

District Council Report for March 2026

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@scambbs.gov.uk.

2026/27 Budget and Corporate Plan

The budget for 2026/27 was agreed at a Full Council meeting on 24 February, along with the Corporate Action Plan for the year, the budget and plan for housing, and key policies such as the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme that provides support for Council Tax payments for those in greatest need. At the same meeting, the Climate and Nature Strategy for 2026–30 was agreed to provide leadership in climate action, resilience and sustainable growth. Support for the voluntary and community sector is boosted to £300k per year, £225k per year is allocated for cost-of-living support, and ongoing support for Mobile Warden Schemes was agreed.

The Council Tax precept for the District Council will increase by 2.99% or £5.24 per year for a Band D property. This compares with a CPI inflation rate of 3.4%, wage growth of 4.2% (both from December 2025), and a state pension increase of 4.7% this year. The Council is expected to remain among the lowest-taxing 25% of district councils in the country. The budget accounts for the fact that the government has recently reduced the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can retain, further reducing our funding.

Cambridge Growth Company

The [Cambridge Growth Company](#) (CGC) was established by the government in 2024 to foster additional economic growth in the Cambridge area by delivering housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure. The council questioned the CGC Chair, Peter Freeman, at a Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting on 29 January where the CGC gave firm reassurance that their aim was to support the delivery of the new Local Plan by helping to solve water and transport problems, rather than to rewrite it.

The government is currently [consulting on their plan](#) to further the work of the CGC by forming a Development Corporation. The consultation closes on 1 April and I encourage Parish Councils and interested residents to respond.

The council is holding an Extraordinary Meeting on 17 March to discuss its response.

Food waste collections

In line with changing government requirements for food waste collection, weekly food waste collections are now already taking place in some parts of the district, including in Heydon and The Chishills. They will begin in Foxton and Fowlmere in April. Residents should receive a letter in March with details of the change and information on how we will receive our food waste caddy. More information is available [on the council's web site](#).

Council tenant satisfaction survey

The Housing Service has appointed M·E·L Research to carry out the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey with all our council tenants. Tenants should recently have received letters inviting them to complete the survey either on paper using the Freepost envelope included or online. I encourage all council tenants to respond to help the Housing Service deliver a high-quality service. The survey closes on 28 March.

Councils awarded over £5million for water saving measures

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – the shared planning service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils – has received Government funding of over £5million to deliver part of the Greater Cambridge Water Efficiency Programme and help address water scarcity locally. The councils will use this funding to drive down demand for water in the area and offset new development by installing water saving devices in existing Council-owned buildings through a programme of retrofit work across partner councils.

Street cleaning schedule

The [next scheduled period for street cleaning](#) in our ward is 9–20 March. If Parish Councils have specific areas that they would like dealt with by the road sweeper crew, please contact the street cleaning team [using this form](#).

Civil Parking Enforcement survey

A survey on Civil Parking Enforcement was sent to Parish Councils in the council's regular e-bulletin to help gather feedback on the scheme since its introduction two years ago. A previous survey generated only received limited feedback so I would encourage Parish Councils to give their views. The survey will close at the end of March.

Feedback on council services

A reminder that the District Council has 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.