward Carlsson Browne Debra Jordan Sue Kerridge	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Swaffham	David Brown Lavinia Edwards Alan Sharp John Trapp	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Waterbeach Level	David Chaplin (lay member)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Aims & Activities:

- The County Council's public health duty including health improvement, individual and community wellbeing, and reduction of health inequalities;
- To respond as appropriate to central government consultation relating to policy or legislation falling within the remit of the Committee;
- The review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in Cambridgeshire;
- To report to the Secretary of State for Health on any proposals for substantial change to any part of the NHS's services within Cambridgeshire,

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member(and substitute)	6	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
ECDC Representative	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Cllr David Ambrose Smith (Lead Member) Cllr Julia Huffer (Substitute)

Cllr Ambrose Smith:

This is a County Council committee and I have found that the members meet the aims and activities of the committee in full.

With the detail and scrutiny/challenge Members give every topic, it is reassuring for all parts of Cambridgeshire to know that the NHS's services are very well protected.

I do not believe continued representation on this Outside Body is required. The County Members cover the Committee's remit extremely well and as a non-voter, to date I have found that I have little to add to the debates/discussions.

Representation on the Health & Wellbeing Board, with its aims and activities, is a more appropriate outside body for ECDC to continue membership.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr David Ambrose Smith (Lead Member) Cllr Julia Huffer (Substitute)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Aims & Activities

- To hold the Police & Crime Commissioner (P&CC) to account on behalf of the public;
- To review the draft Police & Crime Plan;
- To publicly scrutinise the Commissioner's Annual Report;
- To review and scrutinise decisions and actions by the P&CC;
- To review and veto the Commissioner's proposed precept levels.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
1 Member (plus substitute)	4	£920 per annum (maximum) from a central fund administered by Peterborough City Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
ECDC Representative	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative(s) for 2019/20
1	Director, Operations: Jo Brooks	Cllr Alan Sharp (Lead Member) Cllr Julia Huffer (Substitute)

Cllr Sharp:

The work of the Panel is there to ensure that the Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) objectives for policing within Cambridgeshire are being met.

The Panel is important in ensuring that residents are protected and keeping a democratic overview of the police service.

During the year, the Panel had to approve the appointment of an acting PCC to replace the elected PCC who resigned in November 2018.

The Panel approved the precept set by the acting PCC, which was in line with the recommendation of Government, after the favourable budget settlement for 2020/21

The Panel is an important link between the police and residents. Representation of ECDC on the Panel is imperative to continue the democratic scrutiny of the police.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Alan Sharp (Lead Member) Cllr Julia Huffer (Substitute)

CITIZENS ADVICE WEST SUFFOLK

Aims & Activities

The CA aims to ensure that individuals do not suffer through ignorance of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available; or through an inability to express their needs effectively. Its main activity is the provision of a centre for advice and guidance, but the CA may also: publish reports, leaflets, etc; arrange exhibitions, meetings, lectures and classes; encourage or undertake research and disseminate results.

The Management Committee (Trustee Board) is responsible for the resource management of the CA i.e. employment of staff, utilisation of funds and compliance with NACAB rules. It prepares the annual budget, grant applications, and formulates a rolling programme for the development of the CA.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	Approximately every 6 weeks.	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Non Voting Observer	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
2	Communities & Partnerships Manager: Lewis Bage	Cllr Amy Starkey (Lead Member) Cllr Alan Sharp (Deputy)

Cllr Sharp:

Did not attend any meetings.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Amy Starkey (Lead Member) Cllr Alan Sharp (Deputy)

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Aims & Activities

- To consider the implications of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- To work in partnership with other organisations and groups to implement the Crime and Disorder Strategy
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
- To act as an Independent Chair for any Domestic Homicide Review (DHR), as agreed with the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership **

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
2 Members (plus deputies)	2	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
1	Neighbourhood Support Officer: Shona McKenzie	Cllr Lis Every Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Jo Webber (Substitute) Cllr Alan Sharp (Substitute)

Cllr Every (Lead Member):

It supports under the Crime & Disorder Act provisions. East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership is working to reduce threat, risk and harm to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. It also supports the Vulnerable Persons Policy and is part of the Action Plan. Its work is based on the County Council research of local need which identifies the priorities for the Board.

The Board receives up to date research data on our area, broken down further into smaller areas. This helps the Board to identify the areas of need, e.g. Littleport has now been identified as a hot spot for anti-social behaviour.

