

Councillor Peter McDonald

District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.

County Councillor for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow & Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford

Parish Council Report January 2026

Cambs County Council

IWM Duxford Avtech Plans 2026

A new AvTech project is set to be submitted to South Cambs in the Autumn of 2026. So far we know that it is planned a £162m investment and 1,200 jobs over a period of 3-5 yrs.

Duxford AvTech is planned to be the UK's new home for the research and development, prototype testing, certification and manufacture of new low- and zero-carbon advanced air mobility technologies.

The technologies that will be developed include electric, hydrogen and hybrid-powered aircraft, alternative power sources, new materials, and associated technologies and services to shape future air transport.

It is a joint project between Gonville & Caius college and the IWM.

Key local concerns will be the air traffic and road traffic entering and exiting from the A 505.



Caption: High Level Location Drawing of the Site Courtesy of Henry Boot Developers.

County Council Budget

Councillors on the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee considered the next stage in the development of the Council's draft business plan and budget proposals for 2026/27.

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The Committee also considered the emerging new vision for the authority for ‘a healthy, fair and sustainable Cambridgeshire’, supported by three ambitions which would shape all future business planning activities.

The County Council must set a legal budget to deliver public services for Cambridgeshire, including social care, highways, education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), waste disposal, public health, child protection, libraries and community services.

The draft business plan and budget paper discussed at committee sets out the latest financial position for the year ahead (2026-27), projecting growth of £31 million in the 2026-27 revenue budget – a 5.4% increase on 2025-26 – enabling the council to continue investing in key services. This would give the council a net budget of just over £600 million in 2026-27, and a gross total of about £1.2 billion once schools and services funded by specific grants from Government are included.

To develop a legal and balanced budget for 2026-27 and deliver the revised ambitions, the council has had to identify £40 million through a combination of savings or extra income. Proposals set out at the committee mean that a £6.4m gap now remains, which will have to be closed before the Council sets its final business plan and budget in February 2026.

The draft business plan and budget proposals for 2026-27 will now be scrutinised by service and policy committees throughout January. Any feedback will then be presented to the

The business planning and budget consultation runs until 7 January 2026, with results reported to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee on 29 January 2026. You can find out more and have your say on our website.

You can read the full business plan and budget proposals on our website.

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business-planning/business-planning-26-27-phase-2-engagement/>

The meeting was live streamed on the council’s YouTube channel.

Peter McDonald Jan 6th 2026