

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

2022-23

(Including reports from representatives for 2021-22)

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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 balance 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 Council's.

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:

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

Some of the most common examples of outside bodies are:

- Charitable Trust;
- 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 Members' Code of Conduct that was adopted on 26 July 2012. The Code of Conduct indicates that when a Member acts as a representative of 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 a 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 that 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 could 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

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 Councillor's 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.

The Companies Act 2006 can be found on the Government's website (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/46/contents>). The specific section regarding Directors' Duties is available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/46/part/10/chapter/2>

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 Section 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;

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

- 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 Commission 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.

Specific guidance, including “5-minute guides for charity trustees”, is available on the Government’s website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-commission-guidance>

Further information is also available on the Charity Commission’s 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, or a Councillor’s liability is protected or limited in some other manner by the body.**

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 Council officials who serve in an executive capacity on an outside body.**

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

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.** Members should liaise directly with Democratic Services (Committees).

SUMMARY OF OUTSIDE BODIES AND REPRESENTATIVES 2022-23

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER	RELEVANT COMMITTEE
Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee	Lis Every (<i>Lead Member</i>) Julia Huffer (<i>Substitute</i>)	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Operational Services
Cambridgeshire Health & Wellbeing Board	Julia Huffer	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Operational Services
Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Alan Sharp (<i>Lead Member</i>) Julia Huffer (<i>Substitute</i>)	Communities & Partnership Manager: Lewis Bage	Operational Services
Citizens Advice West Suffolk	Amy Starkey (<i>Lead Member</i>) Alan Sharp (<i>Substitute</i>)	Communities & Partnerships Manager: Lewis Bage	Operational Services
Community Safety Partnership	Christine Ambrose Smith (<i>Lead Member</i>) Lis Every Alan Sharp Jo Webber (<i>Substitute</i>)	Neighbourhood & Community Safety Officer: Emma Graves-Brown	Operational Services
East Cambridgeshire Community Land Trust	Anna Bailey Lisa Stubbs (<i>until 2022 AGM</i>)	Corporate Unit Manager: Sally Bonnett	Finance & Assets
East of England Local Government Association	Leader of Council: Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: John Hill	Finance & Assets
Historic England – Heritage Champion	Lis Every	Planning Manager: Rebecca Saunt	Operational Services
Local Government Association	Joshua Schumann	Chief Executive: John Hill	Finance & Assets
Local Government Association – District Councils Network	Leader of Council: Anna Bailey	Chief Executive: John Hill	Finance & Assets
Paradise Centre Management Committee, Ely	David Ambrose Smith	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand	Operational Services
RECAP Board	Julia Huffer	Environmental Services Manager: Liz Knox	Operational Services
Sanctuary Housing Services Ltd – East Cambridgeshire Management Committee	Christine Ambrose Smith Jo Webber	Housing & Community Safety Manager: Angela Parmenter	Operational Services
Soham and District Sports Association	Ian Bovingdon Dan Schumann	Senior Leisure Services Officer: Victor Le Grand	Operational Services

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	ECDC CONTACT OFFICER
Burnt Fen	Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett (<i>Lay Member</i>)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Cawdle Fen	Simon Harries Christine Whelan Rupert Moss-Eccardt Ian Lindsay Vacancy 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 Mark Taylor Vacancy	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Middle Fen and Mere	Ian Bovingdon Mark Goldsack Alec Jones Dan Schumann Derrick Beckett (<i>Lay Member</i>)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Padnal and Waterden	David Ambrose Smith Lis Every Alison Whelan Debra Jordan Sue Kerridge Clive Webber Vacancy	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Swaffham	David Brown Lavinia Edwards Alan Sharp John Trapp	Finance Manager: Ian Smith
Waterbeach Level	David Chaplin (<i>Lay Member</i>)	Finance Manager: Ian Smith

Section 1

ORGANISATIONS

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

AIMS AND 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:	One Member and one Substitute
Status of Member:	Non-voting member
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox

Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Lis Every (<i>Lead Member</i>) Cllr Julia Huffer (<i>Substitute</i>)
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REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Lis Every (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

The Adults and Health Committee has a statutory responsibility for Health Scrutiny of NHS commissioners and providers and non-NHS providers of NHS funding and services. The Committee can review matters and make recommendations to the NHS and other relevant organisations. A representative from each District Council sits on the Scrutiny of Health Committee which is held separate from the Adults Committee. District Councillors are there as observers and have no vote.

Over the past year, the Committee has focused on Covid-19 Recovery for NHS Trusts, performance and quality monitoring, thematic scrutiny areas (e.g. the dental services), new developments (e.g. the new Integrated Care System).

ECDC has helped fund local GP services with CIL money and the development of the Princess of Wales Hospital is moving forward (Corporate Objective in Social and Community Infrastructure). Health Services, although not a statutory area for ECDC, they have a vested interest in the health of the community. As can be seen from the above this is really relevant to ECDC and the health and well-being of our community.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The remit of the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board is to work to promote the health and wellbeing of Cambridgeshire's communities and its focus is on securing the best possible health outcomes for all residents.

The Member should 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.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Voting member
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	4-6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	-
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox

Representative for 2022/23: Cllr Julia Huffer

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 1 of 2 meetings)

The Health and Wellbeing Board continues to work across County and Districts along with health professionals to ensure that our residents receive the best possible care.

Support for this organisation should continue.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE POLICE & CRIME PANEL

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) provides checks and balances on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Panel does not scrutinise Cambridgeshire Constabulary; it scrutinises how the PCC carries out their statutory responsibilities. While the Panel is there to constructively challenge the PCC, it also has a key role in supporting the Commissioner in their role in enhancing public accountability of the police force.

