

Report Title: Financial Management Progress Report

Reporting Period: December 2025 – March 2026

Report Author: Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Committee: Full Council

Date: 30 April 2026

Minute References: FC179/25

1. Purpose of the Report

To provide Council with an update on the implementation of the approved financial management strategy, report on the current financial position as at 31 March 2026, outline cash flow projections for May to August 2026, and seek approval for the proposed redistribution of recently received precept funds.

Members are asked to NOTE that this report does not deal with earmarked reserves. Earmarked reserves are already set aside for specific projects and commitments and are held in interest-bearing accounts. They will remain invested in that way.

The Fund Flow Analysis instead relates to the Council's day-to-day operational money, including the precept as it is received and the general reserves that the Parish is required to hold for financial resilience.

2. Background

Under minute reference **FC179/25**, Council approved the management of **£547,493.96** for the period December 2025 to March 2026. The agreed strategy aimed to:

- Maximise returns by transferring surplus funds into **interest-bearing accounts**
- Maintain sufficient **liquidity** for operational expenditure
- Ensure full compliance with the **FSCS protection limit of £120,000 per financial institution**

As at **1 December 2025**, **£288,496.90** was held in the Unity Trust Current Account without earning interest. A staged redistribution plan was subsequently approved under **FC179/29**.

3. Financial Position as of 31 March 2026

Account Type	Balance (£)
Unity Trust Current Account	19,367.67
Investment Accounts	436,080.96
Total Funds Held	455,448.63

The majority of funds have now been successfully transferred into interest-bearing accounts, while maintaining sufficient balances for operational requirements.

4. Precept Income – April 2026

- First instalment received: **£162,708.00** (24 April 2026, EFDC)
- Currently held in Unity Trust Current Account (non-interest-bearing)

To ensure compliance with FSCS limits and improve returns, the following transfers are proposed:

- **£29,000** to Charity Savings Account (40-Day Notice 3.01%-3.04%)
- **£120,000** to Virgin Money Savings Account (120-Day Notice 3.51%)

The second instalment of **£162,700** is anticipated in **September 2026**.

5. Cash Flow Forecast (May – August 2026)

Operational Requirement

- Maintain a minimum balance of **£5,000** in the Unity Trust Current Account at all times

May 2026

- Current Account Balance 30.04.2026: **£38,532.01**
- Sufficient to meet all May payment obligations

June – August 2026

- Instant Access Savings Balance: **£125,252.32**
- Monthly expenditure: **£41,750.77**
- Adequate to meet obligations across the three months

6. Investment Account Review

Cambridge Savings Account (30-Day Notice)

- Balance as at March 2026: **£170,732.71**
- Exceeds FSCS protection limit

The RFO will:

- Monitor balances and ensure compliance
- Report to the Finance & Governance Committee on any required withdrawals or redistribution

7. Forward Planning

During **July–August 2026**, the Finance & Governance Committee will:

- Review the Council's financial position and business case
- Consider fixed-rate and notice account options
- Assess investment of approximately **£170,000** (Cambridge and Charity 1-year Fixed accounts)
- Submit recommendations to Full Council

8. Project Commitments

During August -September 2026

- A withdrawal of **£72,481.20** will be required to deliver the **EFDC project**

9. Risk and Compliance

- Continued adherence to **FSCS protection limits (£120,000 per institution)**
- Maintenance of adequate liquidity for operational expenditure
- Ongoing monitoring of interest rates and investment performance

10. Conclusion:

CPC Cambridge Bank Saving a/c	CPC Unity Trust Bank Saving a/c & Current a/c	CPC Charity Bank Saving a/c	CPC Virgin Money a/c
£85,000	£125,252.32	£85,000	£120,000
£85,732.71	£38,532.01	£40,000	
	Minus Proposal Payments are due in May, £41,000		
Total Balance as of 31.05.2026 £170,732.71	Total Balance as of 31.05.2026 £122,784.33	Total Balance as of 31.05.2026 £120,000	Total Balance as of 31.05.2026 £120,000

11. Recommendations

Members are asked to **CONSIDER** the RFO report and recommendations on the FSCS Protection compliance during 2026/27 therein and **AGREE** on an appropriate course of action.

