

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – September 2025

District Councillor contact details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

Michael Atkins:	Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk	07968 264637
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Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handyperson service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support and how to stay healthy and well.

Local Community Hubs include:

- Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW
Opens: Friday, 10am – 12pm
- Toft Community Hub – Toft Methodist Chapel, High Street, Toft, Cambridge, CB23 2RL
Opens: Monday, 10am – 12pm.

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/community-hubs>

Planning

Consultation open on how section 106 obligations are used to mitigate the impacts of new developments

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, on behalf of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, are re-consulting on the Draft Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD provides detailed guidance on how planning obligations, also known as section 106 contributions, will be used to mitigate the impacts of new developments across Greater Cambridge. These financial contributions from developers go towards infrastructure that mitigates the impact of new development for homes or businesses. Examples include new schools and roads, upgrading playgrounds, or providing additional waste collection services. The draft SPD sets out our proposed approach and clarifies this process for both developers and residents, ultimately aiming to reduce delays in securing necessary infrastructure.

A draft version of the SPD was previously consulted on between November 2024 and January 2025 and 198 representations were received. The results of the consultation were taken to [South Cambridgeshire District Council Cabinet meeting](#) and the [Cambridge City Council Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2025](#). It was agreed at both meetings that another round of public consultation could take place in Summer 2025.

Public consultation on the Draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document is open from 9am on Friday 22nd August and will run until 5pm on Friday 17th October 2025.

Please visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/supplementary-planning-documents/ to see the materials and how to comment.

Paper copies of the documents can also be viewed at the Customer Service desks at Mandela House, Cambridge and at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne. There will also be copies at the Central Library, Cambridge and viewing materials at in-person events.

Cambourne to Cambridge Busway

The Cambourne to Cambridge busway scheme developed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is intended to provide high quality public transport from Cambourne through the new Bourn Airfield development to Cambridge City. The busway is a requirement in the adopted Local Plan 2018 to deliver Bourn Airfield. However, there have been many concerns raised about the project, and they will be considered in the upcoming public inquiry where the Government planning inspector will hear from all sides.

The public inquiry starts on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at the Cambridge Belfry in Cambourne. You can find the timetable and all the submissions on the enquiry website at: <https://gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/c-to-c/>

Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant relocation

Despite recently approving the relocation of the Cambridge wastewater plant to Honey Hill to allow a housing development of around 3,900 homes in North East Cambridge, the government has now announced that the funding has been withdrawn. This is due to the cost of the relocation increasing significantly.

This impacts on the proposals for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which aim to set out sufficient development for the area and locate homes where they have the least climate impact, where active and public transport is the natural choice, where green infrastructure can be delivered alongside new development, and where jobs, services and facilities can be located near to where people live.

The Local Authorities will now be exploring, with key stakeholders including the Cambridge Growth Company, the future role and opportunities within the North East Cambridge area to deliver the much needed affordable homes that were proposed to be built on the site.

Haslingfield Greenway update

The detailed design work for the Haslingfield Greenway is in progress, with the planning application expected to be submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council at the end of October 2025. Delivery is expected to be completed in 2027.

Affordable housing

Over the last year, South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing team has delivered 58 new council homes for affordable rent, 10 for shared ownership, and 11 for temporary accommodation. In all, 525 affordable homes were built in South Cambridgeshire in partnership with housing providers and developers. South Cambs is now building more homes than it is losing through Right to Buy. In addition, the Housing Team achieved a 62% success rate in interventions that prevented homelessness for 278 individuals and families in 2024/25.

Environment

SCDC Local Climate Action Conference 2025 – Save the date!

South Cambridgeshire District Council will host its third climate conference in October, open to councillors, community groups, charities, and anyone interested in meeting the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Attendees will also have the opportunity to input into the upcoming SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030 and learn about different climate-friendly initiatives around the district. Further details to follow, including the agenda, speakers, and how to register.

- When: Friday 17 October 2025, 12pm - 5pm
- Where: Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Ave, Cambridge CB3 1AA

New Climate and Nature Strategy

South Cambridgeshire District Council will be consulting on its new Climate and Nature Strategy from the 1st October on its online platform [Go Vocal](#). We are looking to engage as many residents, communities, businesses, and other stakeholders as possible to allow them the opportunity to shape the strategy around their needs and aspirations. There will be plenty of opportunity for people to engage online through the survey or at various in-person events.

If you'd like to look at the draft strategy ahead of the consultation, it is available at: <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=1095&MIId=10320&Ver=4>

Help for home energy improvements

If you are looking to make your house more energy efficient, then have a look at the Action on Energy website at <https://www.actiononenergycambs.org>. This is a coalition of councils, and provides a downloadable Retrofitting Guide and Energy Efficiency Guide. It also signposts available funding sources like Warm Homes Local Grant, Energy Company Obligation (ECO Scheme), ECO Flex Scheme, and Boiler and Insulation schemes. There's lots there so please have a look.

Using less water

The [National Drought Group](#) met last week with the current water shortfall situation in England now defined as a "nationally significant incident" following the driest six months (Feb to Jul 2025) since 1976.

You can access information on saving water at both Cambridge Water and Anglian Water's websites. Go to <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/household/saving-water/how-can-i-save-water/> or <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/>.

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste website

The new website for the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service is now available to try out in a "soft launch" before the full launch on Tuesday 16th September. It has a user-friendly look and is optimised for both desktop and mobile devices. Residents can switch between the current bins and recycling pages, the Commercial website, and the new site. This gives everyone a chance to try it out and get familiar before the full launch.

The council would also be grateful for feedback on the site, which can be provided via the [online form](#) or by emailing engage@scambs.gov.uk. Please note, the feedback form will close on Monday 15 September.

Just go onto the South Cambs website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk> and you'll see the launch count down timer and the invitation "Visit the new site" at the top of the page.

Launching soon... Service Support Grants 2026 - 2029

The next round of the Service Support Grant scheme will be launching on Monday 8 September and applications will close on Friday 31 October. A total of £316,550 per year will be available for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations providing services to South Cambridgeshire residents to apply for funding under the following themes:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Advice services
- Independent living
- Voluntary / community support
- Cost-of-living support
- PLACE-based projects

If you know of any organisations that may be interested in applying, please tell them to keep an eye on our [Service Support Grant webpage](#) where further details will be released soon!

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

This is still a big ongoing topic as Government wants to replace the current two tiers of local government with single layer unitary authorities. Thank you to all those who responded to the survey that ran from June to July 2025. The responses are being used as input in the business cases being prepared by the Councils for submission to the Government in November 2025. Three preferred options have been identified by the council leaders and the preferred option for us is Option B.

- **Proposal A - A North-West/South-East Option**
Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- **Proposal B - A North/South Option**
Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.
Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District - along with County Council functions.
- **Proposal C - An East/West Option**
Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.

The SCDC FAQ-style webpage for residents is still available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>. It is updated with news and information as the project progresses.