



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
9TH JUNE 2025 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr M Banyard, Mayor

Cllr R Trent

Cllr L Fox

County Cllr A Whelan

Representative of Eco Ely

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr M Wade

Cllr R Denness

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr Ní Dhónaill

The Chairman announced the recent passing of Mr Richard Bamford. He was a past councillor and Chairman of the Council.

The Reverend Canon Dr James Garrard, the Mayor's Chaplain, lead prayers for the Council prior to the commencement of the meeting. He left the meeting at 7.08 pm.

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ward, Holtzmann, Warman, Sandhu, Moss-Eccardt and Novick. The reasons for their absences were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH APRIL 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING AND MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 2025 AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 7th April 2025 were proposed by Cllr Morgan that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Trent and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156 and 2157 refer. There were no matters arising, but the Chairman congratulated Cllr Whelan on her election to Cambs County Council. The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making, held on the 12th May 2025 were proposed by Cllr Banyard that they be agreed and signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163 and 2164 refer. Matters Arising:- Page 2164, item 8 - the Clerk informed members she had obtained prices for the Council Ambassador badges. It was agreed that the cheapest quote would be accepted and two badges ordered.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman said he was pleased to be working with his fellow councillors as he started his Mayoral year. He gave a summary of the recent traveller encampment on St John's Road playing field and how this was dealt with. Assets will assess the council's sites to see if they are at risk of similar incidents. He informed councillors of the Ely Consort Mayoral Charity Concert at St Mary's Church on the 22nd November and the Chinese New Year celebrations at the Maltings on the 1st February 2026. He also informed councillors that he had attended meetings with the Chair of the Ely Traders Association and Spotted in Ely. The Ely Traders would welcome the Mayor being around at Christmas time to support the independent shops.

6. QUESTION TIME

A representative of Eco Ely, which is a Facebook group, trying to make Ely more sustainable asked why the council did not support the 'No Mow May' campaign. Public areas were mowed and sprayed and they wanted the council to pledge to agree to support next year. Cllr Whelan informed the representative that it was East Cambs District Council that undertakes the cutting of the open spaces in Ely, not the City of Ely Council, as we are only responsible for our recreation and play areas. She had brought this up with the District Council in the past, but they do follow a very set rota with regards to how they cut, due to the large number of areas they cover. She did agree to raise this with them again. She suggested that the Group attends the District Council's Operational Services Committee meeting on the 23rd June, as they could raise this question direct with them at the meeting. Cllr Phillips also confirmed that there are certain areas within the cemetery that are left to go wild to encourage wildlife.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report for June was received from County Cllrs C Whelan and A Whelan. This was presented by Cllr A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. Cllr A Whelan reported that the decision for Hopkin Homes application for the removal of parking on Lynn Road would be a delegated decision by officers. Cllr Denness asked if there was an update on the Cam Drive crossing and Cllr A Whelan said she did not have any further information on this. Cllr Denness also asked about the request by Spring Meadow Infant School for a pedestrian crossing. Cllr A Whelan said she had spoken to them and had suggested they contact the council and request it be considered as a LHI bid. She said the reason they had made the request was because their previous crossing patrol person had left and they could not get a replacement. District Councillor C Whelan had also prepared a written report with regards to District Council matters. A copy of which will also be attached to the minutes. District Councillor Wade added that the question with regard to the progress of parking enforcement in Ely and the volunteer scheme to undertake this had been raised but this had not moved any further. District Cllr Trent had nothing further to report.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the St Ives Town Council Mayor making; the Ribe Association lunch at the Prince Albert; the Kings school. Senior prize giving and hoop trundle; had met with Spotted in Ely; attended a photoshoot with Ely Consort Musical Director; attended the Alconbury American High School. Class of 2025 graduation; the Joan Mann disabled sports day at RAF Mildenhall and the Kings Lynn Civic Service.

