

FINANCE & ASSETS COMMITTEE
23 November 2023
QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE

Item 6 – ECTC Business Plan 2023/24 - Half Year Update

Questioner	Question	Response
Cllr A Whelan	Please can we have a detailed breakdown of each aspect of the quoted benefit to the Council of £4,168,581. For example, some comes from land sales, some from Community Infrastructure Levy and so forth.	<p>Property Development Land Receipts- £725,000 S106/CIL- £764,252 Council Tax- £41,007</p> <p>ECDC Charges Interest on the Loan- £1,435,541 Support Services- £531,791 Accommodation- £370,990 Reduction in Parks Management Fee- £300,000</p>

Item 8. Local Plan Climate and Natural Environment Chapter - Scope

Questioner	Question	Response
Cllr A Whelan	Will it be possible to add additional elements to this skeleton plan as it develops, as this is a rapidly changing area, or are the headings and comments already provided fixed once approved at this meeting?	Yes, additional elements can be added as the chapter progresses. As set out in para 4.1 of the agenda report, <i>“today is not for making any final decisions, and there will be opportunities as the chapter progresses to refine what is included, taking account of public comments along the way”</i> .

Cllr A Whelan	Please can a full timetable be provided for the revision of policies listed in Table 2 that we would expect to be considered as part of this plan.	Table 2 provides wider policies typically found in a Local Plan. Those policies, and all other policies in our <i>Local Plan 2015 (as amended 2023)</i> , will be thoroughly reviewed and updated as part of a new Local Plan. Council has not yet committed to that comprehensive review yet, primarily as we continue to wait for the new style planning system to be legislated for by Government. However, we presently expect to be able to commence a new style Local Plan in late 2024, and, once we have started, the very recent Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 mandates that a Local Plan must be completed within 30 months of commencing, with a number of statutory consultation stages in that period. That means a new Local Plan for East Cambridgeshire is likely adopted in the first half of 2027.
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Item 9 – Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement

Questioner	Question	Response
Cllr Trapp	<p>In Agenda Item 9 for F&A on page 3 of the Appendix, just below the table, you say ‘. . .the number of affordable housing units provisioned via the spend of CIL money is 0.’</p> <p>Does this mean that CIL money can be used for provisioning affordable housing? In what way – building new houses, or renovation of existing buildings? Are there any constraints?</p>	<p>Government guidance is that CIL cannot be spent on affordable housing. It is unknown why there is a reporting requirement for this.</p> <p>Extract from gov.uk:</p> <p>... This flexibility gives local areas the opportunity to choose what infrastructure they need to deliver their relevant plan (the Development Plan and the London Plan in London). Charging authorities may not use the levy to fund affordable housing.....</p> <p>Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area, and they will decide what infrastructure is needed.</p>

Item 10 - Treasury Operations Mid-Year Review 2023-24

Questioner	Question	Response
Cllr A Whelan	Please provide a breakdown of the reasons for the increase in interest compared to budget? This is unlikely to be solely the impact of increased interest rates. Ie for 3.9% to 5.19%.	Interest receipts are higher than the prudent estimate built into the budget due to a combination of higher interest rates (as noted in the question) and higher cash balances than forecast.