- Review and make recommendations on the draft Police and Crime Plan.
- Scrutinise the PCC, inviting the Chief Constable to attend before the PCP where appropriate.
- Review the PCC's appointment of Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy PCC where one is appointed.
- Make reports and recommendations on matters relating to the PCC.
- Monitor all complaints against the PCC and the informal resolution of such complaints where necessary.
- Question the PCC on the annual report in a public meeting.
- Veto powers on the PCC's proposed annual council tax precept and appointment of Chief Constable.

Representation:	One member and one substitute
Status of Member:	ECDC representative
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	£920 per annum (maximum) from a central fund administered by Peterborough City Council
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Communities & Partnership Manager, Lewis Bage
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Alan Sharp (<i>Lead Member</i>) Cllr Julia Huffer (<i>Substitute</i>)

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 4 of 5 meetings)

The Police & Crime Panel is important, as it fits into ECDC's objective of keeping the public safe, whilst also fitting into the objective of influencing policing within our District.

The continued representation on the Police & Crime Panel is required, for the interests of ECDC.

I have attended all but one of the Panel meetings and I was elected vice-chair of the panel.

This year has seen the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), after a period of “holding the fort” by the previous acting PCC who held the post for months after the resignation of the previous PCC in November 2019.

The new PCC included the panel in the formulation of the Police & Crime Plan from an early stage, and this has been a trend, where the new PCC has engaged with the panel from the outset.

The panel have asked challenging questions of the PCC and those have been answered in a positive manner.

It has been a very positive start to the PCC’s term of office.

CITIZENS ADVICE WEST SUFFOLK

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The objective of the service is to provide free, confidential, impartial and independent holistic advice to enable local residents to deal with a wide range of issues, including benefits, housing, money advice, employment, consumer, relationships and utilities. It values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. The nature of the assistance provided will depend on a client's needs and abilities.

The provision of this service requires that, at any one time, 2 to 6 advisers and 1 supervisor are on duty and 1 telephone number with 3 linked lines are available to members of the public. For face-to-face advice, offices are available at Foley House, Wellington Street, Newmarket. The charity holds the Advice Quality Standard and is accredited to the Money Advice and Pensions Service. It is also registered with the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Management Committee (Trustee Board) is responsible for the governance of the charity, including setting the overall vision and making strategic decisions. The Committee ensures there is effective planning, financial management and controls in place. It holds staff accountable while carrying ultimate responsibility for the activities of Citizens Advice West Suffolk.

Representation:	One Member and one Substitute
Status of Member:	ECDC representative (no decision-making powers)
No. meetings per year:	12
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	2
Contact Officer:	Communities & Partnerships Manager, Lewis Bage
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Amy Starkey (<i>Lead Member</i>) Cllr Alan Sharp (<i>Substitute</i>)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Amy Starkey

(*Not received.*)

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 1 meeting as a substitute)

I am a substitute member of the CAB – West Suffolk trustees.

I have attended one meeting during the year and the CAB is an important function within the support required for residents during the last two years.

ECDC supports the West Suffolk CAB well in terms of grant funding and it is important that a continued presence is maintained to ensure that resident's interests are maintained.

The meetings are a mixture of zoom with a couple of face-to-face and that seems to be the way that it will continue, with maybe three face-to-face meetings a year and the rest on zoom. There have been clashes of date with other commitments, which has resulted in a lower attendance.

However, looking at the meeting pattern for the coming year, it seems to sit better with other meetings.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

- Section 6 of the 1998 Act requires the responsible authorities [commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP)] in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area.
- To work in partnership with other organisations and groups to implement the Strategies.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies.
- To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of local people by improving Community Safety and reducing crime and disorder (and the fear of crime) in East Cambridgeshire.

Representation:	Three Members and one Substitute
Status of Member:	ECDC representative. Lead Member has voting rights.
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Neighbourhood & Community Safety Officer, Emma Graves-Brown
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (<i>Lead Member</i>) Cllr Lis Every Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr Jo Webber (<i>Substitute</i>)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended 3 meetings)

The CSP provides a forum for a number of agencies to work together to put in place strategies / action plans to deal with a large range of issues which impacts on our communities. The agencies include:

- Police & Fire
- Health – GP's
- Local authorities - District & County officers
- Specialists

- Elected members and others.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile because this is valuable work which goes on very much behind the scenes of which the majority of residents are probably unaware. This does indeed shine a light on problems which blight the lives of many residents and their communities as a whole and endeavours to put in place effective measures to combat individual and collective distress, improving the lives of our residents.

Items considered / discussed have included:

- ASB
- Drugs – exploitation – County Lines
- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Day Slavery
- Identifying Scams
- Knife Crime
- Hate Crime
- Safety of Women & Children
- Empowering the Youth of our district.

Cllr Lis Every (attended 3 meetings)

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour. Community Safety Partnerships were set up under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Some organisations, like the District Council and the Police, are statutory members, but voluntary groups and businesses are also represented and play an important role.

Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues East Cambridgeshire is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations. We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan which we update each year.

