

# South Cambridgeshire District Councillors' Report

January 2026

## **SCDC Elections are going ahead in May 2026**

There has been a great deal of speculation in the news and on social media about the May local government elections. There is quite a short time lapse between this year's elections and another round in 2027 to elect councillors for the new unitary councils (due to become effective in 2028). In view of this the Government invited local authorities in England to request the cancellation of their May 2026 elections.

SCDC has not taken up this invitation and our May elections will go ahead as scheduled. Whilst this carries a cost, and runs the risk of "election fatigue" amongst voters, councillors considered it more important to stick with the scheduled democratic process and allow residents to endorse (or not) the performance of their council over the last four years at the ballot box.

## **SCDC pledges £900,000 to local organisations through 3-year Service Support Grant funding**

The Council has just committed Service Support Grant funding of £300,000 a year to local groups to underpin the delivery of services that support people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis.

Examples of how the grants have been allocated include:

- Cambridge and District Citizens Advice – £105,000 per year for district-wide free, confidential advice services.
- Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre – £10,000 per year for specialist support for survivors of sexual violence.
- Over Day Centre – £30,000 per year for older people's transport and hospital-discharge support.
- Support Cambridgeshire (CCVS) – £20,000 per year to strengthen the local voluntary and community sector.
- Hope Against Poverty CIC – £14,400 per year for wellbeing programmes tackling anxiety, bereavement and isolation.
- Youth and family organisations (for example Blue Smile, Cambridge Acorn Project, Home-Start, Ormiston Families, Romsey Mill, Turtle Dove, and Waterbeach & Landbeach Action for Youth) receive funding for mental health, trauma support and youth work.
- All-age and older-people services (including CamSight, Reach Community Projects, Care Network Cambridgeshire, Sew Positive and The Voluntary Network) are funded for poverty relief, visual-impairment support, community car schemes and social-isolation projects.

SCDC's Service Support Grant funding has almost doubled compared to the previous budget. This has been made possible by prudent management of the council's finances and a recognition of the acute need for these services.

More information, including the full list of grant recipients can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/exbkw6eu>

### **Planning for Greater Cambridge**

Residents, businesses, and community organisations are being urged to respond to a consultation on the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which will guide how the area grows over the next 20 years. The plan addresses pressures such as demand for new homes and employment land while seeking to safeguard landscapes and biodiversity.

The consultation is a major opportunity for residents to influence future decisions on where new development should go and what supporting infrastructure will be needed, so do take a look and give your views in the survey.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-greater-cambridge-consultation-on-draft-local-plan-opens>

### **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Consultation**

The government has now confirmed that the public consultation on LGR for our area will start in early February, and last for seven weeks. There will be statutory consultees (yet to be confirmed) but the general public will be invited to respond. We'll provide a link to the consultation as soon as it's available, or you can keep an eye on the weekly local press and SCDC website.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – new planning reforms**

The government has launched a consultation on its proposals for reform of the NPPF that will run until March. The consultation and survey can be found below. The councils' planners will be digesting the proposals and will respond in the new year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

Cllrs Libby Earle and Brian Milnes  
8 January 2026