

# Cambridgeshire County Council

MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2026

Sawston and Shelfords Division (Cllrs Damary-Homan & Fane)

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## **FULL COUNCIL**

Following the disqualification of Andy Osborn (Roman Bank and Peckover), a by-election has been called with a polling day of Thursday 25 June.

Meanwhile, another Reform councillor, James Sidlow (Ramsey and Bury) who was the group's former leader, has resigned from the council. A by-election is expected a few weeks after the one in Roman Bank and Peckover.

### **Annual Council meeting**

The Council held its annual meeting on Tues 19 May, with 2 motions debated. This was the first meeting where an unlimited number of motions were allowed, with one motion allowed to be submitted by each councillor.

#### *Armed Forces Covenant*

The first motion, from Cllr Yannifer Malinowski (Burwell) was on the Armed Forces Covenant. The Council restated its long-standing commitment to ensuring that serving personnel, veterans and their families are treated fairly and face no disadvantage when accessing public services.

There are over 22,500 veterans living in Cambridgeshire and a strong Armed Forces presence across the region. The motion set out a renewed programme of support, including:

- Signing a refreshed Armed Forces Covenant at the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee meeting on 25 June 2026.
- Increasing awareness of support available through Council services, libraries, the Forces Connect app and local networks.
- Publishing an annual report on delivery of the Covenant across Council services.
- Supporting continued funding for the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Coordinator role into 2027–28.
- Writing to the Minister for Veterans and People in support of the Royal British Legion's *Keep the Covenant Promise* campaign, calling for clearer guidance, sustainable funding, greater public awareness and stronger monitoring of the Covenant Duty.

### *Logistics and freight*

The second motion, from Cllr Luis Navarro (Longstanton and Northstowe) was on logistics and freight, and asked the council to take a coordinated approach to better understanding and managing freight impacts.

The Council has resolved to request that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority commission a county-wide strategic freight study to assess the long-term impacts of large volumes of freight on highway capacity, road safety and congestion, surface water and flood risk, air quality, noise and public health, and community wellbeing.

The study will also look at opportunities to shift freight from road-only transport to rail and other options, supported by collaboration with Network Rail, National Highways, district councils, and other key partners. Local MPs have been active in raising the need to resolve the rail capacity issues north of Ely to assist this, including procuring a debate on it in Parliament while we wait for the Government to commit to this vital piece of work.

### **Development Corporation**

The Government has now published its response to the consultation on the proposal to create an urban development corporation in Greater Cambridge. Detail can be found here: [Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK](#)

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## **STRATEGY, RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE**

### **Quality of Life survey**

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched its fourth annual Quality of Life survey, inviting residents to share their views on life in Cambridgeshire and the issues that matter most to them and their communities.

The survey findings provide valuable insight to support business planning, policy development, and decision-making, as well as helping to understand how changes to public services are affecting people's lives. This insight is used to help shape the council's Business Plan and Budget, tracking progress against the council's Strategic Framework ambitions over time.

The online and telephone survey will capture the views of around 5,500 residents and is being delivered in partnership with Cambridge Ahead and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The twenty-minute survey is being carried out by independent market research company Thinks Insight, which aims to speak to a representative sample of approximately 1,100 residents aged 18 and over in each of Cambridgeshire's five district areas, ensuring a broad and balanced range of perspectives. Residents will not be asked for personal or financial information.

Residents will be asked about a range of topics, including life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, and perceptions of the council and its services.

Previous survey findings have shown that many residents feel happy, safe and have a strong sense of belonging, with Cambridgeshire widely seen as a good place to raise children. They have also highlighted areas where residents would like to see improvement, such as road and pavement maintenance, the cost of living, and mental health and loneliness.

Alongside the random sample, all residents are encouraged to take part in the survey which will remain open into the summer and close on 5 August 2026.

Responses will then be analysed and shared with councillors and the public in the autumn.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey)

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## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

### **New cycle training contract**

The Highways and Transport Committee has agreed to seek a new contract to deliver cycle training for children across the county. This will ensure that thousands of children in Cambridgeshire will continue to benefit from high-quality cycling skills and road safety education, through to 2029.

The decision allows the Council to appoint a training provider to deliver the Bikeability programme, for an initial term ending in March 2029, with options for extensions. The programme will be funded through a mixture of funding options including a confirmed three-year grant from the Bikeability Trust on behalf of Active Travel England.

### **Damage to traffic light detector units**

Around 200 traffic light detector units were vandalised across Cambridgeshire since the early May bank holiday weekend, mostly in Cambridge.

The detectors, which are mounted on traffic signal poles, were deliberately vandalised through the cutting of their cables. Each incident typically cost around £250 to repair. In some cases, the damage was more serious, with whole units needing to be replaced costing anywhere between £250 and £1,500.

