

District Councillors' Report

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Food Waste

The Waste team is getting ready for the first of 4 phases (Jan, Apr, Jul, Sept) of food waste collection, The new 12 ton vehicles have been purchased and the waste will go to a local bio digester. The car park at the depot is being expanded to accommodate the new vehicles and we are launching a recruitment campaign for new staff. This includes new management roles.

Local Plan Consultation

Cabinet and Town / Parish Council Liaison Meeting

A reminder to elected members that we are holding the above meeting in the Chamber at **6.30-8.30pm on Tuesday 11th November 2025**. Please encourage all your parish councillors to come along and hear about the **Emerging Local Plan, Local Government Reorganisation and New Climate & Nature Strategy 2026-30**.

Empty Properties transformed into modern family homes across the district

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years. A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years.

Success stems from the District Council's strategic decision to appoint an Empty Homes Officer in 2022 - an initiative that has transformed neglected properties into vibrant homes for new families, eased housing pressures, and revitalised communities across the district. The Empty homes Officer is dealing with a house in Dry Drayton. It needs a legislative change so she wrote to the MP about what needs to be changed in the law on empty properties. She is still working on the case.

Awaab's Law – Update

On 27 October, a new law came into force to protect social housing tenants from emergency hazards and damp and mould. The changes are a legacy of Awaab Ishak, who died after being exposed to mould.

- New rules will protect tenants and force social landlords to urgently fix dangerous homes.
- Emergency hazards to be addressed within 24 hours.

Council welcomes multi-million pound investment in Greater Cambridge- but say more detail is needed

The leaders of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils have welcomed the Government's announcement that they will invest up to £400 million to help solve some of the challenges that hamper inclusive and sustainable growth in the area.

The Government announced their intention to consult on setting up a centrally-led Development Corporation to help plan, manage, and deliver large-scale development projects in Greater Cambridge.

Council leaders have said for many years that national intervention on matters such as water supply, wastewater, power, transport and healthcare has been urgently needed and have lobbied successive governments. Lack of water supply and infrastructure to deal with wastewater is already insufficient to ensure all the current locally planned high quality new communities and homes can be delivered.

The leaders of the councils have said that, like any announcement of this kind, further discussion and details are now needed to understand the Government's intentions and to ensure it also supports local priorities.

Both councils will work with Government to ensure decisions on the precise form and purpose that any development corporation takes are shaped and informed by good evidence and input from the democratically elected and accountable leaders for the area. Once more information is known the Government will consult local residents on setting up a development corporation, allowing local voices to be heard.

The Government's announcement today included:

- Up to £400 million of initial government funding to kickstart development
- A pledge to increase the supply of affordable homes
- Investment in infrastructure
- Business expansion – with £15 million for the University of Cambridge for a proposed Innovation Hub to create lab space for science start-ups to grow and compete on the global stage.

Postal Votes

Following changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022, postal voters are now required to reapply for their postal vote every three years.

All postal voters who made their current application before 31 October 2023 are required to reapply. If a new application is not received by **31 January 2026**, the Electoral Registration Officer is required by law to cancel the postal vote, and electors will have to vote in a polling station with photographic ID until a new postal vote application is received or if a proxy is appointed.

All those affected by this change in the coming weeks will be contacted explaining how to reapply and have started the process early for applications to be processed and queries responded to in sufficient time in advance of the 31 January 2026 deadline. They will be sent an initial email to all electors they hold an email address for, which will be sent from the Government's Secure Gov.Notify system.

All other postal voters affected, for whom they do not hold an email, will receive a letter which will contain information on what to do next.

You do not have to wait to receive our re-application reminder to make a new application. You can apply online at any time by visiting www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