9. PLANNING

Cllr Morgan as the Planning Committee Chairman gave a report on the planning meetings which had been held since the last meeting and prior to this meeting. Cllr Morgan informed Councillors that the developers of Highflyer Farm had requested a further meeting with the council on the 21st July at 6.00 pm.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Road Closures – Cam Drive, Ely – 6.6.25 – 5.6.26 (crack sealing work); Kings Avenue, Ely – 1.6 – 30.6.25 (carriageway resurfacing); Stuntney Causeway, Ely – 1.6 -30.6.25 (carriageway resurfacing); Broad Street, Ely – 1 – 31.7.25 (carriageway resurfacing); The Gallery, Ely – 1 – 31.7.25 (carriageway and associated works); Prickwillow Road, Ely 1.7 1.9.25 (carriageway reconstruction, resurfacing) Street Naming – 54A, 54B & 54C Market Street, Ely; Chapter House, Lynn Road, Ely Tree Preservation Order – 50 Main Street, Prickwillow, Ely; Paradise Recreation ground, Deacons Lane, Ely.

County Cllr A Whelan left the meeting at 7.46 pm.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE - Cllr Ní Dhónaill presented minutes of a meeting held on the 2nd June 2025, which were approved. The terms of reference for the Committee, following a few minor amendments were approved. Cllr Ní Dhónaill informed councillors she had contacted Cambs County Council and East Cambs District Council following the traveller encampment at St John's Road recreation area to ask what was being done by both authorities to support and provide sites for travellers. Cllr Phillips suggested the Inclusivity Working Group could contact the traveller's group that is in Chatteris to ascertain their aims and objections. Councillors agreed that Cllr Phillips would contact them. Councillors noted the Internal Auditor's report from her visit on the 9th May 2025. There were no concerns raised and she had signed off the annual internal auditor report of the annual return. The Governance Work Group would be looking at the process for the election of Committee Chairs and the length they should serve as the Chair. Councillors had until the 24th June to make comments on the draft Strategic Plan. It was agreed that the draft plan would go out for public consultation. The details of how this would be undertaken needed to be agreed. The Communications and PR Working Group will be meeting shortly to discuss moving the new council website forward. Councillors unanimously agreed to the re-appointment of the independent Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025/2026. Councillors noted and approved the RFO's annual internal audit terms of reference and audit plan review. Cllr Ní Dhónaill proposed councillors accept the recommendation that a further £250,000 be invested in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. This was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved. Councillors were appointed to undertake the annual review of the council's policies and procedures. It was unanimously agreed to offer the permanent loan of the old mayoral chain and robe to Ely Museum.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Denness presented a report of a meeting held on the 27th May 2025, which were approved. The terms of reference for the Committee, following a few minor amendments were approved. Barbara-Ann Brown, the local representative of Cycling UK in the Cycle Advocacy Network was co-opted onto the Working Group to assist with the development of a cycle plan for the city. Two members of the Estates Team had completed a carbon footprint assessment training course. Cllr Fox would be sourcing a consultant to assist and mentor the Estates Team with regard to the assessments for the council. The highways update was noted.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented minutes of a meeting held on the 19th May 2025, which were approved. The terms of reference for the Committee were approved. Three quotes for new equipment at High Barns play area had been considered and it was agreed to place an order with Wicksteed for £24184.23, subject to checking the accessibility of the playhouse included within the quote. It was agreed to order the Wicksteed Horse to replace the Burma Bridge at St John's play area, at a cost of £9213.65. The Deputy Clerk will look at extending the fence in include the corner to the rear right hand side of the play area to accommodate a Tarzan type swing. The updates on the sensory garden and woodland burial area in the cemetery were noted. The annual Local Needs Housing rent increase, by the RPI applicable at the end of January 2025 (3.6%) was unanimously agreed. This will take affect from the 1st July 2025.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS continued

