

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – October 2025

District Councillor Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

Michael Atkins:	Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk	07968 264637
Ariel Cahn:	Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk	07455 128924
Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: 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 handyman 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 and how to stay healthy and well. Local Community Hubs include:

Toft Community Hub, High Street, Toft, CB23 2RL.

Opening times: Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW

Opening times: Friday, 10am – 12pm

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

Discounted menstrual cups available via Recap

Residents from South Cambridgeshire are eligible to buy a Mooncup for £5 rather than the usual £23.50 at: [Get a Mooncup for £5 with Recap](#). This discount is provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (Recap). Recap partners work together to improve waste services, increase recycling, and reduce waste. You can find out more at: <https://www.recap.co.uk/>.

SCDC Local Climate Action Conference 2025

South Cambridgeshire District Council will host its third climate conference in October, open to councillors, community groups, charities, and anyone interested in meeting the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Attendees will also have the opportunity to input into the upcoming SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030 and learn about different climate-friendly initiatives around the district. Further details to follow, including the agenda, speakers, and how to register.

- **When:** Friday 17 October 2025, 12pm - 5pm
- **Where:** Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Ave, Cambridge CB3 1AA

Last chance to respond to consultation on the Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) is reconsulting on the draft [Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#). This follows updates to the draft SPD being made in response to feedback from an initial consultation held between November 2024 and January 2025.

The SPD provides detailed guidance on how planning obligations, also known as Section 106 contributions, will be used to mitigate the impact of new developments across Greater Cambridge. The SPD outlines when developers might need to make these contributions and what they could involve. Examples of this may include affordable homes, better transport options like cycle paths or bus improvements, and protecting nature by improving habitats and planting more greenery.

The feedback gathered from during the consultation will play a crucial role in shaping the final version of the Supplementary Planning Document .

Once adopted, the SPD will replace existing planning obligations guidance currently used by Cambridge City Council and will also help to guide development in South Cambridgeshire.

The SPD will provide further information and detailed guidance on policies in the councils' current adopted Local Plans.

Have Your Say

- Comments can still be made on the SPD until **Friday 17 October 2025**.
- To read the updated draft SPD and to find out how to submit your comments, visit: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/spd>

Message from East West Rail

As EWR continue to progress their ground investigations, please note that there will be upcoming works in the village of **Harston** in the next four weeks. These works are scheduled to take place between 29th September and 24th October.

Updates from MHCLG

Review of water efficiency standards in Building Regulations 2020

On 23rd September, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched [a consultation proposing small changes to Building Regulations that could see new homes fitted with water-saving features such as aerated taps and showerheads, and dual flush toilets](#). The change to the design standard will make new build housing more water efficient, equivalent to 20 litres per person per day. Defra is working with MHCLG to explore whether the Building Regulations 2010 could be amended to tighten water efficiency standards and enable consumers to use less water and save on their water and energy bills. The consultation runs until **16th December** and includes an option to revise the minimum water efficiency standard in new houses through fittings. It also includes a call for evidence on water reuse systems in new developments, to enable even greater water efficiency.

Town & Parish Councils Cabinet Liaison Meeting

South Cambridgeshire District Council is holding a Cabinet Liaison Meeting where Town & Parish Councillors and Clerks will learn about the Council's major projects to understand the impacts on local communities.

When: **Tuesday 11 November, 6.30pm – 8.30pm**

Where: **South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne, CB23 6EA**

Agenda:

1. Local Plan
2. Local Government Reorganisation
3. Climate & Nature Strategy 2026-30

This event will include presentations from Leadership Team and Cabinet, plus time to ask questions and network with fellow Town & Parish Councils. Supplementary presentations on infrastructure will be included. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Jack Bullimore, Town & Parish Councils Liaison Officer, at:

jack.bullimore@scambs.gov.uk / 07594 780992 / 07925 398843

Reminder: Survey on local government reorganisation

As part of the national Government's Local Government Reorganisation plans to disband existing district, city and county councils to create new 'unitary' councils from April 2028, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire residents can now [tell us whether they support a new unitary council for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire](#). Our joint survey with Cambridge City Council opened for comments on Monday 15 September and closes at the end of the day on **Sunday 12 October 2025** and parish and town councils are very welcome to take part. Responses to the survey will be used to feed into the proposals being developed by the councils. The proposals will be discussed at Full Council meetings before they must be submitted to Government in November.