This is organised strategically through the Partnership Board who operate a Problem-Solving Group where key personnel from all the agencies and local representation including schools discuss issues concerning the above. If a solution cannot be found, it is referred to the Delivery Group which is also multi-agency where a Task and Finish Group is formed. Funding is available for the CSP through ECDC and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Currently the Task and Finish Groups working are:

- Youth Provision across District (working closely with the ECDC's Youth Strategy)
- Social and private landlord collaboration to support vulnerable families
- Mental Health provision for young people
- Local Parish Forums where there is an element of anti-social behaviour or issues that need resolving requiring a multi-agency approach

The Delivery Group also runs and funds projects, e.g:

- The very successful Eyes and Ears project which is now County-wide;
- The Drink Spiking Campaign;
- Safety on the streets campaigns;
- Road safety, security in the home, scams training.

ECDC has a statutory duty to work on community safety and is a stakeholder on the Community Safety Partnership. The CSP is a valuable organisation working closely with the

residents in order to make them feel and be safe and deal with issues that may arise. All of the above issues are relevant to ECDC and the CSP reports regularly to the Operational Services Committee.

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 2 meetings)

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is important to ensure that the objectives of ECDC are being met and we can collaborate with partner organisations to keep the public safe.

The continued representation on the CSP is required to continue, for the interests of ECDC and its residents.

Having only joined this Committee this year, it has been a good learning curve into its workings and I look forward to making further contributions during the coming year.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

East Cambs Community Land Trust is incorporated to enable affordable homes to be owned and managed by an independent locally-run body that enables people to live and work locally. It is an “umbrella” Community Land Trust (CLT) and therefore covers a wider area or region than a local CLT and takes a complementary, supportive, role to any local CLTs.

Its purpose is to carry on, for the benefit of people in need (whether by virtue of poverty, financial hardship, age, physical or mental disability or ill health), in East Cambridgeshire:

- The business of providing and managing housing (including social housing) and facilitating the provision and management of such housing;
- The provision of, and facilitating the provision of, information, advice, assistance, training, support, facilities, amenities and services incidental to the provision and promotion of housing;
- The promotion of regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation in such ways as may be thought fit by the Trustees;
- Any other charitable object that can be carried out from time to time by a community land trust and which the Trustees consider would further the social, economic and environmental interest of the community in the area of benefit.

Representation: Up to three Members (total of one vote irrespective of number of Members.)

Status of Member: Custodian Nominee Trustee

No. meetings per year: 3-4

Expenses paid by organisation: No

Insurance provision: Yes

Category of Officer Support (see p. 1): 3

Contact Officer: Corporate Unit Manager, Sally Bonnett

Representatives for 2022/23: Cllr Anna Bailey

Cllr Lisa Stubbs (appointment ends at the 2022 AGM)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllrs Anna Bailey and Lisa Stubbs (attended all 9 meetings)

ECCLT is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society, run by volunteers. The Trust was established in November 2017 as an umbrella Community Land Trust (CLT) for the whole of East Cambridgeshire. ECCLT supports the work of the Council in promoting Community Land Trust development in the District and in securing affordable homes that help to enable people with ties to the area to live and work locally.

ECCLT owns and manages two affordable homes within Montgomery House that were part of the East Cambs Trading Company's Kings Row development in Barton Road, Ely which are occupied by local people. ECCLT also manages the Montgomery House building.

ECCLT has been working with East Cambs Trading Company on a proposal to take on the ownership and management of 15 shared ownership affordable homes on the ex-MOD housing site in Ely.

Continued representation on this outside body is very important – the District Council has Custodian Member status and has responsibilities to the Trust in that regard. Membership also helps to pursue the stated Corporate Plan housing objectives of the Council.

This organisation facilitates the delivery of affordable homes and supports the outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

EAST OF ENGLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND 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:	Leader of Council
Status of Member:	Representative of ECDC
No. meetings per year:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2022/23: **Cllr Anna Bailey**

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 1 meeting)

This is a member-led organisation whose core services are funded by member subscriptions from the East of England.

Core Services are a universal offer available to all subscribing members and provided free at the point of access. They include programmes of activity in priority areas, support for regional member and officer networks, a range of free events and briefings, specific helpdesk and advice services, as well as activity undertaken jointly with Trade Unions in its role as the Regional Employers Organisation.

The organisation provides support and advice to the Council, particularly adding value when in house services are not available.

Continued representation on this Outside Body is worthwhile; the organisation is useful to the Council in providing briefings, information, support and expertise and in representing local Government with central Government.

HISTORIC ENGLAND – HERITAGE CHAMPION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

The historic environment includes historic buildings, landscapes, monuments, places, archaeology (including marine archaeology) and areas. The Heritage Champion will promote the local historic environment, share best practice and attend training (where appropriate).

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:	One Member
Status of Member:	Champion
No. meetings per year:	0
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Planning Manager, Rebecca Saunt

Representative for 2022/23: **Cllr Lis Every**

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Lis Every (no formal meetings, regularly meets with Conservation Officer)

East Cambridgeshire has many locally important heritage assets, which are valued by residents and contribute to the area's character and identity, are local landmarks or are important to the community. Its heritage assets are a key focus for tourism in the area, which is supported by the East Cambridgeshire District Council Tourist Website.

These heritage assets may be buildings, archaeological remains, parks, gardens, or public work of arts. The Conservation Officer at ECDC, as well as being a statutory consultee regarding planning in conservation areas, works to support the new Local Heritage Listing

project set up by Cambridgeshire County Council and each of the 5 District Councils. We are setting up our own local lists of heritage assets that are important to the people living in this community. In addition, it is anticipated that a local Heritage Forum will be resurrected engaging with local interested residents and heritage stakeholders to further develop this resource and encourage more visitors to the area.

This is an important part of the work that ECDC does which is not only statutory but in keeping with development of the area as an important historic and tourist area.