Councillors agreed it was necessary to engage the services of a property agent to discuss what the council would like to achieve with the District Council in purchasing the Maltings complex and Oliver Cromwell's House. Cllr Wade confirmed at Full Council that she had spoken to a representative from Bidwell's and was awaiting a proposal from them. It was agreed to move forward with a new website for the Maltings. Three quotes had been obtained and the cheapest quote from Profit-Gen at £1250 had been agreed. Three quotes had also been received for replacement flooring in the kitchen, bar, outside disabled toilet and entrance. It was unanimously agreed to move forward with the quote from Glasswells, at a cost of £10245, plus the cost of disconnecting and reconnecting the kitchen appliances by Caterfix. Councillors agreed to request £80000 from the CIL Sub-Committee for the replacement of the two boilers at the Maltings. These need replacing as soon as possible due to them leaking. A tender process for their replacement will be undertaken. An order will be placed for Christmas Lights with Festive Lights for Business as these are compatible with the existing lights.

(iv) TOURISM – No report as Committee had not met.

County Cllr A Whelan returned to the meeting at 8.12 pm.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Councillors noted the notes of the meeting of the Executive Review Group held on the 14th April 2025. Councillors noted the minutes from the Ely Ribe Association held on the 22nd May 2025.

13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MAYOR OF ELY'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY SERVICE

This item was deferred as the meeting to move this forward had not taken place. An update will be given at a future meeting once a formal proposal has been put together.

14. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Cllr Morgan proposed the Annual Governance Statement, whereby the Council formally confirms it has maintained an adequate system of internal control throughout the financial year in accordance with Assertions 2 and 6 of the Governance Statement contained in Section 1 of the Annual Return be formally approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Ní Dhónaill and unanimously approved. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement. Following this the Cllr Morgan proposed the Accounting Statements 2024/2025, Section 2 of the Annual Return and the balance sheet for the year ended 31st March 2025 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Trent and unanimously agreed. The Accounting Statement was signed by the Chairman and the balance sheet signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

15. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr Denness and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	524.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	2295.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	299.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	200.00	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	258.76	Paid by direct debit

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MAYOR
21st July 2025

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	108.73	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	2330.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	605.27	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	556.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	73.46	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	2546.36	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2626.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions	79.75	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	71.44	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	323.24	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	245.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	84.85	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	31.84	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	262.83	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	5393.06	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	336.65	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	422.16	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1649.61	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Services Ltd	452.40	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	216.60	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	80.54	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	30.60	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	232.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	4826.63	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	670.78	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	179.04	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	227.93	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media Business Ltd	62.40	Paid by direct debit
EE Ltd	108.73	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1339.90	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease Ltd	684.68	Paid by direct debit
SSE Energy Solutions	77.19	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1777.60	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	94.26	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	27.60	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	27.60	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	55.20	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1726.65	Paid by direct debit
Cellair Ltd	27.60	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	299.24	Paid by direct debit
Bidfood Ltd	618.22	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	44.50	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Hampshire Flag Company Ltd	799.86	Paid by BACS
Millennium Pest Control	75.60	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing Ltd	816.48	Paid by BACS
Zurich Town & Parish	112.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	182.71	Paid by BACS
John Audus (Electrical Contractor) Ltd	54.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs N Booth	192.15	Paid by BACS
City Cycle Centre	24.22	Paid by BACS
Ely Cathedral	36.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	1101.71	Paid by BACS
ECDC	240.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1697.27	Paid by BACS
Star Editions Ltd	1099.31	Paid by BACS
E R Copley	94.25	Paid by BACS
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	1046.40	Paid by BACS
Into the Shadows Paranormal Investigations	50.00	Paid by BACS
Two Bad Mice Publishers Ltd	675.84	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	320.56	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	120.08	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water	83.29	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	10000.00	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	450.78	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water	44.15	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	121.40	Paid by BACS
O Theobald	645.00	Paid by BACS
Cambs County Council	3704.70	paid by BACS
Anglian Water	1718.15	Paid by BACS
Historic England	75.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1173.00	Paid by BACS
Anglian Water	80.32	Paid by BACS
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	113.40	Paid by BACS
PJP Cambridge Ltd	350.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	65.00	Paid by BACS
EDF Energy Customers Ltd	189.60	Paid by BACS
Latta Hire Ltd	205.44	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	334.00	Paid by BACS
House of Marbles	378.72	Paid by BACS
Xtreme Brewery Ltd	387.79	Paid by BACS
Mrs C McGinley	36.00	Paid by BACS
E Long	68.25	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	37.44	Paid by BACS
Fire Proofing Ltd	1790.40	Paid by BACS
ICCM	372.00	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
Westair Reproductions Ltd	481.30	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	158.29	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	266.28	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

