

## District Council Report for November 2025

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at [cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk).

### Greater Cambridge Local Plan update

The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been in development since 2020, when the First Conversation consultation took place. A major consultation on the First Proposals took place in 2021, and the results from this were published in 2022. The draft Local Plan has been in preparation during 2025 and [has now been published](#). It was examined by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 6 November, at which I asked questions about the plan's provisions to sustain our village facilities (in particular, our primary schools), and about how we will ensure that the significant new towns we are building (Cambourne and Northstowe) will develop as rich communities with world-class facilities.

The draft plan will be presented at a joint Cabinet meeting between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council on Tuesday 25 November, where the cabinets will decide whether the proposals proceed to public consultation, currently proposed to start on 1 December for 8 weeks.

More detail on the proposed timetable and the many considerations involved in preparing the Local Plan is available [here](#).

### Christmas Market

The fourth annual indoor Christmas Market hosted by South Cambridgeshire District Council is returning to Cambourne Village College, and will take place on Sunday 7 December from 11am to 3pm.

It is free for all to attend, with three large halls featuring local independent businesses. There will be a vibrant atmosphere filled with seasonal delights and over 100 traders offering handcrafted gifts, festive decorations, seasonal produce, and artisanal treats. There will also be warm and festive food available.



## **Local government reorganisation**

Last year the government declared its intention to reform all two-tier local authorities into unitary authorities during the present parliament. The local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were asked to present proposals for implementation on a timescale of approximately two years. The business cases for [several options](#) have been developed by the different councils, and Council leaders are now presenting these to the government, which will then decide how the new unitary authorities should be formed.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been developing the business case for Option B (combining Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire in a single unitary council) and Cambridgeshire County Council has been developing the case for Option C, which would include East Cambridgeshire within the same unitary council. The Council will consider its submission to the government at a meeting on 24 November.

## **New planning web site**

After 12 to 18 months of collaboration between the Delivery Team, Planning Service, and the 3C Digital Software Development team, a newly redesigned Planning website will be launched this month. From 18 November, users will be able to toggle between the old and new sites for planning queries. The new site is scheduled to be fully adopted on 2 December.

## **Six Free Trees**

The council's annual [Six Free Trees](#) scheme for Parish Councils is still open until 30 November.

## **Consultation on street trading arrangements**

The District Council has launched a [public consultation](#) into changes that could be made to its Street Trading Policy. The consultation is open until Monday 24 November.

The proposed changes include more flexible arrangements for ice cream vans, a requirement for DBS checks, improved food hygiene requirements and a more flexible licence duration.

## **Feedback on council services**

The District Council has launched a new mechanism to allow general feedback on the council's services from residents, businesses, Parish Councils, or any other clients. Please use the link [www.scambs.gov.uk/leave-feedback](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/leave-feedback).