Regular meetings are held on the above to expand further the work that is being done.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	Representative of ECDC (voting Member)
No. meetings per year:	1
Expenses paid by organisation:	Yes (attendance only, not travel)
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representative for 2022/23: **Cllr Joshua Schumann**

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Joshua Schumann (observed 4 virtual meetings)

Although not directly linked to any specific corporate objectives, the relationship with the LGA could contribute to all of our objectives.

It is important that we have a presence at the LGA as they are continuing to lobby government on issues such as fairer funding. The LGA also offers important networking opportunities.

Covid restrictions in the previous 12 months have resulted in either the LGA events being cancelled or moved online. The next 12 months will hopefully see more events in person taking place as these offer a great opportunity to see what the LGA is focusing on and provide an opportunity to network with other councillors and representatives from throughout the UK.

LGA – DISTRICT COUNCILS NETWORK

AIMS AND 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:	Leader of Council
Status of Member:	ECDC representative
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Chief Executive, John Hill

Representatives for 2022/23: **Cllr Anna Bailey**

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Anna Bailey (attended 1 meeting)

The District Councils’ Network (DCN) is a cross-party member-led network of 180 District Councils. It is a Special Interest Group of the Local Government Association (LGA), and provides a single voice for all District Councils within the Local Government Association.

Being a member of the network supports the work of the organisation, provides valuable information and data to the Council and facilitates networking, helping the Council to lobby Government and fulfil its statutory and non-statutory activities.

Over the last two years the DCN has been particularly pro-active during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more latterly on housing policy, convening meetings with Government Ministers and Leaders of its Member Councils, providing a single voice to Government and making the case for funding and powers to be given to District Councils. Topics have been wide ranging covering most aspects of the functions of District Councils.

This organisation has been an incredibly effective conduit for District Councils and central Government, particularly in relation to dealings with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; it has meant that District Councils have had a strong and united voice.

PARADISE CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

AIMS AND 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:	One Member
Status of Member:	Non-voting Observer
No. meetings per year:	6
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Senior Leisure Services Officer, Victor Le Grand
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr David Ambrose Smith

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

Not notified of any meetings during the year.

(This has now been resolved.)

RECAP BOARD

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

RECAP has representation from all Districts, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The partnership was set up to enable discussion and joint decisions. By working collaboratively on both the collection and disposal of waste as well as associated areas of work, education, fly-tipping efficiencies have been realised.

The RECAP Board shall:

- act as the focus for discussion and to deliver a political perspective and steer to the scope of activities undertaken by the RECAP Partnership.
- establish and implement a process of partnership and joint working on issues included within the scope of activities, seeking consensus within the budgets delegated by the constituent Councils, whilst respecting the individual council policies and authorisations of individual members.
- investigate ways of working to deliver services provided by Partner authorities in a more economic and efficient way, including the investigation of joint procurement where applicable.
- promote data sharing of the local environmental services provided by the Partner authorities and others in order to identify best practice.
- agree and recommend to the appointing authorities, the breakdown of the financial contribution to be made by respective Councils towards the coordination and development of the work of the RECAP Partnership.
- agree an annual work programme and recognise the achievements of the RECAP Partnership by regularly reporting on progress to the Cabinets of the County Council and Peterborough City Council and to the appropriate District Council Executives.
- promote common messages and common themes to ensure a consistent approach between the Partner authorities.
- contribute to the process of public consultation and public debate in relation to the services included in the scope of activities.
- consider the impact of legislation and national policy development and to make recommendations on the implications for, and response of, Partner authorities.

Representation:	One Member
Status of Member:	ECDC representative. Decision-maker.
No. meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	No
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Environmental Services Manager, Liz Knox
Representative for 2022/23:	Cllr Julia Huffer

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended all 5 meetings)

RECAP is a vital source of communication and information with other local districts dealing with all matters to do with waste and recycling. We are working together to respond to Central Government's consultations about the reform of waste services throughout the country.

The work done by officers and members alike is vital to ensure that ECDC is able to respond rapidly to any national decision taken regarding recycling and the waste service.

SANCTUARY HOUSING SERVICES LTD
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Decision-maker (limited)
Approx. no. of meetings per year:	4
Expenses paid by organisation:	Travel
Insurance provision:	No
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	1
Contact Officer:	Housing & Community Safety Manager, Angela Parmenter

Representatives for 2022/23: **Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith**
Cllr Jo Webber

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended all 3 meetings)

Sanctuary Housing and its predecessor took over the stock of social housing within the District that were owned and operated by the local council up until the early 1970s. Sanctuary hold the largest share of social housing within East Cambs and as such are a significant organisation. As part of a national HA this does mean that some services are necessarily a little more remote (Customer Services, Property Maintenance) than some residents feel entirely comfortable with. The local Sanctuary Housing office does always demonstrate however an impressive local knowledge of the housing stock, their tenants, and the difficulties around the large number of properties built just before or in the immediate aftermath of WW2. An aging housing stock will always require a great deal of ongoing maintenance. Many of these properties were however, built on generous plots with good accommodation and make excellent family homes.

Continued representation is worthwhile because it enables at least two Councillors to have a deeper understanding of how this housing provider works, building an easy working relationship with the management and other officers based locally and the challenges that are faced – staffing, budgets, managing the expectations of their tenants and many other smaller details. The last two years have been difficult for everyone and for every organisation. The inability to deal with many maintenance issues short of extreme emergencies have led to a

backlog of work. Many of the maintenance staff have themselves been unable to work either because of illness, shielding of family members or having been in contact with those shown to be Covid positive. It is possible that we will all be living with these issues for some considerable time. Materials and replacement parts have had lengthy lead times or have been difficult to source throughout the construction industry. For a tenant awaiting a repair – possibly living without heat or power, hot water, damaged exteriors, or interiors – this is sometimes difficult to accept. We encourage Councillor colleagues to escalate matters where they have been contacted as the Ward Member once the tenant has followed the process of reporting via the Sanctuary helpdesk without success.