RGP Security Services Ltd	244.20	Paid by BACS
CoolerAid Ltd	23.62	Paid by BACS
Calico Cottage	397.38	Paid by BACS
L Titmarsh	17.98	Paid by BACS
John Wiley & Sons Ltd	71.45	Paid by BACS
John Audus (Electrical Contractor) Ltd	102.00	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1352.21	Paid by BACS
Splash & Dash Creations Ltd	280.00	Paid by BACS
Fen Farm Supplies	664.80	Paid by BACS
Greenworks Washrooms Ltd	1594.92	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	150.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	41.98	Paid by BACS
ESPO	192.64	Paid by BACS
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	718.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	45.00	Paid by BACS
Yellow Publications Ltd	89.10	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	680.40	Paid by BACS
Imperial War Museum	30.00	Paid by BACS
Julia's Tearooms	536.00	Paid by BACS
R D Young	200.00	Paid by BACS
Cambridge Mobility Ltd	76.16	Paid by BACS
Wicken Coronation Brass Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
Majestic Metals Ltd	379.54	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	205.00	Paid by BACS
Newmarket Community Arts	300.00	Paid by BACS
Lantern Dance Theatre School	100.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	636.30	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	640.95	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	97.77	Paid by BACS
Heelis & Lodge	350.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	122.10	Paid by BACS
Shefs	5120.00	Paid by BACS
ICCM	105.00	Paid by BACS
Huntingdonshire Music Society	250.00	Paid by BACS
Dunster House Ltd	1802.24	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	360.00	Paid by BACS
Simpson's Nurseries Ltd	164.82	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo Enterprises Ltd	1451.70	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	108.00	Paid by BACS
Marquees of Wisbech Ltd	1040.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs N Booth	316.30	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	30.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	233.10	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	215.46	Paid by BACS
Ely Community Cinema	125.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
Training at Work Group	714.00	Paid by BACS
Caterfix Ltd	198.00	Paid by BACS

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	1673.78	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	169.20	Paid by BACS
ECDC	8000.00	Paid by BACS
Hunstanton Concert Band	250.00	Paid by BACS
S A Wilson	250.00	Paid by BACS
Boon Books	82.50	Paid by BACS
Wisbech Town Council	50.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	262.80	Paid by BACS
LE Enterprices	350.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs L Price	29.40	Paid by BACS
Speedy Asset Services Ltd	363.96	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	180.00	Paid by BACS
Thompson Media Partners Ltd	225.00	Paid by BACS
Timeline Gifts Ltd	318.16	Paid by BACS
Mrs L Titmarsh	15.00	Paid by BACS
Securitas Security Services Ltd	71.15	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	65.00	Paid by BACS
Soham Comrades Band	250.00	Paid by BACS

The following invoice had been paid prior to the meeting

Soham Pest Control	99.00	114764
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	36.12	114765
M Routledge	39.30	114767
J Bennett	16.00	114768
G & J Peck Ltd	28.83	147769
C Phillips	163.30	114770
A Bennett	97.60	114771