The equipment plays a vital role in keeping traffic moving safely and efficiently. Detectors identify vehicles and pedestrians waiting at junctions, allowing traffic lights to respond to real-time demand.

When the technology is damaged, traffic lights revert to a fixed-time setting, leading to increased congestion and delays for everyone, as well as potential safety issues.

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## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

### Water safety campaign

As warmer weather approaches, a new campaign *Be Water Smart* has been launched by Cambridgeshire County Council to support families to enjoy water safely this summer.

Designed to equip parents with important lifesaving knowledge, *Be Water Smart* aims to raise awareness of the potential risks of swimming in open water, like lakes and rivers, and the simple, proactive steps parents can take to ensure children have the right skills and knowledge they need to stay safe around water.

The campaign will include encouraging parents to familiarise themselves with the Water Safety Code (stop and think, stay together, float and call 999 in the UK or 112 if abroad) and how to teach this to children to ensure they know what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly.

The council's *Be Water Smart* campaign will focus on:

- How families can stay safe together in and around water.
- What to do if you or your child gets into difficulties in the water or comes across someone else who is in trouble.
- Raising awareness of the risks associated with swimming in open water, such as cold water shock and hidden dangers under the water.
- Helpful tips for enjoying the water safely this summer, including places where families can have fun in the water in a safe and controlled environment.
- Water safety activities and resources families can complete together.

At least a dozen children across the country have died in water during the recent hot weather spell, so this campaign could not be more timely.

### Unclaimed child trust funds

The government is contacting thousands of 21-year-olds about forgotten Child Trust Funds in a bid to reunite account holders with their accounts, worth £2,200 on average.

Child Trust Funds were introduced in 2005, to be accessed by children once they reached the age of 18. The scheme ran for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011.

The government is now undertaking an awareness campaign urging young people to locate their Child Trust Funds through the free *Find My Child Trust Fund* service on GOV.UK.

[www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund](http://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund)

### Summer Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) Programme

The Summer HAF Programme will be operating 21 July to 28 August for local families. Children eligible for benefits-related free school meals can access 64 funded hours at a HAF holiday scheme where a daily meal, physical exercise and enriching experiences are offered. Families experiencing financial hardship also qualify.

Bookings for the scheme will open on 8 June. More information can be found here [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

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## **ADULTS & HEALTH**

### **‘Virtual smart flat’ goes live**

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a ‘virtual smart flat’ which uses Extended Reality (XR) to showcase ways in which new and existing technology can be used to help prevent, delay and reduce the need for formal community or acute care.

The equipment available ranges from simple pill reminders to sophisticated detectors, sensors, smart devices and trackers.

People will be able to access the virtual smart flat from home, on a desktop computer or tablet, from Wednesday 13 May. The Council also has a ‘Smart Flat’ in Huntingdon where you can try out the available equipment and technology.

Find out more about the council’s TEC offering including a video:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/staying-independent/equipment-and-technology/technology-enabled-care/tecs-smartflat>

### **Personal Independence Payments (PIP) review**

On 19 March, the government launched the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payments for people with a disability or long-term health condition. The Review has now closed.

The Review sought feedback from the public on their experiences and knowledge of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), particularly from those with lived or learned experience of PIP, including disabled people, the organisations that represent them, carers, clinicians, experts, MPs, and other elected officials in the UK. The Review aims to report to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in autumn 2026 and to reporting its outcomes to Parliament.

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## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Recycling strategy and design guide endorsed**

The Council has agreed to endorse the new *Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Waste Partnership Interim Resources and Waste Strategy 2025-2031* along with the new *Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document*.

## Woodland creation invitation

Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting communities, landowners and farmers to come forward if they have land suitable for new woodland, hedgerow creation, and nature recovery, as part of a campaign to rebuild the county's depleted tree cover.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most tree-depleted counties in England, with intensive agriculture and the loss of traditional hedgerows leaving habitats fragmented and wildlife increasingly isolated.

The Woodland Creation project, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and funded by the Forestry Commission, aims to reverse this trend by increasing tree and woodland canopy cover and expanding hedgerows across the county, to open up potential opportunities, such as agroforestry.

The Council is now inviting expressions of interest from community and parish groups, landowners and farmers with land of 0.5 hectares or more that may be suitable for tree planting, woodland creation, hedgerow improvement or wider nature recovery initiatives. Priority will be given to:

- Lower-grade agricultural land
- Sites next to existing habitats such as woodland, wetlands or meadows
- Land that can help connect ecological networks across Cambridgeshire.

Those interested are encouraged to complete the secure online form by 30 June 2026 for the 2026/27 planting season. Further information about the offers to support the delivery of these woodlands will be available over the next couple of months.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/climate-change-energy-and-environment/woodland-creation>

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### County Councillors for the Sawston and Shelfords Division

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