

July 2024 District and County Council Reports to Parish Councils

With the General Election now over it's back to business at District and County Councils.

Five-year Land Supply

SCDC has published the most recent Greater Cambridge housing trajectory with housing land supply calculations. This is important as without it a lot of protective planning policies fall away as happened in the years to 2018. The trajectory - which shows anticipated delivery of new homes across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire up to 2041 - demonstrates that jointly for Greater Cambridge there are 6.5 years of housing land supply for the 2024-2029 period.

Visit South Cambs

[Visit South Cambs - tourism website - South Cambs District Council \(scams.gov.uk\)](https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/visit-south-cambs-tourism-website)

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/visit-south-cambs-tourism-website>

The SCDC website for the local tourism, hospitality, leisure and independent retail sectors offers businesses and event organisers a free listing on the site, which is seen by nearly 2,000 visitors worldwide each month. If you would like a free listing for your events, or know any businesses or organisers who would, please use this link to fill in the submission form or email visit@scams.gov.uk

How Are You South Cambs?

This website offers a brilliant set of resources on activities and support available in South Cambs – a combination of community, health and care, work and employment, and more.

[How Are You South Cambs? | Support \(haysouthcambs.co.uk\)](https://haysouthcambs.co.uk/support/)

<https://haysouthcambs.co.uk/support/>

Community Cooking Programmes

SCDC, in partnership with Let's Cook Project, are delivering FREE sessions, aiming to support residents of South Cambridgeshire to improve their confidence and knowledge in healthy eating and cooking. We are looking to deliver 4 cohorts across the district, and we offer 2 different programs for adults and families. All equipment and ingredients will be provided.

For more info please contact Emma Jarvis emma.jarvis@letscookproject.org

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: where to turn for advice; benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handy person service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support such as how to reduce bills and access financial support, as well as how to stay healthy and well.

Local Community Hubs include:

- (Melbourn) 'MACS Cozy Corner' Community Hub - Vicarage Close Community Hall, Vicarage Close, Melbourn, Royston, SG8 6DY. Opens: Monday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm
- Meldreth Community Hub - Meldreth Sheltered Housing Building, Elin Way, Meldreth, Royston, SG8 6LX. Opens: Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm

A full list of Community Hubs can be found at:

<https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/projects/cambridgeshire-community-hubs-network/>

Community Vegetable Gardens

SCDC is awarding small grants of up to £500 to community groups to grow vegetables. Details of the simple application process are on the website. The Community Growing grants will enable local groups to buy equipment and tools to help start a Community Growing Project. It is envisaged that funding will be spent on items such as raised beds, seeds, soil, and gardening equipment. Anyone can apply for this grant, as long as they are able to demonstrate they have brought a group together to look after the project!

Tiger Bus Scheme

Anyone under the age of 25 can now apply for a Discount Card which entitles them to travel anywhere within Cambridgeshire for £1. Obviously, you need to be able to get on a bus to do this but the Mayoral Led Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is developing the business case for 'bus franchising' which will mean control for the bus service rests with the Combined Authority rather than with the bus operators. Had a congestion charge for Cambridge been approved there would have been an additional £50 million per year to subsidise rural services but since that is not the case, we are unlikely to see all of our villages connected by bus. What we hope is that some key services will run more often and at more suitable times to cater for children getting to school and people getting to work.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The CPCA is the accountable body for this work which is going well, and we are in the first cohort who will be completing. The Environment and Sustainable Commuters Committee, which Bridget Smith, Leader of SCDC, chairs, has asked the CPCA Board for delegated powers to agree the draft to go out for consultation.

Fen Reservoir at Chatteris and Anglian Water consultation

The much-reported water crisis in our region means 2 new reservoirs are required in the next 15 years. The first to be constructed will be the Fen Reservoir at Chatteris. Even though the reservoir is not on our patch the piping and other infrastructure will be and full details are now available as part of the recently launched non-statutory consultation.