Relevant issues discussed have included disputes with neighbours, requests for work to improve accessibility, complaints regarding the state of neighbouring gardens, noise, and other nuisances.

Cllr Jo Webber (attended all 3 meetings)

Sanctuary Housing are 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.

As the largest residential social landlord in East Cambridgeshire, I think it is crucial that a strong working relationship is maintained not only between Sanctuary Staff and ECDC Officers, but also with Ward Members who are representing their residents. It is important for Members to gain an understanding of the processes and procedures that are in place, and how they can work with Sanctuary to support their residents in the most effective way.

Sanctuary Managers and Housing Officers work closely with the Housing Team at ECDC and have staff located alongside the Customer Services Team, so that residents can easily access support when required.

Quarterly meetings are normally held between Sanctuary management, tenant representatives, and representatives from East Cambs District Council. I am currently one of the representatives for ECDC along with Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith, and chair the meetings. Since the outbreak of the coronavirus it was agreed that the quarterly meetings would be put on hold with reports being sent to all members of the Committee for comment and feedback. This has continued as the older members of the Group are more reluctant to return to face-to-face meetings at the present time. Regular zoom meetings have still been held between the East Cambs Representatives, and Lorna Philcox the Operations Manager for Sanctuary, and more recently Ben Tranter who has taken over from Lorna Philcox during her secondment to Head of Housing. These regular meetings enable issues to be escalated and information to be shared.

Section 2

INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARDS

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Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are public bodies that manage water levels in areas where there is a special need for drainage. They reduce flood risk to people and property and they manage water levels for agricultural and environmental needs. IDBs are funded by a combination of drainage rates levied on the owners of farmland, and special levies on District and Unitary Councils. District Councils appoint representatives to IDBs, the number of representatives being determined by the IDBs by consideration of the percentage of the Board's income being paid by each Council.

Haddenham Level IDB is part of the Middle Level Commissioners, all other IDBs on which ECDC is represented are part of the Ely Group of Internal Drainage Boards.

Appointment of ECDC representatives to Internal Drainage Boards has been discussed at various Council and Committee meetings² and the following process has been agreed:

1. Nominations should be invited from the Members of Council.
2. If vacancies cannot all be filled from within the District Council then;
 - a. former District Councillors who are willing to continue in their IDB role could be nominated as a layperson, and;
 - b. the relevant Parish Council(s) should be invited to submit nominations.

If there are more nominations than vacancies then consideration should be given to the candidates' prior knowledge and experience of both the geographical area and the issues relevant to IDBs. In all cases, the final decision on each appointment rests with the Finance & Assets Committee.

² Resources & Finance Committee: 29 March 2018 (Agenda Item 11, Minute 94); 26 July 2018 (Agenda Item 12, Minute 35).
Council: 19 April 2018 (Agenda Item 10, Minute 89).
Finance & Assets Committee: 20 June 2019 (Agenda Item 13, Minute 17); 26 September 2019 (Agenda Item 18, Minute 56).

BURNT FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely North Littleport
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council
Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by the Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Julia Huffer Derrick Beckett (<i>Lay Member</i>)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Julia Huffer (attended 3 of 4 meetings)

The IDB continues to perform vital work in maintaining and regulating the drainage systems throughout the District. It is an extremely well-run organisation, who carry out vital work to support our farmers and protect our residents from flooding.

Support for this organisation should continue.

Derrick Beckett

(Not received.)

CAWDLE FEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely West
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council
Representation:	Seven Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith

Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Simon Harries Cllr Christine Whelan Parish Cllr Ian Lindsay Rupert Moss-Eccardt [3 Vacancies]
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REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Simon Harries (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

This is one of the many drainage boards that have kept the fenland areas of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire not just prosperous as important farming areas but habitable at all. It is hard to think of a more important reason for supporting this organisation: it is basic necessity.

The Board also has an important connection to the Council's environmental policies. Though not directly guided by or dependent on these policies it is a key ally. I do not think we can achieve environmental improvement without close collaboration with the drainage boards.

I think it is essential for the Council to stay as closely connected as possible with the drainage boards, not just as a matter of common sense but for two very specific reasons.

- 1st, the risk of flooding is growing fast and every year becomes more urgent and troubling. We recognise that there will need to be large-scale investment at central government level in order to save the fens for the long term as habitable space, but the drainage boards are vital partners in delivering such policies.
- 2nd, in a rural area such as this, drainage boards amplify the voice and influence of the agricultural community, which otherwise risks being slightly marginalised,

especially as demographic change alters the character of the area. It is not possible to understand the importance of farming priorities and preoccupations except by participating in discussions within a forum of this kind, where the reality of how the natural world shapes our lives is unmistakably clear.

Water management, travel and transport, agriculture, environment, future strategic planning, cost and finance, tourism, and landscape and leisure are all relevant to the Council and have been discussed by the drainage board.

Cllr Christine Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

It gives ECDC and Parish councils an insight into the work that is done by the drainage board and the importance of keeping the Fens well drained to avoid flooding in the area.

Representation to the board is worthwhile and although I haven't been able to attend many meetings this year getting the reports through has been useful.