The CSP is a member of the Community Safety Officers Group and our CSP Manager, Shona McKenzie is the Vice Chair. The aim is to ensure that community safety in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is community-driven and community-level, and is a place where different communities have their needs met and people feel safe and secure. It works on the solutions that help tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. It also helps to develop the co-operation and confidence of the public with the Police in preventing crime and enhancing local community.

The ECDC CSP has led the Eyes & Ears project which has now been shared across and adopted by the rest of the County. Multi-agency training has taken place including young ambassadors to spread the word to take care and be aware of others needs in the community.

It has also been integral in the development of the Hate strategy across the County ensuring hate crime is recorded and followed up.

The East Cambs Youth Strategy came from the Board and has now been adopted by the Council.

Cllr Ambrose Smith:

The work of this Body is hugely important in raising issues and updating on progress on Antisocial Behaviour/Policing/Scams/Domestic Violence/Modern Day Slavery/Children/Older People/Housing & Homelessness and a host of other matters including Community Hubs.

This committee includes representatives from local authorities, police, fire and various agencies in connection with the above.

Antisocial behaviour reached a point in Littleport for instance where the community was worried to such an extent that a public meeting was held in Littleport which was attended by around 250 people, hosted by the Parish Council, and with the presence of Police, Community Safety Partnership officers, East Cambs Housing Team and other agencies in attendance. This was an opportunity for residents to voice their serious concerns. Following this, Police stepped up the level of presence and visibility in Littleport for a period of time, the community were encouraged to report incidents and provide valuable background information which helped the Police to eventually carry out a number of arrests resulting in successful prosecutions with jail terms imposed. This sent a strong message to those involved in dealing drugs and other criminal activity. A report on the community demographic was commissioned from officers of Cambs County Council (using a model developed for another community experiencing similar problems) which will be of assistance in obtaining funding and action for further work in Littleport. Littleport Parish Council representatives continue to meet with Police and other agencies to track progress in combatting antisocial behaviour and other criminal activity.

Continued representation is worthwhile because the world moves on and different problems emerge which have to be recognised and a strategy developed to deal with them. While we are a mainly rural District, there are pockets within our communities which suffer from inner city problems.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr Lis Every Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Jo Webber (Substitute) Cllr Alan Sharp (Substitute)

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Aims & Activities

- To represent the interests of local authorities in the region
- To formulate sound policies for the development of local government in the region
- To promote the policies of the East of England LGA and provide information/advice on local government issues to the public and partner organisations
- To enable Councillors to exercise their democratic accountability and leadership effectively
- To support innovation and excellence that enables local authorities and their partnerships to meet the needs of their communities and meet future challenges.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Leader of the Council	Assembly of Council Leaders – twice yearly	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Chief Executive John Hill	Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)

We draw on the expertise and resources of EELGA as needed.

This is a membership organisation, representing 50 Councils in the East of England that provides the Council with support and information. We use the support on an as needed basis and whilst we have not drawn on their expertise lately, it is important to continue our membership.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Aims & Activities

The engagement of parties interested in health, including mental health, and related issues so that they jointly evolve solutions to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of residents in East Cambridgeshire.

Provide local information to the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing board, related to health and wellbeing within East Cambridgeshire and the impact (actual or potential) of any relevant policy changes, service changes, proposals, and/or identified need.

Ensure the delivery and implementation of local health improvement and wellbeing priorities, in partnership, as identified in the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and in local action plans.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	4-6	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Decision Maker	TBC

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Cllr Julia Huffer

Cllr Huffer:

The Board looks at strategies to improve local health and community provision throughout the Combined Authority. It is looking at ways to reach vulnerable members of our community in the most effective way, from Early Years to all areas of Adult Social care.

We need to be able to contribute to the benefit of our residents, the work is still at an early stage and the Covid 19 crisis has highlighted the importance of the invaluable contribution that local organisations bring to our District. It is my hope that we can find a way to harness the extraordinary efforts and knowledge gained by the numerous Covid 19 support teams set up all over our District.

