

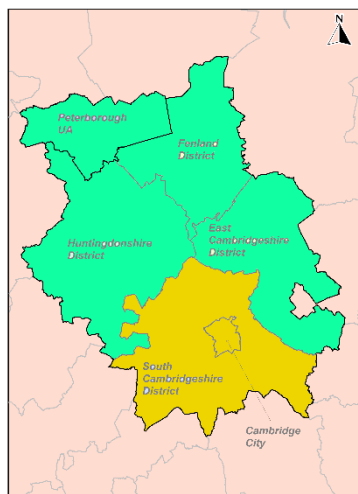
South Cambridgeshire District Councillors – July 2026

Cllr Brian Milnes and Cllr Ed Sanders' report

Local government reorganisation

As noted previously, the 7th May 2026 elections were the **last ever** election for SCDC. This is because the national Government has decided that the functions of District and County Councils will be merged and split back out into “Unitary Councils”.

As required, all seven of your local Councils in Cambridgeshire sent proposals into the Government, and we finally had notification on the [Date TBC]* that proposed Option [Option TBC]* would be the new Unitary area boundaries.



As **Greater Cambridge** (the City and surrounding South Cambridgeshire) has been a component of all the options, the only question remained would we be left alone, our preference, or would other areas be added to us.

This result gives us plenty to think about, and we are now able to work on splitting existing resources and responsibilities and rebuilding them into a new authority.

Elections will be held in May 2027 for a ‘shadow’ version of the new authority, which will exist concurrently with the existing councils for one year.

Thereafter, from May 2028, SCDC, Cambridge City Council and the County Council will cease to exist, and the new unitary authority will become our council. Parish and Town councils will continue to exist as they do now.

*At the time of submission of this report, the chosen option is pending, awaiting announcement by the UK government

Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge

The Government’s plan for a Development Corporation (‘DevCo’), contentious as it is, continues to be developed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The most notable recent development is the appointment of David Hill as the DevCo’s Chief Executive. He has wide senior experience in both Central and Local Government and is a long term resident of South Cambridgeshire. He will take up the role in September 2026.

The DevCo will have significant planning powers, and we are still waiting to understand how this will work alongside our current democratically managed Planning process, especially as we are due to publish our new **Local Plan** at the end of the year.

Waste Collection news

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste started rolling out weekly collections of food waste in parts of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City from January 2026. It is being rolled out to all parts of Greater Cambridge by the end of the year, and Sawston has been covered by the scheme since May.

This additional service is obligatory, directed by the Government, who have contributed significantly to its costs.

It will take time to adjust our “bin habits” to get used to the new internal and external Caddies, but that food waste will go to an Anaerobic Digester plant to produce renewable energy and save us sending it to (costly) land fill.

Community Pantries

The District Council's Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. The new grant is part of a [£449,000 package of support](#) to tackle cost-of-living challenges over a 2-year period until March 2028.

Pantries of this type are simple, community-run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste.

The grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Constituted community groups with a bank account
- Informal groups with written support from their Parish/Town Council or District Councillor.

Visit <https://shorturl.at/p1sqb> to apply.

Cambridge South Station

The end of June saw the official opening of the long-awaited Cambridge South station, a key interface with Addenbrookes, the new hospitals and the wider Biomedical Campus.

As Chair of the GCP (who funded part of the project), Brian attended the opening. This was very subdued in deference to the death of the train driver in the recent Bedford train crash.

There have been some objections to the level of parking/waiting provision at the station, but the intention has always been for this to be a destination station, within easy walking distance of the Biomedical Campus or accessible by shuttle bus. Early users have responded very positively to the new station with its direct access

to many local routes as well as diverse destinations such as Birmingham and Brighton.

Draft: govt announcement pending