I highlighted in my last report about the timings of the meetings but there is no possibility of changing these unfortunately. Moving forward however I am hoping to be able to attend more meetings in the future.

Parish Cllr Ian Lindsay (appointed 22nd July 2021)

(Not received.)

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (attended all 3 meetings)

Water management is essential to support food production, protect property and underpin the local economy:-

The CPIER report alludes to significant GVA benefit from flood protection schemes. A recent modelling exercise for the Great Ouse fens predicts £7-10bn of damage in the event of a significant flood control failure.

Many planning applications are only successful because, even though they are in Flood Zone 3, the site is protected by flood defences.

SUDSs only work if there is somewhere for the final outflow to go. IDBs move that water from catchwater drains through to the main river.

Finally, if the IDBs didn't provide a path for water to be abstracted, the local agricultural economy would fail.

So, the work of the IDB is essential for the continued existence of East Cambs.

As this is a body that raises a levy against ECDC it is incumbent on ECDC to utilise its scrutiny and management power to meet its obligations to ensure the money is spent properly.

The Environment Act opens the door for the Special Levy to be changed. Nominated Members will ensure that any change is well-considered.

The IDB has considered some planning applications where there is the need to manage run-off. It has also considered enhancement of bio-diversity.

HADDENHAM LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Haddenham Stretham Sutton
Parish Councils covered:	Haddenham Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council
Representation:	Two Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Gareth Wilson (<i>Lead Member</i>) Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Gareth Wilson (attended 1 of 2 meetings)

Through the operation, maintenance and improvement of watercourses and other water control assets within the District, the Board seeks to achieve a general standard of water level management that enables the drainage and irrigation of agricultural land, reduces flood risk to developed areas, and sustains environmental features throughout the District. Much of the Board's watercourse maintenance work constitutes vegetation control and desilting and is often a vital and routine requirement.

The following outlines the key details of the District:

- Total area of the drainage district: 3035 ha
- Catchment area draining to and including the District: 4360 ha
- Area of agricultural land: 2995 ha
- Area of other (non-agricultural) land including residential and commercial property: 40 ha
- It maintains 30km of watercourses and has 2 pumping stations
- It is consulted on relevant planning applications

- The commissioners precept on EDC for the area of non-agricultural land and charge a rate of 38p on the owners of the agricultural land.

Parish Cllr Steve Cheetham (attended all 4 meetings)

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.

Continued work on the proposed construction of irrigation reservation reservoirs at Willow Hall Farm, Haddenham has continued with objections being raised by the HIDB on the planning application and potential implications for East Cambs. This application has now been approved by the County Council. However, the HIDB will monitor the development of the reservoirs accordingly.

HIDB have raised concerns on the amount of seepage coming through or under the 100 ft riverbank, 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 is now being rescheduled for discussion with Lucy Frazer to ensure the HIDB concerns are understood and raised at the highest political level.

This is a precepting body with the duty of protecting the Haddenham & Aldreth area from flooding and providing irrigation for agriculture and the meetings give a real insight into issues affecting farming and agriculture. The 2021/2022 winter has seen lower levels of rainfall than the rain which impacted East Cambs 2020/21, but it continues to be critical that the knowledge of the issues in detail from the HIDB are understood by ECDC.

LITTLEPORT & DOWNHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Downham Villages Ely North Littleport Stretham Sutton
Parish Councils covered:	Coveney Parish Council Little Downham Parish Council Little Thetford Parish Council Littleport Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wentworth Parish Council Wilburton Parish Council Witchford Parish Council
Representation:	Six Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lorna Dupré Cllr Jo Webber Parish Cllr Mark Taylor [1 Vacancy]

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith (attended 3 meetings)

IDBs carry out essential work to avoid flooding across the district and are an integral body within local Climate Change planning. Working closely with the farming community, sufficient water is made available to aid the growing of crops and to avoid flooding issues which would otherwise cause considerable damage to agriculture. Much work needs to be constantly carried out to ensure that the drainage infrastructure remains fit for purpose. The increase in

housing across the District does pose additional challenges regarding potential flooding and every planning application is reviewed by the IDBs as consultees. The IDBs also need to be mindful of wildlife habitats and the regulations in place around these.

Close involvement by councillor representatives is essential in order to be aware of potential flooding issues which could result in serious harm to both residents and local businesses. It is important to also to understand the large level of funding required in order that current standards are maintained and the cost of potential improvements.

The recent reported damage to the local riverbed caused by the dredging up of clay caused considerable alarm and prompted investigations to be made to assess the situation. The progress of ongoing work, managing the workforce, the machinery, consideration of training requirements and the manner of mapping and recording the territory are dealt with in a timely manner.

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

IDBs are extremely important partners. ECDC planners work closely with the IDBs and value one another's contribution 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 (attended 4 meetings)

The work of the Littleport & Downham Internal Drainage Board is key to the provision and maintenance of flood and drainage infrastructure in this part of East Cambridgeshire, and to the environment of the District. Continued representation on this Outside Body is very worthwhile, indeed arguably never more important than now, in the context of the effects of the climate emergency, and the large number of emerging strategic water projects in the fens.

The IDB, like many other organisations concerned with flood, water, and drainage, has continued to work through its response to the flood events of Winter 2020. This has included inspecting 300km of watercourses, initiating a study funded by the Environment Agency on improving catchwaters across the South Level including Haddenham Level IDB, reviewing and replacing equipment at the Hundred Foot pumping station, and trialling digital mapping.

The IDB has also played a significant role in investigating materials taken from the Hundred Foot during Environment Agency de-silting works in Autumn 2021. Local concerns were raised about the material being dredged from the river, and both the IDB (funded by the District Council) and the Environment Agency took samples of the arisings in December 2021 for analysis. Work is ongoing to interpret and further consider the findings.