Continued representation on this Body is worthwhile because it is vital we work to find ways to improve the delivery of services to the most vulnerable in our District.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Julia Huffer

HISTORIC ENGLAND – HERITAGE CHAMPION

Aims & Activities

The network of Heritage Champions across the country supports the protection of the historic environment at a local level. At a strategic level, Champions can make sure that local plans and strategies capture the contribution that the local historic environment can make to the success of an area. More specifically they can:

- Help local authorities manage the historic environment of their area;
- Promote heritage within the local community, generating enthusiasm for and awareness of the importance of the local historic environment;
- Help ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all relevant activities and plans of the local authority;
- Support the Authority's local historic environment services (both archaeological and historic buildings conservation officers);
- Influence and communicate with others to ensure benefits for the historic environment.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	No formal number of meetings	See 'Insurance Provision' below

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	As Historic England acts as a coordinator and supports Champions within their own local authority, insurance and expenses for a councillor should be covered by the relevant authority.

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Planning Manager: Rebecca Saunt	Cllr Lis Every

Cllr Every:

No formal meetings with Heritage England, but informal discussions with our Conservation Officer in the Planning Department.

The role of the Heritage Champion is to help local authorities manage the historic environment of their area;

- Promote heritage within the local authority to generate enthusiasm for and awareness of the importance of our local historic environment;

- Help ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all relevant activities and plans of East Cambridgeshire; for example, helping to ensure good quality planning decisions are made;
- Support our Authority's local historic environment services (both archaeological and historic buildings Conservation Officer);
- Influence and communicate with others to ensure benefits for the historic environment.

Using the mandate offered by Historic England, we have been working on identifying a volunteer stakeholder led strategy to support the existing historic buildings, but also to identify other listed buildings and heritage trails that can add to local resident and visitor tourist experience of East Cambridgeshire.

East Cambridgeshire is an historic area with large pockets of historic buildings, e.g. City of Ely. We are determined to raise the awareness and perceived value of our historic heritage which will add to our tourism offer in bringing in more visitors and increasing footfall. It also supports the educational programmes in our local schools, particularly primary where a local study is a part of the curriculum.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Lis Every

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Aims & Activities

To support, promote and improve local government in England and Wales.

To support Councillors in their role as democratically elected local representatives.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	3	Attendance - Yes Travelling - No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Chief Executive: John Hill	Cllr Joshua Schumann

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Joshua Schumann

LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS’ NETWORK

Aims & Activities

- To lobby and negotiate directly with senior members of national political parties on district specific needs and issues – the “localism” agenda;
- To inform and influence national agencies, government departments and other local authority agencies on things that matter, such as resources and allocation;
- To get the Network’s unique message across to the audiences that matter – people, Government, partners, regulators;
- Help each other to remain effective and share learning/good practice.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Leader of the Council	4	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Chief Executive: John Hill	Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)

We draw on the expertise and resources as needed.

This is a membership organisation, representing 191 District Councils that provides a single voice for District Councils within the Local Government Association. We contact the organisation and use support and information on an as needed basis and it is important to continue our membership.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr Anna Bailey (Leader of the Council)

PARADISE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, ELY

Aims & Activities

- The provision of facilities for playing sports;
- The provision of opportunities for recreation, social activities and refreshment, for the benefit of its members and the public;
- The provision and maintenance of a sports and leisure centre at Paradise Ground, Ely; including selection of the centre management.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	6	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Non Voting Observer	Yes, for all staff & members

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
3	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand	Cllr David Ambrose Smith

Cllr David Ambrose Smith:

East Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Objectives are to support all leisure facilities throughout East Cambs. This is not necessarily with finance but with business advice from the Council's experienced Leisure Services team.

With the excellent working relationships the Leisure Services team have with all leisure facilities in East Cambs, I see little reason why representation on this Outside Body is required, as East Cambs does not have representation at committee/board level on all the other facilities.

Representative for 2020/21
Cllr David Ambrose Smith

RECAP BOARD

Aims & Activities

- Advise on remedial measures (bi or multi lateral)
- Ensure that each Council is sufficiently informed about and consulted on potential measures.
- Advise on the best use of resources including recycling credits, and on the programme of action.
- Explore whether a more formal Joint Waste Management Committee is desirable (for example, as operates in Devon), since this would almost certainly be necessary for the production of a joint municipal waste strategy.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
One Member	Quarterly	

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Representative of ECDC	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
1	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Cllr Julia Huffer

Cllr Huffer:

RECAP continues to work on waste reduction strategies and is also focussed on the Government consultation for the National Waste & recycling Strategy. This work is invaluable as we need to be in the front of the queue when funds are given out to Councils to implement the final solution.

