

Joint Cambs County Council (CCC) & South Cambs District Council (SCDC) Report - February 2026

County Council

Budget

County Council is putting the finishing touches to its budget for next financial year, due to be approved at full council next week. We will provide an update after approval. Several press releases on committee decisions to feed into the budget process are available on the council website.

Cam Vale Bus User Group

We have had another meeting with the responsible director for public transport services at the Mayoral Combined Authority to provide feedback and discuss the performance of the local 17 and 26 bus services. These bus services are a lifeline for many in the community. We are planning a Bus User Group meeting on 5 March 12-1 at Bassingbourn Old School Community Centre in order to share some updates, in particular about an upcoming consultation about the future shape of services in our area. Please let us know if you want to be added to the email list.

Melbourn Greenway and Link to Meldreth Station

Last year, several Traffic Regulation Orders (1106, 1107, 1111) were advertised for public consultation for improvements and traffic calming measures in Melbourn, along Station Road, improvements at the War Memorial triangle, and a new raised table and pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Meldreth railway station. The TROs have now made their way through the pipeline to approval, with construction expected in the second half of this year.

Keep an eye on Facebook for updates, and residents near the works will be alerted with fliers.

Local Plan

As Vice Chair of the Environment and Green Investment Committee, I have given feedback on the Greater Cambridge Plan. While officers had prepared a detailed technical response to the development policies and the nature, climate and transport ambitions in the Plan, my comments related to the broader importance of equitable growth. While the Plan often talks about “growth”, it is really above all a plan for the scale and distribution of future “(housing) development”, which can’t be equated with “(economic) growth”. The “development hierarchy” and the resulting concentration of new housing development in Cambridge, in towns with good transport links such as Cambourn, and at other large developments near employment clusters makes sense from a (environmental) sustainability perspective. But at the same time the hierarchy raises questions about the future development of smaller villages, such as Meldreth, many of which would very much like to see better transport (e.g. buses) and other services. Similarly, in terms of planning terminology Melbourn is described as a “rural” centre, which poorly reflects its economy. It is hard to see how better transport and other services can be realised without some development, without broader economic growth, and without fair sharing of the benefits these bring. The Plan also mentioned the importance of Royston as a local centre, which together with Melbourn provides significant employment, not least in science and technology, but no details were given.

Update on “potholes”

Highways is working hard to repair potholes.

In the last three years, the County Council has more than doubled the annual amount spent on highway maintenance to £73 million. This is in the context of very tight local authority budgets and other statutory funding obligations such as social care. And yet, we are still working through decades of underinvestment, which has left us with incredibly poor road surfaces with an estimated £800m bill across the county. We need significant long-term funding from government to deal with road maintenance.

Right now, as the wet and cold are taking their toll, the council is significantly increasing the number of resources for pothole season to help tackle the repairs needed. Normally there are eight crews and two dragon patchers

available across the county, now there are 30 crews and two dragon patchers working to repair potholes, with further dragon patchers coming on stream. Currently, more than 1000 potholes are being repaired each week, and this number will continue to increase.

In addition, I have asked that consideration is given to new materials and repair techniques, which promise more durable and earlier preventative repairs. A council officer visited last week and has raised many defects for repair. Where I am (made) aware, I am also reporting particularly bad potholes for urgent repair.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

I hope this provides some reassurance that the county council is working hard to address the current situation.

It should be said that the long-term picture is improving. Last summer, significant areas of deterioration were tackled with large patches, and I hope we will see more of this when spring arrives.

South Cambs District Council

There's quite a bit to report this month from SCDC in terms of planning and economic development in the Greater Cambridge area and all that goes with it. It is clear that the government is determined to press ahead with an agenda for significant growth and to tackle, head-on, the obstacles to it such as water shortages and transportation issues. They have set up the Cambridge Growth Company (CGC) and possibly a "DevCo" to facilitate the growth agenda and we have commented below on a meeting held by SCDC's Scrutiny Committee with the senior staff of CGC. Parish Councils had the opportunity to speak with the CGC's boss, Peter Freeman on 4th February and can now feedback via another consultation via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

SCDC breaks record for new Council houses

SCDC has just confirmed that the council has completed 113 new Council homes since 1 April 2025 - the highest annual number achieved surpassing the previous year's record of 91 homes and with over two months of the financial year still to go. Many of these new homes feature renewable energy systems and electric vehicle (EV) charging points.

Low Income Dashboard

SCDC has released a new dashboard which will give a better understanding of the demographics of low-income households in South Cambridgeshire. The dashboard has been built by SCDC officers using *anonymised* data from the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software platform which uses benefits data held by the Council. The main aim of the LIFT software is to identify low-income households and to encourage them to claim benefits to which they are entitled, something it has been doing very successfully for some months. It is hoped that the information contained within this new publicly available dashboard will provide insights and support decision-making across the district. You are invited to try the system and it can be found here: [Low-Income Family Tracker \(LIFT\) Data Dashboard - South Cambs District Council](#). You will see that you can select data by district or by specific wards. If you have questions or comments, please contact data@scambs.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Consultation

The government continues to press ahead with its policy of abolishing county and district councils and combining their functions within larger unitary authorities. A seven week public consultation has been promised for February and in advance of that, South Cambs District, Cambridge City and East Cambridgeshire District councils have published a video and a news release which set out the position of the three councils, which is to support option B, i.e. two unitary councils, one for North and East Cambs/Peterborough and another for Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire. The intention of this content is to engage local people with information

about why the three councils believe this is the best option for the area but the public and stakeholders will be reminded that there are other options on the table.

You can watch the video [here](#) and read the news release [here](#). SCDC's website has been updated to reflect the resident consultation is now live runs until Thursday 26th March, 2026.

Local Plan update - Growth in South Cambs

The councils' annual look at how well its 2018 Local Plans are being delivered – through an Authority Monitoring Report for Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - confirms that despite challenges around water and other infrastructure, in the period from April 2024 to March 2025, permission for over 10,000 new homes was granted. 2,265 new homes - of which 700 were affordable homes - and over 60,000 square metres of new employment space - were constructed across Greater Cambridge. We feel sure that Mr Freeman will read this with interest.

Community Infrastructure Levy Plans

SCDC and Cambridge City Councils are currently considering proposals for the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) strategy for securing contributions from developers for improvements to transport and other infrastructure to accommodate growth. A CIL would also see a proportion of the funds collected - up to 25% where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place - being made available to local communities. Alongside these the councils are also considering the adoption of updated guidance on Section 106 Planning Obligations that accompany major planning application decisions.

Local Authority Elections May 2026

Following no request to postpone elections by SCDC we can now confirm elections for SCDC seats will be going ahead as normal on 7th May 2026. Both Sally Ann & Jose will be seeking re-election for our ward.

Feedback on SCDC services

A reminder that SCDC has a new mechanism designed to enable general feedback on its services from residents, businesses, Parish Councils and any other clients. Please use this link: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/feedback-and-complaints>

Adam, Jose & Sally Ann