

District Councillors Report to Parishes

Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Horningsea, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham, Great Wilbraham, Little Wilbraham and Six-Mile-Bottom.

August 2026

Updated Greater Cambridge Local Plan published ahead of final public consultation

An updated version of the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been published, marking a major milestone in preparing the first joint Local Plan for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

The Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been prepared by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council following extensive public engagement, including consultation on the Draft Local Plan earlier this year.

Subject to approval by councillors this month, the Plan will undergo a final round of public consultation from 3 August to 25 September before it is submitted to Government to be examined by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will shape how Greater Cambridge grows over the next 20 years. It identifies where new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure should be located and sets planning policies on themes including climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing, sustainable transport and creating great places to live and work.

Once adopted, it will become the statutory development plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and will guide decisions on planning applications across the area. The latest version of the Plan reflects continued work on infrastructure constraints such as water supply, forecasts on job creation and housing need, confirming a requirement for over 50,000 new homes between 2024 and 2045. Around 37,000 of these are already planned through existing permissions and the current, adopted Local Plan allocations.

As part of this next stage, all comments received during the previous consultation, which ran from December 2025 into January 2026, have now been [published alongside updated evidence](#) and supporting documents that have informed preparation of the Proposed Submission Plan.

More than 1,280 people and organisations submitted over 8,400 comments during the latest consultation on the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan – building upon extensive engagement in previous years. Feedback from residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders has been carefully considered and has helped shape the latest version of the Plan.

Key changes made following the latest consultation include:

- Several of the policies and site allocations have been updated based on the feedback provided, providing greater clarity and tightening up wording where needed;
- Further evidence has been prepared to inform proposals at Cambourne North, resulting in changes to the site boundary and confirmation that the site can overcome transport impacts;

- Further evidence has also been prepared to inform proposals at Land adjacent to A11 and A1307 at Grange Farm, resulting in a reduction in the capacity of the site and development of more detailed policy requirements.

Supporting documents such as the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment, Consultation Statement and Equalities Impact Assessment have been updated to reflect this stage of plan-making. The Plan and supporting documents were considered by councillors. [South Cambridgeshire District Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee](#) on 14 July, followed by Cambridge City Council's Performance, Assets and Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 July. A joint Cabinet meeting was held on 21 July to decide whether the Plan should proceed to consultation.

If approved by councillors, the consultation from 3 August to 25 September 2026 will be the final opportunity for residents, businesses, landowners and organisations to comment before the Local Plan is submitted to Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Unlike previous consultations, this final stage will only focus on whether the Plan meets the national tests of "soundness". This requires Plans to be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Proposals for new sites will not be considered at this stage.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Henry Batchelor, said: "This plan will help shape Greater Cambridge for the next 20 years. It sets out where growth should happen, how communities will be supported and how we can respond to major challenges such as climate change, housing need and infrastructure delivery. The Proposed Submission Local Plan that we intend to consult on will give our communities the opportunity to comment on the soundness of the Plan and whether you support or object to the policies. This will play an important role ahead of its submission to Government at the end of the year."

Cambridge City Council's Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy, Planning and External Partnerships, Cllr Katie Thornburrow, said: "Thousands of comments were submitted during the last consultation, demonstrating how strongly people care about the future of Greater Cambridge. Those views have helped shape the Proposed Submission Plan now being considered by councillors. The forthcoming consultation will be the last opportunity to comment before the Plan is submitted to Government, so I would encourage anyone with an interest in the area's future to get involved."

People can sign up for updates and find out more about the Greater Cambridge Local Plan on the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website](#). Following the consultation, the councils will submit the Plan, consultation responses and supporting evidence to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

Cambridgeshire Libraries – Blood Pressure Monitor Loan Scheme

Cambridgeshire Libraries are offering blood pressure monitors to borrow from all of their libraries and mobile libraries.

[How Are You South Cambs? | Cambridgeshire Libraries - Blood Pressure Monitor Loan Scheme](#)

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has delayed its decision on the future of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough until October.

High Street Grants

More than £130,000 is being invested in 20 businesses and community groups across South Cambridgeshire, helping to bring new life to local high streets.

Projects range from shopfront upgrades to community space improvements in the District Council's Improving the High Street grants scheme. Grants have been allocated to help promote rejuvenation, improve the look of high streets, encourage residents to shop locally, and attract more local businesses to the area.

Among the 20 projects chosen for grant funding are Willingham Creative Grounds Café who will receive just over £1,000 for shop frontage improvements including adding greenery and new signage.

Health Condition Grant

The Long Term Health Condition Grant is a funding opportunity to create programmes and activities that support adults with long term health conditions to keep active. Applications opened on 9 July 2026.

The aim of the grant is to provide activities and programmes to support those with a wide range of long term health conditions stay active.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/long-term-health-condition-grant>

Council had conversations to support safe and lawful use of Smithy Farm caravan site

SCDC visited a Gypsy and Traveller site in Smithy Fen, Cottenham, to help ensure it is complying with regulations.

The Council visited approximately 70 caravans and spoke to some residents to establish who is living there as part of the District Council's wider action to ensure Gypsy and Traveller sites are safe, lawful, and used for their intended purpose. A condition of the planning permission for individual plots includes the need for Gypsy and Travellers to live in the caravans.

Officers from a range of services were present to talk to residents and provide advice.

Information gathered from talking to each resident will now be assessed carefully. If any breaches are identified, for example in planning, licensing or Council Tax, the Council will follow lawful and proportionate processes to address them.

This is the first step in a longer process, and any future actions will be taken in line with legal requirements and with sensitivity to the needs of the community living there, including housing needs of residents.

Council visit at another site in South Cambridgeshire

In October last year, the Council undertook a similar coordinated visit to a Gypsy and Traveller site in Fen Road, Chesterton, to help ensure the site is meeting planning regulations. The Council spoke with residents living in around 100 caravans to understand who was living there and to understand whether they are complying with relevant planning regulations.

Four enforcement notices have also been served on parts of the site after Council investigations showed that some people living in caravans were not Gypsies or Travellers. This is a requirement of the planning permissions. These are currently progressing through the legal process.

Shepreth wildlife charity awarded £45,000 grant to support Hedgehog Conservation

A new Conservation Hub to support the work of the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Charity (SWCC) Hedgehog Hospital is set to boost the wildlife charity's impact.

The Hub will coexist with the SWCC Hedgehog Hospital, at Shepreth Wildlife Park, which plays a vital role in rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing injured and orphaned hedgehogs back into the wild.

The £50,000 project is being funded thanks to a £45,000 grant from the Rural England Protection Fund (REPF) which supports rural communities and businesses to develop long-term resilience. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is the lead authority for the fund while South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for local grant delivery.

Your councillors

Carla, Chloe and Vince