The Lead Local Flood Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) has now published an updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in consultation with the IDBs, and work is expected to begin shortly on a revised Supplementary Planning Document. The Engineer continues to play an active part in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Flood & Water Partnership.

Cllr Jo Webber (attended 2 meetings)

The internal drainage boards play a vital role in keeping East Cambridgeshire free from flooding, and 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 are a key stakeholder in the ECDC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

With the ECDC Climate Change Action Plan and Strategy now in place, I think it is increasingly important that East Cambs continues to work closely with 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.

Ongoing maintenance of drainage channels and the reliability of equipment play a huge part in reducing the risk of flooding to both farmers' fields and adjacent homes. Excess water can cause issues during the winter months, but a shortage of water for irrigation purposes can cause as many issues during the drier summer months, as it can severely impact the ability to produce crops. The IDBs are tasked with managing this situation and each meeting addresses issues as they arise, as well as planned maintenance of equipment, health and safety, training and wider issues that can impact the Board.

The potential breach of the clay bed of the Hundred Foot River, and damage to the structural integrity of the river bed has also been a cause for concern over the last year, and this has been addressed with the Environment Agency.

As the local planning authority, East Cambs DC play a key role in the overall plan to address the flood risks to our area along with the County Council as the lead flood authority, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards.

Parish Cllr Mark Taylor (attended multiple meetings)

Representation is definitely worthwhile. I got drains being dug out that haven't been done for 20 years and new pumps fitted at pump engine. This July I have been pushing for catch waters to be cleaned out and made bigger to stop houses and businesses flooding in Littleport, which is being done. And Ely catch waters to be done next year. The whole system is been run to ruin but I have done lots of work proving what needs doing and even the dyke that stops Needhams school and the swimming pool and KFC area and been done too. I have been to a number of meetings involving the 100ft river because me and my cousin were the first to send alarms that the contractor is digging it out wrong.

MIDDLE FEN & MERE INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely East Ely North Fordham & Isleham Soham North Soham South
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council Fordham Parish Council Isleham Parish Council Soham Town Council Wicken Parish Council
Representation:	Five Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr Ian Bovingdon Cllr Mark Goldsack Cllr Alec Jones Cllr Daniel Schumann Derrick Beckett (<i>Lay Member</i>)

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Ian Bovingdon (attended 2 meetings)

The Board does hugely important work which affects one of ECDC's primary industries, being agriculture, which employs many people and produces foodstuffs for the nation. The Board enforces correct drainage rules and procedures protecting the area from flooding, whilst providing water at times of drought. Close scrutiny of planning applications that may affect surface water run-off/flooding is rigidly upheld. In addition, this policy fits with ECDC's commitment that the District continues to be an area where people want to live, businesses want to grow, and people want to visit. Current issues under discussion are protection of the fens for agriculture for the future.

Continued representation is important because it is essential to understand the important work that the IDB undertakes. This affects local employment, flooding and the environment. ECDC can assist in many areas with rules over planning, carbon footprint and general assistance to ensure that the IDB can do its job in the area.

Items that have been discussed of specific relevance to ECDC include

- the impact of new developments on the watercourses
- the use of fuels, which may benefit ECDC's drive to be carbon neutral
- climate change issues.

Cllr Mark Goldsack (appointed 5/10/21, attended 1 meeting)

I have attended just one meet since re-election but the board is excellently chaired by M Mawby and well attended. It has plans for support of the land area it covers with direct land ownership and guardianship involved in the IDB.

Cllr Alec Jones (attended 2 meetings)

This organisation fits in with ECDC's Corporate Plan by supporting the local farming industries. It does this by ensuring the continued management of the drainage & water supply in the local area.

This is a worthwhile commitment as its relevance to local agricultural businesses is immense and it is useful to maintain the links between business and the Local Authorities.

Increasing costs, uneven rainfall patterns are part of many issues the drainage board are increasingly having to deal with. As such large infrastructure improvements need to be managed carefully and also need to work in partnership with Local Government to reduce the impact to businesses.

Cllr Daniel Schumann (attended 0 meetings)

The IDB are a key partner to ECDC. The work of the IDB fits with the Council's Corporate Objectives:

Cleaner, Greener East Cambridgeshire = Implement the Council's Environment and Climate Strategy & Action Plan

Social and Community Infrastructure = Work with the Internal Drainage boards to increase system capacity for Water Management and Flood Prevention

Derrick Beckett (lay member)

(Not received.)

PADNAL & WATERDEN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Ely North Littleport
Parish Councils covered:	City of Ely Council Littleport Parish Council
Representation:	Seven Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr David Ambrose Smith Cllr Lis Every Cllr Alison Whelan Parish Cllr Debra Jordan Parish Cllr Susan Kerridge Parish Cllr Clive Webber [1 vacancy]

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Ambrose Smith

IDBs carry out essential work to avoid flooding across the district and are an integral body within local Climate Change planning. Working closely with the farming community, sufficient water is made available to aid the growing of crops and to avoid flooding issues which would otherwise cause considerable damage to agriculture. Much work needs to be constantly carried out to ensure that the drainage infrastructure remains fit for purpose. The increase in housing across the District does pose additional challenges regarding potential flooding and every planning application is reviewed by the IDBs as consultees. The IDBs also need to be mindful of wildlife habitats and the regulations in place around these.

