

District Council Report for June 2026

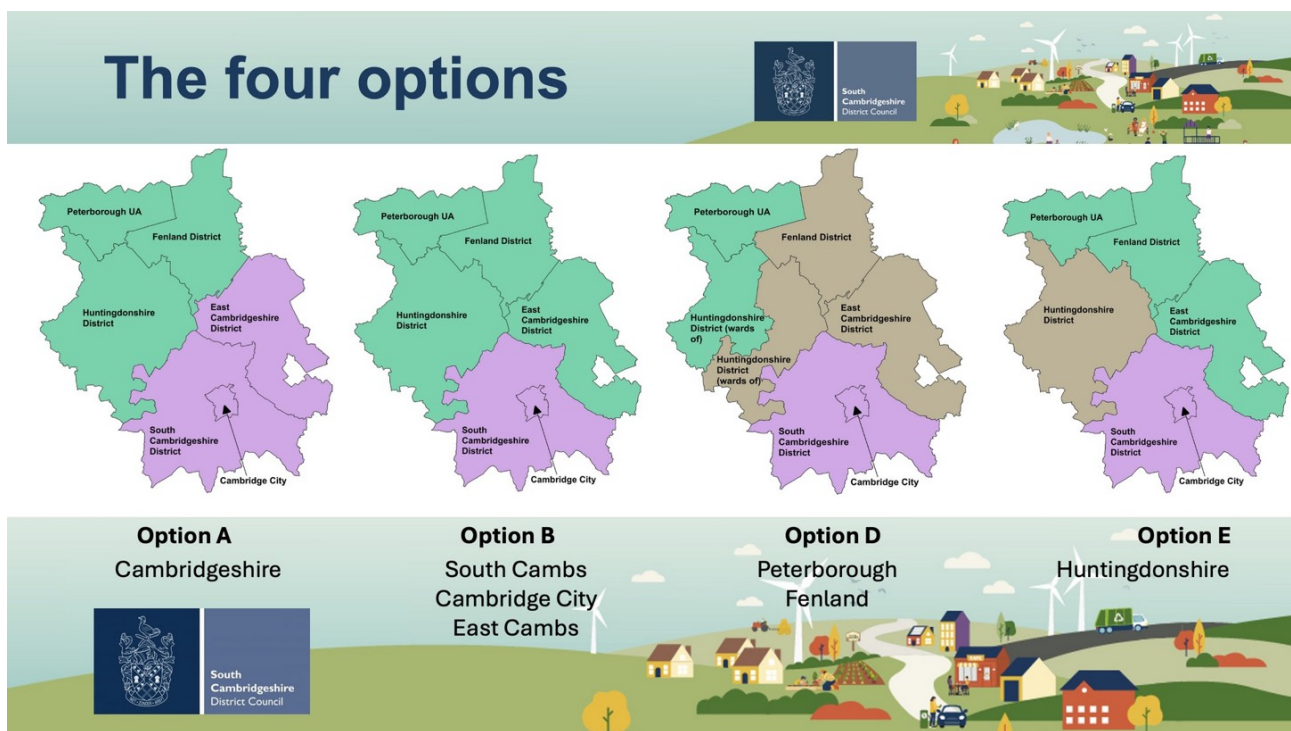
Councillor James Hobro

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@scambs.gov.uk.

Local Government Reorganisation

Four options for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) were submitted to the government in November. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consulted on these in March. The options are shown below, with the list of authorities that supported each option.



We are expecting a decision from the government on which option will be chosen in July. Once this is known, joint committees will be formed between the existing councils to lead the transition process. The Structural Changes Order (the parliamentary legislation that enables the reorganisation process) is expected to be published in the autumn. Elections to the shadow authority are likely to be held in May 2027 with the new unitary authority taking control on 1 April 2028. It is expected that the 2027 elections will take place on current ward boundaries, with a boundary review taking place before the following set of elections in 2032. Parish Councils will not be affected directly by the legislation, although the election cycle is likely to change and parishes will only be served by one councillor where today they are served by two.

Energy Efficiency Award

The District Council was Highly Commended in the [East of England 2026 Regional Energy Efficiency Awards](#), based on significant energy efficiency improvements at South Cambs Hall, in our social housing stock, and at the [Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network](#).

New Cabinet appointed

The [Cabinet for the new District Council administration](#) has been confirmed as:

Cllr Bridget Smith	Leader
Cllr Brian Milnes	Deputy Leader
Cllr John Batchelor	Housing
Cllr Peter McDonald	Economic Development
Cllr Natalie Warren-Green	Resources (incl. local gov't reorganisation)
Cllr Henry Batchelor	Planning
Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan	Environment (incl. waste, env. Health & licensing)
Cllr Lisa Redrup	Healthy Communities
Cllr Ed Sanders	Corporate Services (incl. contact centre)

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The eighth round of the Council's [Zero Carbon Communities Grant](#) is now open, offering a share of £152,000 to projects across the district that will reduce carbon emissions and foster community engagement around climate change. The scheme is open to Parish Councils and a wide range of community groups, offering grants of between £2,000 and £19,500. The [web site](#) includes detailed guidance on how to apply and examples of previous successful projects. The closing date for applications is 24 July.

I encourage all Parish Councils and community groups to consider applying for funds to help develop sustainable facilities in our villages. Since its launch in 2019, the grant scheme has funded 82 different projects, awarding over £855,000 to initiatives across the district. Successful previous applicants include Fowlmere Parish Council (to install cycle stands around the village) and Fowlmere Village Hall (to renew its lighting to become more energy efficient).

East West Rail consultation

The East West Rail company's [final consultation](#) is still open until 9 June. This will be the last opportunity for our communities to have their say on the plans and help shape the final design.