

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – April 2026

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
Ariel Cahn: Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk 07455 128924
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>

Elections on May 7th 2026

Elections are fast approaching for both district and parish councils. To vote you need to be registered to vote and, to vote in person, you need to show a valid photo ID.

Below is a summary of the election timetable which includes the deadlines to register to vote, register for a postal or proxy vote, and to apply for a free photo ID:

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 30 th March 2026
Last time for Receipt of Nominations	4 pm Thursday 9 th April 2026
Last time for Voting Registrations	11.59 pm Monday 20 th April 2026
Last time for Postal Vote Applications	5 pm Tuesday 21 st April 2026
Last time to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificates (voter ID)	5 pm Tuesday 28 th April 2026
Last time for Proxy Vote Applications	5 pm Tuesday 28 th April 2026
Last time for Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5 pm Thursday 7 th May 2026
Day of Poll	7 am to 10 pm Thursday 7 th May 2026

For further information, please visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/elections-2026>.

SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grants -Pre-launch workshops 20th May

Ahead of the next round of [Zero Carbon Communities Grants](#), there will be two pre-launch workshops on Wednesday 20th May. The daytime one is 12.30-1.30pm and the evening one is 6-7pm. The workshops will provide information and guidance to help you with your application. If you have any questions about the workshops or the grant, please contact ZCC@scams.gov.uk.

Following the workshops, the application window will run from the 25th May to the 24th July 2026. Funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and parish councils to support communities in South Cambridgeshire to take action on climate change.

In total there is £152,000 available, with the funding evenly split between projects to reduce and store carbon and projects to deliver community engagement and nature-based initiatives. The maximum grant per project has increased from £15,000 to £19,500 to reflect inflation and to help the grant to continue to support impactful climate and nature projects. There is also wider eligibility where there is a clear community benefit, including sports groups and PTAs on school sites.

To find out more about the grant, including project examples and case studies, please visit [Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council](#).

Food waste collections

Food waste collections are being rolled out across the district, with the first set of rounds introduced in January including most homes in Harston and some in Hauxton. In the six weeks since these rounds began, collections from around 17,000 households across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge have generated 200 tonnes of food waste.

This waste is transported to anaerobic digestion facilities in either Baldock, March or Thetford, where it is converted into a source of energy and a nutrient-rich biofertilizer. So far, the food waste collected is enough to power 1,000 homes for six days.

The next set of food waste collections is due to begin in May and will include the rest of the homes in Harston and Hauxton, and Grantchester.

To find out when you will receive your new caddies and start recycling food waste visit www.greatercambridgewaste.org and enter your postcode in the 'In My Area' section.

MHCLG consultation on establishing a Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge – SCDC's response

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) recently launched a consultation on the establishment of a 'Greater Cambridge Development Corporation' and it closed on the 1st April 2026.

It proposes establishing a **government-led urban development corporation in Greater Cambridge** (both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire district) and that:

- Development of the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan would proceed, but that the development corporation would take over plan-making powers either after adoption of the new local plan or before, if the draft local plan is not considered to deliver development at the necessary scale and pace.
- The development corporation would determine planning applications on sites of strategic importance.
- The development corporation would operate for at least 25 years.
- The leaders of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be invited to join the Board, and would be in the minority.

South Cambridgeshire District Council’s response to the consultation is available [here](#). To see the rest of the report on this, please see [agenda item 15 of the March Cabinet meeting](#).

The response objects to the proposal to create a centrally led Urban Development Corporation, while recognizing the need for Government investment in infrastructure in the area (e.g. healthcare, waste-water treatment, water supply, transport) Instead, it argues for investment to be delivered in partnership with elected and accountable local authorities.

The response also asks that if the Development Corporation goes ahead, that the government’s plans follow the lead of the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan on climate change and environment, and use the influence of government to ensure the health of the area’s vulnerable chalk streams is improved over the life of the Development Corporation.


Cambridge Growth Company has launched a Mass Rapid Transit Study

The Cambridge Growth Company (CGC) and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have launched the preparation of a Project level Strategic Outline Business Case for a potential Mass Rapid Transit system for Greater Cambridge. You can [read more in the CGC’s news release](#).


MHCLG consultation on Local Government Reorganisation – SCDC’s response

The government continues to press ahead with its policy of abolishing county and district councils and combining their functions within larger unitary authorities. A seven-week public consultation on the four options put forward closed on the 26th March.


Proposal submitted by Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (Option B):

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 submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council (Option A):

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 submitted by Huntingdonshire District Council (Option E):

Unitary 1	Peterborough City, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire District Councils with County Council functions	
Unitary 2	Huntingdonshire District Council with County Council functions	
Unitary 3	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District along with County Council functions	

Proposal submitted by Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council (Option D):

Unitary 1	Peterborough City Council, parts of Huntingdonshire District Councils along with County Council functions	
Unitary 2	Parts of Huntingdonshire District Council, Fenland, and East Cambridgeshire along with County Council functions	
Unitary 3	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District along with County Council functions	

South Cambridgeshire District Council’s response to the consultation is available [here](#). To read the rest of the report on this, please see agenda item 14 of the March Cabinet meeting.

The response supports option B, which would result in a Greater Cambridge unitary made up of the current South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council areas. One of the main reasons is because independent analysis shows option B is the most financially sustainable option of the proposals. You can read more about this at SCDC’s website section on [Local Government Reorganization](#).