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Amazon Payments UK Ltd	195.87	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	180.88	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials UK Ltd	16.30	Paid by BACS
Brenda's Flowers	730.00	Paid by BACS
A Cowlan	126.00	Paid by BACS
City Cyle Centre	59.69	Paid by BACS
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	85.28	Paid by BACS
Darren Wailes	600.00	Paid by BACS
Aztek Services Ltd	187.20	Paid by BACS
RHS Services	5366.40	Paid by BACS
Stark Building Materials Ltd	22.67	Paid by BACS
Trade UK Ltd	37.21	Paid by BACS
Ely Skip Hire Ltd	334.00	Paid by BACS
Middle Fen & Mere IDB	166.32	114774
Anglia Sprayers Ltd	25.85	Paid by BACS
S Jay	10.00	114772
S Thompson	20.62	114773
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	72.40	Paid by BACS
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	64.80	Paid by direct debit

15. FINANCE CONTINUED

Cybertill Ltd	77.51	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	348.66	Paid by direct debit
East Cambs Trading Co Ltd	2795.47	Paid by BACS
Hardwood Timber	605.98	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	10.44	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	226.80	Paid by BACS
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	31.82	Paid by BACS
Marquees of Wisbech Ltd	178.00	Paid by BACS
Mr C Berry	200.00	Paid by BACS
March Stationery & Print	113.20	Paid by BACS
Elyi Magazine	175.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	382.95	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	36.00	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	90.37	Paid by BACS

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 7th April 2025

Salaries and wages	£42,391.27 (April)	£40,657.00 (May)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£12,347.07	£15,064.48
Pension fund payments	£12,765.83	£13,717.23

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation for the period ending 30th April 2025

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Cllrs Christine Whelan and Alison Whelan

MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2025

COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The County Council held its annual meeting on Tuesday 20 May. Lucy Nethsingha was re-elected as Leader of the Council, and Lorna Dupré is now Deputy Leader of the Council.

The meeting appointed Chairs and Vice Chairs of its committees, and representatives to some of its major partners. Alison is now Chair of Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee and vice-chair of the Pension Fund Committee.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr Nethsingha drew attention to the 'extraordinary challenges' of the rising number of older people needing social care and of children with special needs and disabilities. She said the new Liberal Democrat administration will 'make sure our council continues to be more caring, better connected and that Cambridgeshire continues to be a wonderful environment for all to thrive'.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Pressures ahead for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)

NHS England has published what has been described as a 'draft blueprint of the future model of ICBs'. These local boards are responsible for planning, funding, and commissioning NHS services for their local populations.

Spending per head by ICBs, which varies across the country from £49 to just under £21, will be cut to £18.76. Plans on how ICBs will meet this new target should have been submitted by 30 May.

There will also be a shift in the functions of ICBs, including to neighbourhood health providers. Boards were told in March they must cut their running costs by around half by October 2025 and to focus on reducing duplication when making cuts. Health minister Karin Smyth recently revealed that no impact assessment had been conducted of the decision to reduce ICB running costs.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Schools funding

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum received a report on the final closing balance of maintained schools in the county (schools that are not academies).

The number of schools reporting a deficit revenue position at the end of 2024/25 has increased compared to previous years (37, compared to 31 a year earlier).

The reasons for deficit budgets vary, but recurring themes include:

- Falling rolls between October 23 and October 24.
- Operation of unsustainable staffing structures compared to overall pupil numbers.
- Increase in staffing costs, not covered by funding uplifts.
- Having to operate additional classes due to infant class size legislation.
- Increasing cost pressures relating to SEND.

There are two maintained schools in Ely, Ely St John's Community Primary School had a positive year-end balance while Spring Meadow Infant School saw an increased deficit.

Special educational needs and disabilities inspection

National inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) last month published their report on provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in the county.

The County Council and the NHS are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of these services as part of the Cambridgeshire Area SEND Partnership, for children and young people with SEND in Cambridgeshire. The partnership has been given the middle rating of three possible outcomes.