See more here:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/bold-new-vision-unveiled-for-proposed-reservoir-in-the-fens-ahead-of-second-phase-consultation-launch/>

This includes the consultation link:

[Second phase public consultation for proposed reservoir in the Fens now open \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/second-phase-public-consultation-for-proposed-reservoir-in-the-fens-now-open)
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/second-phase-public-consultation-for-proposed-reservoir-in-the-fens-now-open/>

Fire Authority News

Matthew Warren is being recommended as the new Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive Officer for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service after a nationwide recruitment search with a robust selection process. Matthew is currently Deputy Chief Executive and has worked for the Service for over 20 years - and was the unanimous choice of the Appointments Committee. The current chief - Chris Strickland - is retiring having served over 40 years in the fire and rescue service.

Children's Services

Children's Services at Cambridgeshire have recently been inspected by Ofsted who say that CCC has created strong foundations to drive improvement in Children's Services, but the service overall requires improvement; acknowledging that "This improvement was initiated by a new chief executive and assisted by the appropriate decision to decouple shared leadership and service arrangements from Peterborough" and that "there has been significant political and corporate investment and commitment to the improvement of outcomes for children in Cambridgeshire." There is still a considerable amount of work to be done.

Coffee Pod Recycling comes to Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

CCC has introduced coffee pod recycling at all nine of its Household Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods.

Over 1 billion coffee pods are sold each year in the UK alone. Waste from these 'single-use' pods will lead to a huge environmental impact if not recycled properly, in the UK and globally. CCC is partnering with Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services. Podback

was initially created by Nespresso, Nescafe, Dolce Gusto and Tassimo to help their customers recycle their coffee pods and is now supported by many more coffee brands. Podback recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Collected pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The shredded pods can be made into new products, while the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

Did you know?

You can recycle a huge variety of items at CCC Household Recycling Centres from aerosols, batteries, and cooking oil, to mobile phones, soil and vapes.

There are nine Household Recycling Centres across Cambridgeshire, run by Thalia, with locations in Alconbury, Bluntisham, March, Milton, St Neots, Thriplow, Whittlesey, Wisbech and Witchford.

Find out more about recycling in Cambridgeshire: Household Recycling Centres

Police want to hear from you! And next community meeting 28 August

Cambridgeshire Police is undertaking community engagement events with the next on Wednesday 28 August at 7pm. You can register now to receive the meeting link and more details of both the engagement event on the Police website.

[South Cambridgeshire Community Engagement meeting August 2024 Tickets, Wed, Aug 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-cambridgeshire-community-engagement-meeting-august-2024-tickets-772922380647)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-cambridgeshire-community-engagement-meeting-august-2024-tickets-772922380647>

Have you considered being a Special Constable?

Cambs Police have just launched a recruitment drive for Special constables - Specials have all the powers of a police officer and work alongside their regular colleagues. It only requires a minimum commitment of four hours a week and is a great opportunity to give something back to your community, while receiving professional training, skills and experience that can be used in everyday life and career progression.

Over the past 12 months, Specials have racked up more than 23,000 hours on the job, launched an impressive 400 investigations and stopped 1300 vehicles. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about becoming a Special, and maybe even apply, please visit the Police website pages.

[Police support volunteers | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://www.cambs.police.uk)

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/careers/careers/volunteering-and-other-opportunities/police-support-volunteers/>

South Cambs District Council Four-Day Week Trial

An independent report by two universities into South Cambridgeshire District Council's performance during its four-day week trial has been published.

An independently run health and wellbeing survey has also been published.

Both reports will be reviewed by councillors at the [Employment and Staffing Committee on Monday 15 July](#) and at a meeting of the Full Council on Thursday 18 July.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=413&MId=9795&Ver=4>

The press release is here:

[Independent report analyses Council's four-day week trial \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/independent-report-analyses-council-s-four-day-week-trial/>

The actual report is available at this link via the SCDC web site.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s136107/Appendix%20A%20-%20University%20of%20Salford%20and%20University%20of%20Cambridge%20analysis.pdf>

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help, but if we can't, we are likely to know someone who can!