Continued representation is vital to achieve our target of 60% recycling and to improve our waste services generally.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Julia Huffer

SANCTUARY HOUSING SERVICES LTD – EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Aims & Activities

A non-profit-making organisation, to provide affordable homes for rent throughout East Cambridgeshire.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Two Members	4	Travelling

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Limited Decision Making Role	N/A

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative(s) for 2019/20
1	Housing & Community Safety Manager: Angela Parmenter	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Jo Webber

Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith:

Sanctuary as one of the largest of the housing providers within East Cambs, has an obligation to provide good homes for our residents, maintaining those properties with rents set at affordable levels. One of the Council’s main objectives is the prevention of homelessness. This demands that the housing stock is used to the best advantage and the void periods between tenants are kept to a low level. When the void is a little longer, it is usually to allow for necessary renovation work to be carried out within a property, often following a tenant who has lived in the property for very many years.

As a representative of East Cambs, it is necessary to be aware of the general direction of work within the housing association, to have an understanding of the timescales worked to, and to highlight issues which have not been addressed using the normal channels to the satisfaction of the tenant.

The regular walk round inspections (these are not inspections of the interiors of properties) of the housing stock are valuable exercises.

A presentation was given on the way non payment of rent, or potential financial difficulties of tenants are dealt with. It was demonstrated that these issues are dealt with in a sensitive and constructive manner. Eviction & other appropriate measures are always the last possible actions. These are only used if the tenant refused to work with Sanctuary to resolve a problem, a tenant or their family member causing real distress to other tenants or as a result of criminal activity involving the property.

A presentation was given on the way maintenance issues are dealt with. Tenants should always follow the correct reporting process before attempting to escalate the matter. There are timescales for response, and in a large percentage of the requests for repairs the timescales are met well within that period. If these timescales are not met, it is sometimes because the

workforce has to be managed to ensure best value (not travelling long distances to make a minor repair which might wait until a maintenance team is in the area). Any repair or maintenance is potentially fraught with misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Parts ordered which turn out not to fit; tenants delayed and arriving home only to find the maintenance team have arrived and departed because they could not access the property. These all cause frustration and delay. There is the occasional lack of understanding regarding the responsibility of the tenant and the responsibility of Sanctuary.

There are obviously budget constraints, so the expensive replacement of a kitchen or bathroom might be required to wait until the new financial year, for instance. A need for an adaptation will be considered separately. It is possible that a move to a property already adapted and available might be a better option for consideration. It is possible that adaptations for one tenant might need to be removed for the next.

There are ongoing programmes for the updating of properties within a development – locally many properties have had exterior cladding which not only makes a great improvement to energy efficiency but also improves the outside appearance. Replacements of exterior doors and windows are currently ongoing within a development, and a project to look at kitchens & bathrooms is planned to follow this.

A great number of the residents of East Cambs live in Sanctuary (and other Housing Association) properties, and need this accommodation, which is safe, suitable and has secure tenancy agreements. Some people will always prefer private rented accommodation, but that is their choice (and of course, sometimes their only option). It is essential that East Cambs has representatives able to raise issues where necessary, to ask questions, and to become more knowledgeable. Those representatives are able to ask the ‘man in the street’ questions. They will receive an explanation, it might not be the answer they want, but will help their understanding.

Continued representation is a worthwhile use of my time and interest. A home is to most people, one of the most important things in their lives.

I have found the local management and officers of Sanctuary to be committed and caring, with an in depth knowledge of their tenants and the properties throughout the District. There will always be a demand for properties of the right size and type in the right location. Sanctuary do the best they can to satisfy the needs of their tenants.

Cllr Joanne Webber:

Sanctuary Housing is a national housing association with a large stock of housing in East Cambridgeshire, which includes both general needs and residential care for the elderly.

ECDC have responsibility for housing services and Sanctuary Housing play a vital role in ensuring that our residents have access to suitable accommodation which is safe and well maintained.

Sanctuary managers and housing officers work closely with the Housing Team at ECDC and have staff located with the Customer Services Team so that residents can easily access support when required.

Quarterly meetings are held between Sanctuary management, tenant representatives and representatives from East Cambs District Council. I am currently one of the representatives along with Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith.

