

SCDC report to Sawston Parish Council for the meeting of Tuesday 8th September, 2026

(Cllr Brian Milnes and Cllr Ed Sanders)

LGR update

There has been no further update from Government regarding timescales for an announcement for LGR geographies for Cambridgeshire; as such SCDC is working to the assumption that the end-of-October deadline still stands. Much work continues in the background to be ready for vesting day.

‘Rewiring the State’

Over the summer, the government published a statement setting out how they intend to re-shape how the public sector functions and empower local leaders to drive growth in their areas. This is arguably the most radical change to public service delivery for a generation. This is a link to the CPCA report to their Audit and Governance committee, which has just been published: [Rewiring the State and opportunities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.pdf](#). This is a helpful summary – of note – significant powers are being devolved to mayors and mayoral authorities.

Update to the National Planning Policy Framework

The Government updated the national planning policy framework (NPPF) - see [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#). The Framework provides the comprehensive list of planning policies that supersede policies in our adopted 2018 Local Plans. Relevant NPPF policies apply to all planning and related decisions made at Planning Committee and under delegated powers from 16/08/2026. SCDC members have received initial briefings and training from officers.

Local Plan

The public consultation (Regulation 19) on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is now underway, with a series of exhibitions taking place across South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge throughout September. These events provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the Local Plan, view supporting information and speak directly with members of the Planning Policy team about the consultation. There is no need to register in advance, although Eventbrite registration is encouraged to help with event planning.

Details of all upcoming exhibition dates and venues, and to access consultation materials, are published on [the Greater Cambridge Planning website](#).

South Cambridgeshire's breastfeeding-friendly network – four years on

A campaign encouraging businesses and community venues to welcome families who breastfeed is continuing to grow across South Cambridgeshire, four years after it was first launched.

South Cambridgeshire District Council, working alongside NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Infant Feeding Team and local partners, is celebrating the ongoing success of the **#FreeToFeed** campaign, which helps create welcoming spaces for families across the district.

Since launching in 2022, the campaign has encouraged 174 businesses, community venues and public organisations to sign the [FreeToFeed](#) pledge demonstrating their support for families who breastfeed and / or express milk while out and about.

The initiative aims to help families feel confident feeding their babies whenever and wherever they need to, while increasing understanding among businesses, staff and the wider public.

Every venue signed up to the campaign agrees to adopt a breastfeeding welcome policy and ensure staff understand how to support families in a positive and inclusive way.

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

South Cambridgeshire District Council has reduced net greenhouse gas emissions from the services and facilities it runs by 45.3% from 2018/19 levels - hitting its emission reduction target.

A major upgrade to the energy performance of the Council's main building, South Cambs Hall, as well as switching to more low-carbon vehicles, has helped the Council move towards its long-term climate goals.

The Council's carbon emissions equalled 1,183 tonnes in 2025/26, compared with 1,929 in 2018/19 – a 39% gross reduction.

Once renewable electricity purchased by the Council and electricity exported are factored into the equation, emissions fall to 1,049 tonnes - representing a 45.3% net reduction compared with 2018/19.

Items coming to SCDC Cabinet (29th September, 2026)

1. Adoption of the Obesity Charter
2. Community Safety Partnership Operational Plan 2026/27
3. 2026/27 Quarter 1 Performance Report
4. 2026/2027 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring (Quarter 1)
5. Transformation Programme Update
6. Crisis and Resilience Fund – Proposal for District-led Projects