The inspectors highlighted several areas of good practice, including a clear and coherent strategy, the capacity to improve provision, and strong relationships across the partnership. It made five recommendations for improvement:

1. Improved timeliness and quality of Education Health & Care Plans.
2. Improved access and shorter waiting times for specialist mental health pathways and neurodevelopmental assessments.
3. Better opportunities for 'co-production' with children and young people with SEND, so their voices and views are more fully included.
4. Improved support for children and young people with SEND as they prepare for adulthood, especially in mainstream schools.
5. Better communication of the local area partnership's offer, so that schools, services and families know about and understand what the area seeks to provide.

The council has already invested £500,000 to manage the increased demand for Education Health & Care Plans and approved a further £920,000 annual investment in February this year.

The full report is at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50276860>

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION

Cambridgeshire Skills Grant Funding Agreement was recently inspected by OFSTED and was rated good overall with one area outstanding.

However, a reduction in funding from CPCA of 10.6% due to reduction in government funding will see potentially 500 less training places available.

Coroner Service Body Removals Contract procurement was approved that will see contracts issued for four areas covering the whole county, that will ensure the appropriate collection of bodies where there needs to be an inquest into a death.

- The library service has a growing selection of electronic resources and a new procurement process enabling up to £550k to be spent for providers of:
 - eBooks
 - eAudio
 - eMagazines
 - newspapers

This is an increasing source of use of library resources, rather than physical media.

Format	Issues in 2021	Issues in 2024	Percentage change
eAudiobooks	91,558	146,679	60%
eBooks	66,207	98,686	49%
eMagazines	46,796	181,173	287%
eNewspapers	438,918	646,802	47%

Did you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries give you access to Ancestry, the database where you can search millions of historical documents and genealogy resources, including the 1921 census? Ancestry is available at the County Council's 33 libraries and is free to access with your library card.

Target Hardening

Target Hardening is a scheme which enables victims/survivors of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation, by providing additional security measures. Target Hardening is the national name for this support but it is also sometimes referred to as Sanctuary Schemes. The current provider is 24/7 Locks. The aim of the service is to offer support to around 300 individuals each year.

Prevent Assurance Visit

The Prevent Duty is a statutory responsibility held by the council as part of the UK's national Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST). Its aim is to prevent individuals from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The objectives of Prevent are to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism, intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation, and enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

In February, the Communities Service received its annual Prevent assurance visit from the Home Office, which ensures local authorities and partnerships are delivering in line with the Prevent Duty Guidance. The visit measures our performance against seven set benchmarks, which were marked as 'Exceeding'.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Disposable vapes ban

From 1 June it will be illegal to sell or supply disposable vapes. The government ban is being introduced to tackle the impact of these items on the environment. It is also hoped the move will help cut the number of children and young people vaping. Retailers caught breaking the law in England face a minimum £200 fine, with a prison sentence of up to two years for repeat offences. Trading Standards will be able to seize any single-use vapes they find. It is estimated that almost five million single-use vapes a week are either littered or thrown away in general waste in the UK.

Fire service issues battery charging safety reminder

Charging batteries have caused six fires in homes across the county so far this year. Firefighters have been called to fires involving batteries being overcharged, resulting in thermal runaway from the lithium-ion contained in them and causing significant damage to people's homes.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Kings Avenue and High Barns Resurfacing

Resurfacing / surface treatments of these roads is due to happen this year.

Following pressure from me they have finally been included in the maintenance schedule. Hopefully, this will make travel for both cyclists and motorists better on these roads.

A1307 maintenance works continue

Maintenance work continues on the A1307 (the old A14), with 40MPH speed limits expected to be lifted by the end of the summer. The County Council took over responsibility for this road from National Highways last year, with serious outstanding issues with the barriers between Godmanchester and Huntingdon and drainage problems at both Fenstanton and Hemingford.