I chair the quarterly meetings and since becoming a rep’ we have had a number of presentations from Sanctuary managers on processes for managing rents and tenant financial hardship, maintenance, capital programmes, and tenant issues.

I think representation at these meetings is essential considering the close working relationship that ECDC has with Sanctuary Housing.

It is clear that Sanctuary work hard to support their residents' practical and emotional needs, but the processes are complex and Councillors need to be better informed. With this in mind, Sanctuary agreed to invite Councillors to join their Housing Officers on the regular inspections of their housing stock. It has been agreed that a seminar for Councillors would be beneficial so that processes can be explained in more detail and any questions and queries can be addressed.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr Jo Webber

SOHAM AND DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION (ROSS PEERS SPORTS CENTRE)

Aims & Activities

- To establish, maintain, finance and manage an indoor sports hall;
- To act as a central body representing all sports interests in Soham and the surrounding district;
- To maintain and improve the provision of all sports learning and recreational facilities within Soham and the surrounding district.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Two Members	6	No

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Observer	No

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative(s) for 2019/20
2	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Dan Schumann

Cllr Bovingdon:

The provision of sports and leisure facilities forms an important part of ECDC's commitment to ensuring that the District continues to be an area where people want to live, businesses want to base themselves and grow, and people want to visit.

The provision of this leisure facility is essential to the growth of Soham, particularly with the large growth in population that the town will experience over the next 5 years.

The sports centre has undergone many changes in staffing and particularly management over the last 12 months and great improvements were seen under the guidance of Robin Jones, who unfortunately has recently left to pursue another career. The centre is facing some difficulties in finance and urgently requires support for repairs to the roof.

I have some concerns over the immediate priorities and ongoing management although there does appear to be some progress on this with the current make-up of the committee. ECDC can really help here with guiding a plan for the next 5 years and certainly with financial support.

Continued representation is essential because this is a very important facility for the local community which is struggling financially to provide the town with sporting and leisure activities and will continue to do so as the town expands without significant support from ECDC.

Cllr Dan Schumann:

Soham & district Sports Association operate the Ross Peers Sports Centre, which is part of the network of leisure centres that ECDC created and retains a relationship with. ECDC also grant a small amount of funding to the Ross Peers Sports Centre each year. The work of the centre links to the Communities & Leisure department. The provision of sports and leisure

facilities for the local population fits in with our key priority around making East Cambs a 'fantastic place to live'.

The Ross Peers Sports Centre is in desperate need of an upgrade and staffing has also been an issue.

Continued representation is worthwhile because this is a key facility in Soham and ECDC need to work with SDSA to plan for its improvement and sustainable future.

Meetings are few and seem to be moved, cancelled or called at short notice, which proves difficult to ensure attendance.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Dan Schumann

SECTION 2

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

Burnt Fen
Cawdle Fen
Haddenham Level
Littleport and Downham
Middle Fen and Mere
Padnal and Waterden
Swaffham
Waterbeach Level

BURNT FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Two Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative(s) for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr Julia Huffer Mr Derrick Beckett (lay member)

Cllr Huffer:

The Drainage Board ensures the continued management of water levels and waterways throughout the District which supply the many farms and related industries in our area.

The IDB's continue to do excellent work in our District. They are extremely well run and managed, and I recommend our continued support.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Julia Huffer Mr Derrick Beckett (lay member)

CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Seven Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative(s) for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr Christine Whelan Parish Cllr Michael Rouse Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy

Cllr Christine Whelan:

More representatives are required for this Board as there are several vacancies.

The discussion was primarily around the safety of the staff when going to inspect the areas. A discussion was held on the safety issues and whether this was adequate. I raised the question on whether solo working was appropriate and was assured that the contact system was adequate for this task and that there was adequate training. Another issue discussed was the mink problem within the area and how these animals were killing the natural local wildlife. Traps have been installed to catch minks in the area, which have been successful in other countries. I did not attend the meeting on financial reports, so am unable to report on this meeting.

I think continued representation is worthwhile as this is a major flood area and the upkeep of the pumping stations is of vital importance. We need to be aware of any problems that exist with the systems in place.

Accessibility to the meetings needs to be looked at, as Board members may struggle with the meetings; all meetings of any kind need to be inclusive.

Parish Cllr Rouse:

I regularly attend Cawdle Fen IDB, I think I have full attendance this year.