SCDC funding for community projects

South Cambridgeshire District Council has awarded Community Chest grants to projects that make a real difference to people’s lives - improving wellbeing, tackling isolation, expanding support services, and creating welcoming spaces for residents of all ages.

The latest groups to receive funding are:

- **Wilbrahams Environment Group – £2,000**

The Wilbrahams Environment Group (WEG) is a volunteer-led organisation dedicated to improving local biodiversity. The funding will go towards the development of “The Butts” a 2.4-acre former agricultural site being transformed into a publicly accessible woodland and meadow. Working closely with the Woodland Trust, volunteers will create new hedging, install deer-proof fencing, construct a rainwater collection shelter, and plant a mixed broadleaf woodland.

- **The Gamlingay Food Project – £1,898.96**

The Gamlingay Food Project, jointly run by Gamlingay Baptist Church and St Mary's Church, is using the grant to create a 1,000-copy community recipe book. The book will help households using the NEED Project Hub and Community Fridge make better use of food parcels and reduce waste through simple, low-cost recipes - many submitted by local chefs. The cookbook will also be available online, extending its reach to other South Cambridgeshire residents who rely on food hubs.

- **Cambridge Cancer Help Centre – £2,000**

The Cambridge Cancer Help Centre in Great Shelford, which supports more than 400 people affected by cancer each year, will use the grant towards the creation of a dedicated Fitness Hub. The funding contributes to refurbishment works and the purchase of specialist exercise equipment for gentle, accessible fitness classes designed to support physical and emotional wellbeing.

- **Headway Cambridge & Peterborough – £1,044**

Headway Cambridge and Peterborough, a newly established independent charity supporting people with brain injuries, will use the funding to purchase large-screen tablets and specialist communication software. The equipment will help clients with aphasia - including 13 current South Cambridgeshire residents - to communicate more effectively using Augmentative and Alternative Communication tools. The equipment will be used at the charity's Cambridge Neurohub, supporting therapy sessions and increasing independence.

- **Cambridge Canoe Club – £1,989.50**

Cambridge Canoe Club, which serves more than 500 members including 170 South Cambridgeshire residents, has secured funding to expand its stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) equipment. The grant will enable the purchase of additional boards, paddles and safety equipment, widening access to local waterways and supporting both youth programmes and beginner sessions.

- **Function 5 CIC – £2,000**

Function 5 CIC in Papworth Everard is using the grant to launch a weekly community puzzle club, aimed at reducing isolation and providing an inclusive, low-pressure social activity. Funding will cover tables, chairs and puzzle equipment for the drop-in sessions, which will be open to all ages.

- **POP Collective CIC – £1,800**

POP Collective, a new performing arts organisation supporting young people aged 8–18, is using the funding for a pilot programme of inclusive summer music and creative sessions in Cambourne. Funding will cover venue hire, materials, outreach and bursary places to ensure young people from all backgrounds can participate. The Arts Theatre Cambridge has endorsed the project, recognising its commitment to accessibility and youth wellbeing.

Funding to cover almost half the cost of installing EV chargers for households and businesses announced

The Department for Transport has announced that renters, flat owners, homeowners without driveways and businesses will be able to save up to £500 when installing electric vehicle (EV) charge points, thanks to an over 40% increase in charge point government grant funding. The uplift will cover almost half the cost of a typical charge point installation until March 2027, helping more drivers access cheaper domestic electricity rates at home or work. The following updates will be introduced from 1 April:

- People living in rented accommodation, flat owners, residential landlords, households with on-street parking and businesses will all be able to receive higher grants of up to £500 per charge point, rising from the previous discount of £350.
- Schools will be eligible for grants of up to £2,000 per socket

[Read more about the grant changes on GOV.UK.](#)

Funding to help families struggling with soaring heating oil costs

Government funding has been made available for low-income families who heat their homes with oil to help tackle surging prices.

Grants of up to £400 are available for individuals and families living in Cambridgeshire who rely on oil to heat their homes and water, and are struggling to do so in light of significant rises in oil costs.

The fund is rolling and may be closed at short notice when funds are exhausted.

How to apply

- [Apply online at Crisis & Resilience Fund: Cambridgeshire Community Foundation](#)
- Residents can apply direct.
- Or by a referral organisation that has assessed your circumstances and can verify that you need of immediate assistance.
- All applicants will need to provide proof of address, income and the need to top-up with heating oil.

Who can apply

This fund is targeting Cambridgeshire households on low incomes who are reliant on heating oil and who need to top-up their tanks as a matter of urgency.

To receive this support, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- live in Cambridgeshire
- be reliant on heating oil to heat their home and/or water
- have 150 litres or less of oil remaining at the time of application
- be in receipt of or eligible for one of the following means-tested benefits:
- Universal Credit
- Pension Credit
- Income based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

If funding allows, the scheme may be expanded to households on incomes just above the threshold for means-tested benefits, or with exceptionally high energy needs.

EWR Spring Consultation

EWR Co. has confirmed it will hold an eight-week public consultation from Tuesday 14 April to Tuesday 9 June 2026. This is expected to be the final route-wide consultation before a Development Consent Order is submitted in 2027.

More information regarding the consultation, including details of the consultation events, can be found on the EWR website: eastwestrail.co.uk/pr-east-west-rail-announces-details-of-last-route-wide-public-consultation