1. **Note** the financial position as of 31 March 2026.
2. **Approve** the transfer of:
 - £29,000 to the Charity Savings Account (40-Day Notice 3.01%-3.04%)
 - £120,000 to the Virgin Money Savings Account (120-Day Notice 3.51%)
3. To **AUTHORISE** the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to implement the proposed arrangements for managing the Council's operational cash balances.
4. **Note** the cash flow forecast for May to August 2026
5. **Note** the planned review of investment options by the Finance & Governance Committee in July–August 2026
6. **Note** the requirement to withdraw £72,481.20 for the EFDC project in August -September 2026
7. **Agree** that an updated progress report be presented to Council in **September 2026**

The information refers to this report.

1 The proposal rates for short-term savings accounts as of 29 April 2026

As of 29.04.2026	Cambridge Bank	Charity Bank	Unity Trust Bank	Virgin Bank
30 Day Notice a/c	3.60%	N/A	2.25% (Deposit with 30-day fixed term (no access))	2.43%
	CPC a/c			
32 – Day Notice a/c			2.70%/2.73% Gross/AER	
New	N/A	N/A	Variable Interest rate with 32-days' notice of withdrawal required	
40 Day Notice a/c		£1,000 to £24,999 2.86% / 2.89 Gross / AER		
	N/A	£25,000 to £500k 3.01 % / 3.04% Gross / AER	N/A	
		CPC a/c		
65 Day Notice a/c				2.53%
New	N/A	N/A	N/A	
90 Day Notice a/c			2.35% (Deposit 90-day fixed term (no access) £85k to £10m)	
New	N/A	N/A		
95 – Day Notice a/c	3.90 %		2.90%/2.93% Gross/AER	3.25%
New		N/A	Variable interest rate with 95 days' notice of withdrawal required	
100 Day Notice a/c		£1,000-£24,999 2.89%/2.92%–		
	N/A	From £25,000 3.04%/3.07%	N/A	N/A
New				
120-Day Notice a/c	4% Gross/AER			3.51%
		N/A	N/A	CPC a/c
6 months fixed term	3.90% Gross/AER		3.45% Gross/AER	3.38%

New				
12 months fixed term	4.25% Gross/AER CPC a/c	CPC a/c		3.70%
Easy/Instant Access Account £10,000-£500,00	N/A	2.91%/2.94% Gross/AER CPC a/c	1.95% / 1.96% Gross/AER	3.50%

2. Chigwell Parish Council Total Banks and Cash balance as of 31 March 2026.

02 April 2026 (2025-2026)

Chigwell Parish Council BANK ACCOUNTS

HSBC - 40-30-25 Account Number	
Barclays - Current - Account Number	
Cambridge Counties Bank - 60-95-£	
A Cash paid Control a/c	
CHQ / Cash Control Account	£580.00
Control account for Credit Note	
Unity Current Account T2	£18,752.50
Unity T Bank-Lloyds Debit Card Co	
Adjustments Control Account	
Charity Bank 40 Day Notice A/C at 3.00%	£5,945.93
Charity Bank 1 Year Fixed Rate A/c	£85,000.00
Stripe account	£29.35
Cambridge 1 Year Fixed Rate A/c 1%	£85,000.00
Virgin Money 120 Day Notice a/c 3.00%	
Instant Access Savings Account	£174,402.32
Cambridge 30 Day at 3.80%(3.73%)	£85,732.71
Current T2 Payroll Unity 20548005	£5.82
Total in Banks	455,448.63
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Cash	
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GRAND TOTAL (Banks and Cash)	£455,448.63