I enjoy my representation on the IDBs as I believe that they do vital work in protecting our environment and supporting our most important local industry in producing our food. Maintaining the link with the local authority is very important.

Cllr Harries was appointed to the Board on 18th June 2020.

Representative(s) for 2020/21
Cllr Christine Whelan Cllr Simon Harries Parish Cllr Michael Rouse Rupert Moss-Eccardt Vacancy Vacancy

HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Two Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	To be confirmed

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

Parish Cllr Cheetham:

ECDC are committed to ensuring that East Cambridgeshire continues to be a District where people want to live, work and visit and ensuring flood defences are maintained is a critical element of this commitment.

Items for discussion have included the proposed construction of irrigation reservation reservoirs at Willow Hall Farm. Haddenham has continued with objections being raised by the Haddenham Level IDB on the planning application and potential implications for East Cambs.

The IDB has raised concerns on the amount of seepage coming through or under the 100ft river bank, which this year has caused more surface water on land than we have seen before, and the refusal of the Environment Agency to acknowledge the benefit of dredging, and carry it out.

A meeting had been planned for discussion with Lucy Frazer for the 14th March, but this was postponed and will be rescheduled to ensure the IDB's concerns are understood and raised at the highest political level.

This is a precepting body with the duty of protecting the Haddenham and Aldreth area from flooding and providing irrigation for agriculture. The meetings give a real insight into issues affecting farming and agriculture.

Cllr Wilson:

Drainage Boards are critical to preventing flooding and to make sure sufficient water is available for local farmers to irrigate their crops.

Most items discussed by the Board are technical and of particular relevance to local farmers. Some include improving the environment, particularly protecting flora and fauna on our local waterways.

I was elected Vice Chairman and was able to assist with financial matters and those items that affect the village.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr Gareth Wilson Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

LITTLEPORT AND DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Six Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Jo Webber Mr Paul Cox (lay member) Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith:

Drainage is a highly important issue within the District, and it is important that the District Council maintains their close connection to the Drainage Boards via the councillor representatives.

The Drainage Boards are made up of representatives from within the farming community and the nominated representatives of the District Council. An experienced and knowledgeable Engineer is employed to advise and report to the Board and to lead, manage and direct the workforce. The Board is supported by a small able and experienced clerical team.

Meetings receive reports from the Chairman, Engineer and Clerk covering financial reports, reports of work completed, in progress and planned, and an update of matters for consideration. Much of this is for noting or voting to accept or amend recommendations. Any requests for further information or explanation are clearly dealt with.

Everything is relevant to the District Council and residents, as drainage is of utmost importance. Information of the items covered within meetings can be found within the minutes of the Board meetings available on the website 'Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards'.

The importance to the District of those responsible for drainage cannot be overstated and the District Council should continue to be represented by a full complement of Members and others nominated to fulfil this task.

An experienced and skilled Engineer reports to and advises a Board which includes many knowledgeable farmers who rely on good drainage in order to produce the food this country relies upon.

Cllr David Ambrose Smith:

IDBs are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDBs and value one another's contributions to the planning process. IDBs praiseworthy concerns regarding increasing their charges perhaps constrains them from carrying out more medium to long term planning.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it gives an understanding of the importance of Internal Drainage Boards within our District and the necessity of keeping drainage infrastructure in good order.

I believe that all our local IDBs should be amalgamated into a single Board which would bring efficiencies at all levels from governance to the water courses. ECDC Councillors/representation of one, possibly two, councillors on this single Board would then give ECDC a better joined up understanding of the whole area.

Cllr Lorna Dupré:

The work of the Drainage Board is to maintain the drainage network. This relates to the Council's corporate priority of a 'Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire'.

I attended the meeting of the Board on 6 November 2019, at which the Board appointed its Chair and Vice Chair, received the engineer's report and internal audit report, and discussed an update from Peter Brett Associates on its modelling work which confirms the importance of proactive flood management in the District.

I was unable to attend the Budget Meeting on 10 February 2020.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 13 May 2020. I am waiting to hear whether this will take place in the light of the current coronavirus pandemic.

Drainage, flooding, and water management are critical to the life of the District and the Council needs to be well represented on the bodies that are engaged in this.

Cllr Jo Webber:

The Internal Drainage Boards play a vital role in keeping East Cambridgeshire free from flooding, supporting our agricultural industry by maintaining drainage channels and providing irrigation services throughout the drier months.