There will then be further consultation before Government ultimately makes a final decision. Further down the line, new councils are expected to operate in a shadow capacity from May 2027 before full implementation in April 2028, known as '*Vesting Day*'.

Air Quality Annual Status Report 2025

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) 2025 has now been accepted by DEFRA and published on our [website](#). The report includes the locations of the Council's diffusion tube network and real time air quality monitors which are shown on the accompanying map (Attachment 1). This network of monitors measures pollutants NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The ASR compares levels of pollutants in the district with national air quality objectives. It also outlines the measures the Council are undertaking to improve air quality within the district.

Air quality within South Cambridgeshire is relatively good and there are currently no Air Quality Management Areas within the district. However, it is generally accepted that there is no safe level of air pollution, and we should be continuing to take action to reduce pollutants to ensure that the health and wellbeing of the population are prioritised.

If there is interest in the levels of pollutants in a specific area, please review the Council's ASR and our team would be happy to discuss anything further as required; please contact air.quality@scambs.gov.uk

More information on the additional work the Council is doing to improve air quality can be found in our joint [Air Quality Strategy](#).

Help shape climate and nature work in the area

The climate and ecological crises are one of the biggest challenges facing Greater Cambridge, now and in the years to come. Real progress has been made in the area, but there is still more work to be done. Cambridge City Council are developing a new Climate Change Strategy, and South Cambridgeshire District Council has created a new combined Climate and Nature Strategy to guide how our area responds to the challenges and opportunities of climate change and nature recovery.

A survey is launching on Wednesday 1 October to gain the views of the area's residents and stakeholders, to help shape the strategies around the needs and aspirations of local communities.

Parish councils and their communities will play a pivotal role in the delivery of key actions within the strategy and so we are keen to hear from as many of you as possible to understand how we can support further action across the area.

Please sign up via the [South Cambridgeshire District Council Engagement Platform](#) to be notified when the consultation is live, and share your views!

Prevent Awareness Training for Venues

Here's another opportunity to learn how to mitigate risks of your venues being used to radicalise and spread hate in our communities.

Hosted by County Council Prevent Teams (jointly between Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk) and designed specifically for Town and Parish Councils and local authorities, sessions are being delivered on:

- Tuesday 28 October, 10am - 11am
- Wednesday 26 November, 10am - 11am

Sign up for [Prevent Awareness Training for Venue Hire Staff here](#).

Updates from Greater Cambridge Shared Waste: New recycling and waste webpages

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service have updated their web pages for residents and commercial customers. This is now a single source of information for all bin collection information, waste reduction and recycling tips, and more!

Access to the new web pages is still from the bins and recycling section on the [South Cambs](#) website (and [Cambridge City](#) website) or using the URLs below:

Residential: www.greatercambridgewaste.org

Commercial: www.greatercambridgewaste.org/commercial

Council Tax Scheme Consultation ends soon

The consultation on changes to South Cambridgeshire District Council's working age Local Council Tax Support scheme, which aims to provide greater support and improved outcomes for customers, ends on **Wednesday 15 October 2025**.

Residents will be able to have their say by completing the [online consultation](#). Paper copies of the consultation are available on request by e-mailing engage@scambs.gov.uk.

A summary of the proposed changes:

- *Use of Universal Credit new claim notifications as application and award date* - this change aims to reduce the risk of residents missing out on support due to delays in submitting their Council Tax Support application or the application being received after their Universal Credit award is issued.
- *Revisions to backdating provisions* – extend the backdating period up to 12 months and allow claims to be backdated to the date the Council Tax liability has been notified.
- *Simplification of non-dependant deductions* – by introducing a flat-rate deduction.
- *Alignment of disability and carer premiums with Universal Credit* - align the value of disability and carer premiums in the Local Council Tax Support calculation with those used in Universal Credit so residents can better understand their entitlement.
- *Simplifying income bands and adjustment rules* - reduce the number of income bands and introduce rules to disregard minor income changes.
- *Enhancements to award notification processes* – by providing full award details via the online portal and include key information in Council Tax notifications.