Highways & Transport Committee chair Cllr Alex Beckett pressed County Council officers a few months ago to try to expedite this work, which has taken much longer than initially hoped, so it is excellent news that an end is in sight for these temporary speed restrictions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND

Pension Fund reorganisation

The Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Scheme (CLGPS) is a member of the Access Pool, which was formed on the instructions of previous governments to pool the funds from the various LGPS schemes. The Access pool has eleven Administering Authorities (AA), of which CCC is one.

The current Government wants even greater pooling of fund resources into a smaller number of much larger funds and required funds to put forward plans for the future. Despite Access being one of the largest pools, the government refused to accept plans by the Access Pool, and also the Brunel Pool (both of which are in the South of the country) and requires the AA's to find another pool, in the north of the country to join.

This will require the disposal of the assets currently in the Access pool to transfer them to a new pool, which will incur significant charges. For members and pensioners of the schemes, this will have no impact as their pensions are related to service, however, the changes could affect the contributions that employers, including local authorities, have to pay into the fund.

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Christine Whelan

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

District Council Report June 2025 by Cllr Christine Whelan

FULL COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council took place on Thursday 22 May.

Despite Administration group having only 14 of the council's 28 seats, the outgoing Chair used his casting vote to elect the incoming Chair Kelli Pettit (Conservative) who used her casting vote to elect the incoming Vice Chair Keith Horgan (Conservative)

The Chair then used her casting to vote to vote in Conservative chairs and vice chairs of all the committees, and to spend £13M on the Conservative group's crematorium at Mepal.

The incoming Chair used her casting vote around twenty times during the meeting, always in the interest of the Administration.

A motion was passed unanimously expressing concern at Government plans to reduce the role of councillors in determining planning applications.

CREMATORIUM

As was expected the District Council's Annual Meeting agreed, using the Chair's casting vote to resolve a 14:14 deadlock, to press ahead with the Conservative group's plan for a crematorium at Mepal.

The Opposition group presented large amounts of evidence to show this plan is fundamentally flawed. These included figures showing that existing nearby crematoria were operating under capacity, and that new crematoria simply took business from their neighbours—for example, cremations at Cambridge had reduced by 500 a year over three years following the opening of the new crematorium at Huntingdon.

Charlotte Cane MP has taken up with ministers whether it is appropriate to divert developer contributions, meant to enhance local amenities, to invest in commercial undertakings.

A petition has been launched against this waste of public money, which is available for signature at change.org/stop-mepal-crematorium

EAST CAMBS COMMUNITY FUND OPEN FOR BIDS

Community groups are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £1,000, offered by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Groups can spend the money on new or existing projects designed to improve the quality of life for residents.

One of the successful applicants in the last round of grants included

- Ely Folk Festival to enhance accessible facilities for visitors to the 2024 festival

The East Cambridgeshire Community Fund will be open to applications until 4 July 2025.

<https://eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-wellbeing/grants-andcommunity-projects/community-fund>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The remaining options for new 'unitary' councils being considered by local authority leaders in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been reduced to just three. All of the remaining options under consideration split Cambridgeshire and Peterborough into just two councils, but along different lines.

The councils are planning some public consultation though at the time of writing this is still being finalised. The deadline for final submissions to be with Government is still November.

SOLAR PANELS AT THE HIVE

228 solar panels have been installed at The Hive Leisure Centre in Ely using £69,510 from Sport England's Swimming Pool Support Fund.

The solar panels are expected to produce 91,050 KWh of renewable electricity for the centre with estimated savings of £18,000 a year. A display screen in the reception area will show the amount of electricity being generated.

The company who installed the panels, SGS Energy Ltd, will be at The Hive during its open weekend on 19 and 20 July to raise awareness and provide information about clean energy to residents and visitors.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- Wednesday 4 June: Planning Committee
- Wednesday 18 June: Licensing Committee
- Monday 23 June: Operational Services Committee
- Thursday 26 June: Finance & Assets Committee

The full Council meeting can be viewed on you tube

[Annual Council - 6pm Thursday 22 May 2025 - YouTube](#)