Additionally, the IDBs play an important role in the environment by maintaining habitats for wildlife, and will be a key stakeholder in the ECDC Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan.

Climate change and the increase in risk of flooding is a huge topic of conversation and discussion continues to raise the profile of the issue, and highlights the risks to our District as well as sharing the proposals to mitigate the increased risks. Farmers need to be confident that actions taken to mitigate risks do not impact on the ability to produce crops.

As the Local Planning Authority, ECDC plays a key role in the overall plan to address the risks to our area along with the County Council as the Lead Flood Authority, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards.

With the emerging ECDC Climate Change Action Plan & Strategy coming forward, I think it is increasingly important that East Cambs continues to be represented on the IDBs, and for

Members to be aware of the issues that face both our residents and local businesses, and the funding required to mitigate those risks.

East Cambridgeshire is flat and low lying and the Ely IDBs do a fantastic job in maintaining the drainage channels, which supports our agricultural industry. The IDB Engineer plays a key role in considering future risk to our area of flooding and it is vital that we continue to support their work, listen to their issues and take their concerns on board, to ensure that East Cambridgeshire continues to be free from flooding, and area rich in wildlife and a great place to live for our residents.

Mr Paul Cox:

The Internal Drainage Boards are important partners of East Cambs District Council, and the ECDC Planning Department works closely with the various IDB's (of which there are 10 or more in the District).

Membership of the various IDB's gives Members an insight into drainage and the countryside at large.

I re-joined membership of two of the IDB's and halfway through the Drainage Boards' year. The first meeting was on 10th February 2020; further meetings were suspended due to COVID 19.

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor:

Nothing to report.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith
Cllr David Ambrose Smith
Cllr Lorna Dupré
Cllr Jo Webber
Mr Paul Cox (lay member)
Parish Cllr Mark Taylor

MIDDLE FEN AND MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Five Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Victoria Charlesworth Cllr Alec Jones Cllr Dan Schumann Mr Derrick Beckett (lay member)

Cllr Bovingdon:

As part of ECDC's commitment to ensuring that the District continues to be an area where people want to live, businesses want to base themselves and grow, and people want to visit, it is essential that the work of the IDB's are maintained and supported in order to ensure flood defences are correctly planned, managed and robust. This protects local agriculture and enforcement of correct drainage rules/procedures upon new home and commercial developments. This Board continues to do this important work.

Many issues were discussed which have a potential impact on agriculture, ecology and new developments within the area which also affects East Camb's 5 year housing supply. General flood risk planning, management, costs and processes were discussed and agreed. This is a very important IDB for the area, affected by many different issues and I consider their work essential.

Continued representation is worthwhile because this is a very important body protecting the local area from the risk of flooding together with managed irrigation for agriculture. The IDB has a real understanding of the complex issues surrounding development and infrastructure impact on flooding and need to be supported in their management efforts particularly in light of increasing threats from flooding affected by climate changes.

Cllr Jones:

The Internal Drainage Board has a key role in reducing flood risk and protecting ECDC service users and industries.

So far meetings have dealt with mainly administrative issues, electing a chairman, dealing with annual accounts, etc ... The Engineer's report did deal with more pressing practical issues, such as a need for replacement of some equipment, humane trapping of mink and changes to rainfall patterns in the previous year.

Recent flooding in many parts of the country has caused damage to housing and infrastructure. Having insight of bodies that can influence outcomes that have such a traumatic effect on the public is a sound justification for maintaining close links.

The members have been welcoming and the Engineer gave myself and Victoria a useful induction in the role of the Drainage Board and has offered a tour of some of the facilities to help understand its role in flood defence and managing water levels.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr Ian Bovingdon
Cllr Victoria Charlesworth
Cllr Alec Jones
Cllr Dan Schumann
Mr Derrick Beckett (lay member)

PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
Seven Members	3	By the Council

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lis Every Cllr Alison Whelan Mr Paul Cox (lay member) Parish Cllr Edward Carlsson Browne Debra Jordan Sue Kerridge

Cllr David Ambrose Smith:

IDBs are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDBs and value one another's contributions to the planning process. IDBs praiseworthy concerns regarding increasing their charges perhaps constrains them from carrying out more medium to long term planning.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it gives an understanding of the importance of Internal Drainage Boards within our District and the necessity of keeping drainage infrastructure in good order.

