

District Councillors' Report

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Food Waste

The Waste team is getting ready for the first of 4 phases (Jan, Apr, Jul, Sept) of food waste collection, The new 12 ton vehicles have been purchased and the waste will go to a local bio digester. SCDC is launching a recruitment campaign for new staff. This includes new management roles.

Local Plan Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has reached the stage in its development where it is ready for the so-called Regulation 18 consultation. This is the first formal stage of consultation and is seeking initial views on key topics, sites, and draft policies. The documents making up the Local Plan were reviewed by SCDC's Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 6th November 2025. The consultation looks as though it will be web based and interactive, but so far Councillors haven't seen the details.

Awaab's Law – Update

Awaab was the little boy who died from living in a rented home which was very damp which affected his health. On 27th October 2025, a new law came into force to protect social housing tenants. There will be

- New rules will protect tenants and force social landlords to urgently fix dangerous homes.
- Emergency hazards to be addressed within 24 hours.

£400 million Government Investment in the Area

The leaders of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils have welcomed the Government's announcement that they will invest up to £400 million in Greater Cambridgeshire

The Government announced their intention to consult on setting up a centrally-led Development Corporation to help plan, manage, and deliver large-scale development projects in Greater Cambridge.

Council leaders have said for many years that national intervention on matters such as water supply, wastewater, power, transport and healthcare has been urgently needed and have lobbied successive governments. Lack of water supply and infrastructure to deal with wastewater is already insufficient to ensure all the current locally planned high quality new communities and homes can be delivered.

The leaders of the councils have said that, like any announcement of this kind, further discussion and details are now needed to understand the Government's intentions and to ensure it also supports local priorities.

Both councils will work with Government to ensure decisions on the precise form and purpose that any development corporation takes that these are shaped and informed by good evidence and input from the democratically elected and accountable leaders for the area. Once more information is

known the Government will consult local residents on setting up a development corporation, allowing local voices to be heard.

The Government's announcement today included:

- Up to £400 million of initial government funding to kickstart development
- A pledge to increase the supply of affordable homes
- Investment in infrastructure
- Business expansion – with £15 million for the University of Cambridge for a proposed Innovation Hub to create lab space for science start-ups to grow and compete on the global stage.

Empty Homes

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years

Success stems from the District Council's strategic decision to appoint an Empty Homes Officer in 2022 - an initiative that has transformed neglected properties into vibrant homes for new families, eased housing pressures, and revitalised communities across the district.

Postal Votes

Postal voters are now required to reapply for their postal vote every three years. All postal voters who made their current application before 31 October 2023 are required to reapply

If a new application is not received by 31 January 2026, the Electoral Registration Officer is required by law to cancel the postal vote, and electors will have to vote in a polling station with photographic ID until a new postal vote application is received or if a proxy is appointed.

All those affected by this change in the coming weeks will be contacted explaining how to reapply and have started the process early for applications to be processed and queries responded to in sufficient time in advance of the 31 January 2026 deadline. They will be sent an initial email or letter.

You can apply online at any time by visiting www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. Young people of 16 can also apply for the vote., but being on the register can help you get approved credit applications.

81 more children can get free school meals

More than 80 extra children in South Cambridgeshire are now receiving free school meals, thanks to a pioneering initiative between two councils.

The campaign uses smart technology and innovative data-sharing between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to identify families eligible for support - but not currently claiming it.

The additional free school meals are expected to be worth more than £314,000 to the 66 families over the lifetime of their claims – if they claim from now until their children reach the end of year 11. Additionally, it is expected to be worth more than £1 million to local schools in government funding in the process.

For each of the 81 extra children now claiming free school meals, South Cambridgeshire schools will also receive extra funding called pupil premium, aimed at improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The additional funding schools will receive is worth £116,555 in its first year

alone and is expected to be worth more than £1 million (£1,020,560) should families claim from now until each child reaches year 11.

South Cambs Christmas Market Sunday 7th December 11-3pm

Cambourne Village College CB23 6FT. Lots of Xmas gifts to buy and food and drink to be had!