Close involvement by councillor representatives is essential in order to be aware of potential flooding issues which could result in serious harm to both residents and local businesses. It is

important to also to understand the large level of funding required in order that current standards are maintained and the cost of potential improvements.

The recent reported damage to the local riverbed caused by the dredging up of clay caused considerable alarm and prompted investigations to be made to assess the situation. The progress of ongoing work, managing the workforce, the machinery, consideration of training requirements and the manner of mapping and recording the territory are dealt with in a timely manner.

Cllr Lis Every (attended all 3 meetings)

The internal drainage board (IDB) is the operating authority which is established in areas of special drainage need in England and Wales, eg 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 Draining 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 representatives from ECDC.

Regular discussions take place with local farmers for whom the drainage board is vital. Discussions are based on the running of the individual IDB, but for this IDB concerns are currently being discussed about the North Ely Junction and what this will mean for the Board and also for the local farmers.

Continued representation is important because 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.

Cllr Alison Whelan (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The nature of the land that surrounds Ely is such that water management is crucial to avoid flooding. Representation on these bodies is important to further the Council's environmental and flood prevention objectives.

The upgrading the Padnal No 1 pumping station has been discussed as it is near the end of its useful life. It was questioned whether or not it could be upgraded, however, this would require additional planning permissions.

Clearing of the Clayway Drain had caused significant destruction of wildlife areas during the spring breeding season in previous years, and public notification is now happening.

Parish Cllr Debra Jordan (attended 0 meetings)

After attending a couple of meetings, I realised that I bring no expertise or skill to the meetings and feel that I could be more of a hindrance than a help. In essence, the skilled and expert attendees of the meetings need to tailor their language and vocabulary to suit the uninitiated and thereby lengthen the process.

Parish Cllr Susan Kerridge (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

Representation on this Committee and other IDBs is required so the Council is informed concerning the risks of flooding or shortage of water in the future and can take the necessary action in advance of problems.

Parish Cllr Clive Webber (attended all 3 meetings)

I represent the Littleport Parish Council on the IDB. With flooding becoming more of a risk with climate changes, I think we all need to be aware of the important work being carried out by the IDBs, as they maintain the drainage channels that run through our parishes, and support our farmers.

I think it is very important that ALL levels of local government continue to be represented on the IDBs, as we need to be aware of the continuing threat of flooding, the actions we can take to mitigate the risks, and the costs involved.

Keeping drainage channels clean, supplying water for irrigation and increased risk of flooding have all been items recently discussed.

It is vital that East Cambs District Council work with all of the agencies that are involved in keeping the District free from flooding.

SWAFFHAM INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Bottisham Burwell Fordham & Isleham Soham South
Parish Councils covered:	Bottisham Parish Council Burwell Parish Council Fordham Parish Council Lode Parish Council Reach Parish Council Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council Swaffham Prior Parish Council Wicken Parish Council
Representation:	Four ³ Members
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representatives for 2022/23:	Cllr David Brown Cllr Lavinia Edwards Cllr Alan Sharp Cllr John Trapp

REPORTS FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr David Brown (attended 2 of 4 meetings)

The work of the Internal Drainage Boards is key to the ongoing land management of East Cambridgeshire and therefore to the ability of residents and business alike to prosper. As a major preceptor it is vital that the District Council is closely involved in oversight of the IDBs and how taxpayers' money is spent. It is therefore very important that the District Council maintains continued representation on the IDBs. Decisions on spending, such as purchase

³ Four Members plus one nominee jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). SCDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby ECDC makes the joint appointment to Waterbeach Level IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.

of new machinery are of particular relevance to ECDC, because of the preceptor status of the IDB.

Cllr Lavinia Edwards (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

The IDB plays an important role in ECDC's Corporate Objective by maintaining the drainage network in the district. There is a large agricultural element with much employment in the area and they are also a consultee for planning applications.

Continued representation is worthwhile because IDBs are in receipt of public funds and it is important that ECDC are involved in any financial decisions.

Specific items discussed and considered to be relevant to ECDC include Budget and Precept Setting, climate change and management of the fens.

Cllr Alan Sharp (attended 1 of 3 meetings)

The work of the Drainage Board totally fits in with the corporate objectives of the Council, as the issue of flooding and water management is a crucial factor in resolving the challenges that Climate Change presents to us.

I have attended one meeting during the year out of the three arranged, the other two meetings clashing with other commitments.

The Board has moved away from zoom meetings towards a return to face-to-face meetings and these take place at the Drainage Board offices in Prickwillow.

Contributing to the management of The Fens is an important role of the Council and the involvement of Council representatives with this body is totally necessary.

Cllr John Trapp (attended 2 of 3 meetings)

This board is well run, and it is very conscientious about value for money from its operations. There is scope for discussion of the issues, and helpful explanations and guidance from the chief engineer on all matters.

WATERBEACH LEVEL INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

District Wards covered:	Stretham Soham South
Parish Councils covered:	Little Thetford Parish Council Stretham Parish Council Wicken Parish Council
Representation:	One ⁴ Member
Status of Member:	Board Member
No. meetings per year:	3
Expenses paid by organisation:	No (paid by Council)
Insurance provision:	Yes
Category of Officer Support (see p. 1):	3
Contact Officer:	Finance Manager, Ian Smith
Representative for 2022/23:	David Chaplin (<i>lay member</i>)

REPORT FROM 2021/22 REPRESENTATIVE

David Chaplin

(*Not received.*)

⁴ One Member jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). ECDC makes the joint appointment by reciprocal agreement of June 1990 whereby SCDC makes the joint appointment to Swaffham IDB. Appointments are for 3 years.