I believe that all our local IDBs should be amalgamated into a single Board which would bring efficiencies at all levels from governance to the water courses. ECDC Councillors/representation of one, possibly two, councillors on this single Board would then give ECDC a better joined up understanding of the whole area.

Cllr Lis Every:

The Internal Drainage Board (IDB) is the operating authority which is established in areas of special drainage need in England and Wales, e.g the Fens, with permissive powers to undertake work to secure clean water drainage and water level management within drainage districts. It also has the authority to add a levy to the Council Tax. Internal Drainage Boards are a statutory consultee for all planning applications. In this area, which seeks growth, the work of the IDB is a very important organisation which has representatives from local farmers and councillor representative from ECDC.

As seen from above, the work undertaken by the IDB is vital for the area, ensuring that there is no flood activity, that the relevant maintenance is undertaken, the right levels of water for irrigation are maintained and the protection of species, ie eels, is undertaken. It is a statutory consultee for all planning applications. Discussions are ongoing concerning the North Ely development.

Continued representation is absolutely vital, ie as consultee for planning applications and an influence on the ultimate Council Tax levy.

Cllr Alison Whelan:

I am unable to report on the activities of the Drainage Board as their meetings are not held in an accessible place.

This is an unacceptable position and fails to meet the ECDC Equality Scheme.

Mr Paul Cox:

The Internal Drainage Boards are important partners of East Cambs District Council, and the ECDC Planning Department works closely with the various IDB's (of which there are 10 or more in the District).

Membership of the various IDB's gives Members an insight into drainage and the countryside at large.

I re-joined membership of two of the IDB's and halfway through the Drainage Boards' year. The first meeting was on 10th February 2020; further meetings were suspended due to COVID 19.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr David Ambrose Smith
Cllr Lis Every
Cllr Alison Whelan
Mr Paul Cox (lay member)
Parish Cllr Edward Carlsson Browne
Parish Cllr Debra Jordan
Parish Cllr Sue Kerridge

SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
*Four Members	3	By Council

*Four Councillors, plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990, whereby East Cambridgeshire District Council makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB). Appointments are for three years.

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representatives for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

Cllr Brown:

The Internal Drainage Board (IDB) plays a very important role in water and environmental management in the local area, to keep East Cambridgeshire a safe and attractive place to live.

The IDB is a significant recipient of public funds and it is very important that the District Council plays a full part in the decision making of the IDB. For example, this year the IDB took the decision to purchase a new excavator (for £100,000). The IDB also agreed to fund and install mink traps in the local area.

Decision making of such magnitude needs to be properly accountable.

Cllr Edwards:

The work of the IDB fits in with the District Council's commitment to ensure and maintain the drainage network, particularly as the District has a large agricultural element with much employment.

Issues for discussion have included the setting of the levy for the next financial year, land management and ecology.

Representation is important to ECDC because it allows the representative an understanding of the work of the IDB within the District. IDB's are vital, protecting the area from flooding and they are a consultee for planning applications.

Cllr Sharp:

Living in a District where a large part of the land is fenland, the work of the Internal Drainage Board is very important.

The successful management of waterways fits in with our commitment to climate change policy.

Various engineering projects are discussed, together with the financial implications of actions taken by the Board.

The management of waterways from a big part of the work that needs to be undertaken in the District, as part of the planning to achieve acceptable outcomes in tackling Climate Change.

Cllr Trapp:

Due to previous commitments, I could only manage to come to one meeting which discussed the budget for next year. The meeting was short, but it was well managed, with good explanations of why expenditure on new equipment had to be made in the next year, and the precept raised.

The venue for the meeting is only accessible by able bodied members, and a new venue may have to be considered in the future.

Representatives for 2020/21
Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

Aims & Activities

To maintain the drainage network.

Representation	Meetings per year	Expenses paid by Organisation
*One Member	3	By the Council

*One Councillor, jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (East Cambridgeshire makes the appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990, whereby South Cambridgeshire District Council makes the joint appointment to Swaffham IDB). IDB appointments are for three years.

Status of Member	Insurance Provision
Board Member	Yes

Category of Officer Support	Contact Officer	Representative for 2019/20
3	Finance Manager: Ian Smith	Mr David Chaplin (lay member)

Representative for 2020/21
Mr David Chaplin (lay member)

¹ The Charity Commission provide guidance under the following link:
http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/ccpubs3.aspx#pub