

As you know, I will be producing an annual report prior to your annual meetings in April. In the meantime, I hope this immediately relevant information is useful for April meetings.

Local Building Control service wins national award

The shared Local Authority Building Control (LABC) service for Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council is celebrating its role in securing a top national award. 3C Building Control, which checks that new buildings are designed and constructed safely and are in line with environmental standards, was jointly awarded with local firm JPT Design Consultants Ltd for 'Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control Team' at the LABC Building Excellence Awards Grand Finals in London. Judges described JPT Design's relationship with 3C Building Control as 'a clear exemplar of how to work well collaboratively to deliver successful, quality projects.'

The LABC Building Excellence Awards focus on the very best in technical innovation and construction quality, helping to raise the level of construction quality across England and Wales, by celebrating the way in which council building control teams work closely with architects and builders to ensure building projects are successfully completed.

The building control team helps householders ensure they are complying with all building regulations, and that work is carried out safely and in line with all environmental requirements. The team also offers ongoing advice and support throughout a project and charge at cost, meaning that getting advice at an early stage can help keep costs of a building project down.

Action taken on fly tipping and planning breaches

Reducing fly tipping in South Cambridgeshire is one of the council's goals for 2023/24. Fines of £400 have been issued where waste has been illegally dumped, including two recent cases in Impington and Cottenham. In both cases, the house owners had handed waste to someone offering waste collection, but had not checked that it would be properly disposed of. The illegal fly tips were reported to the District Council and officers visited the sites where they found evidence linking the waste to its owner.

Bank Holiday bin collection changes

The addition of the Coronation to the usual schedule of Bank Holidays for Easter and the two May holidays means that over half the bin collections in April and May will be delayed by one or two days (see table below).

Changes to bin collections in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

Usual collection dates	Revised collection dates
Good Friday 7 April	Tuesday 11 April
Easter Monday 10 April	Wednesday 12 April
Tuesday 11 April	Thursday 13 April
Wednesday 12 April	Friday 14 April
Thursday 13 April	Saturday 15 April
Friday 14 April	Monday 17 April
Monday 17 April	Tuesday 18 April
Tuesday 18 April	Wednesday 19 April
Wednesday 19 April	Thursday 20 April
Thursday 20 April	Friday 21 April
Friday 21 April	Saturday 22 April
Bank Holiday Monday 1 May	Tuesday 2 May
Tuesday 2 May	Wednesday 3 May
Wednesday 3 May	Thursday 4 May
Thursday 4 May	Friday 5 May
Friday 5 May	Saturday 6 May
Bank Holiday Monday 8 May	Tuesday 9 May
Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May
Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May
Thursday 11 May	Friday 12 May
Friday 12 May	Saturday 13 May
Monday 15 May	Back to normal

Bin collection dates can be checked for any postcode in the district at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/binday>, which also provides links to add bin calendars to your mobile phone.

The cardboard, plastic and aluminium foil from Easter eggs can all be placed in the blue bin. The council is also reminding residents that in the UK, around £140 million worth of used but still wearable clothing goes to landfill every year. Please try to keep your unwanted items out of landfill by passing them on to someone who needs them. This can be done through neighbourhood Facebook groups, Gumtree ads, charity shops – some of which offer collections for large items – and even phone apps, like Olio.

New Government funding to decarbonise Council homes

South Cambridgeshire District Council has successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise Council homes. This will be added to the projects the Council has already started to improve the fabric of its Council homes. It will also support other measures being put in place to help the Council achieve its own and the Government's Net Zero targets.

The money is coming from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The Fund is designed to upgrade a significant amount of the social housing stock across the country, that is currently below Energy Performance Certificate C, up to that standard.

The District Council owns and maintains around 5,600 Council homes in South Cambridgeshire. The new funding will go towards energy efficiency upgrades within these homes.

Energy saving measures such as exterior wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, new windows and doors, draft proofing measures, as well as heat pumps and solar panel installation can be provided with the funding. These measures could save tenants between £220 and £400 a year on energy bills. More than £2 million had already been allocated to continue work to retrofit the Council's existing housing stock over the next two years, as part of ongoing carbon reduction efforts.

Solar panels have already been installed on almost 2,200 South Cambs Council homes to help tenants generate their own electricity. Nearly 870 solid wall homes have been fitted with external wall insulation.

By-election in Cottenham Ward

A by-election for the role of South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Cottenham and Rampton took place on 16 March. This followed the sad loss of Dr John Loveluck, who had served as one of the two District Councillors for Cottenham ward.

Eileen Wilson, the Liberal Democrat candidate and former District Councillor for Cottenham, was elected and will represent the ward until May 2026, when all the seats on South Cambridgeshire District Council will be up for election again.

English classes for Ukrainians

More than 100 Ukrainian guests have learned English to help them settle into life in a new country thanks to classes funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The classes have transformed life for the children and adults of all ages and are part of a wider package of support from the Council since families began arriving from war-torn Ukraine almost a year ago.

Guests have received free lessons as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and have praised the Council for helping them find the confidence to settle into their

new communities.

In feedback, one guest said, “People who were forced to flee from the war in our country feel sincere support. This is important for each of us. It is difficult to find the words that can express the gratitude we feel. You are doing difficult, important and very good work – the work of humanity. As we say to good friends, thank you to the sun and back!”

Coronation lunches and public encouraged to add Coronation events to digital map

Throughout the UK, Coronation Big Lunches will bring communities together on 7 May. The weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on 8 May, which will highlight the impact of volunteering. This will encourage people to get involved with activities run by local community groups, organisations and charities.

More information can be found linked below. Resources:

<http://www.coronationbiglunch.com/>

The Big Lunch:

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

Members of the public and community organisations across the UK have been invited by the government to share how they will celebrate the Coronation on a digital map launched on 4 March. The map can be found on the Coronation website, linked below. The map is designed to encourage people to add their own Coronation Big Lunches, street parties, Big Help Out plans and other Coronation activities so others in the local community can find out about events near them and get involved. The Coronation website also includes information for getting involved, a toolkit including templates, a playlist, recipes, and designs. The Coronation will take place on the morning of 6 May at Westminster Abbey.

Digital map to add events:

<https://coronation.gov.uk/events/>

East–West Rail route announcement due in May

In the Spring Budget policy paper released following the Chancellor’s Budget speech on 15 March, it was confirmed that:

- The East–West Rail route announcement will happen in May
- The government will provide up to £15 million local capacity funding to support local authorities along the East West Rail route to maximise economic opportunities.

Compost Week UK

For Compost Week (13–19 March), the District Council promoted home composting to residents through our social media channels, in particular the opportunity to buy low-cost compost bins through our collaboration with www.getcomposting.com. A basic composter costs our residents £25 from Get Composting, a

considerable saving compared with buying the same product on popular online shopping sites.

English Devolution Accountability Framework

On 16 March the Government published guidance which sets out devolved authorities will be held to account through local scrutiny, by the public and by the government. The English Devolution Accountability Framework is a new accountability framework to apply to all English institutions with devolved powers. It is an element of the Local Government Accountability Framework which applies to all councils, including combined authorities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-accountability-framework>

Updated guidance for landlords and tenants

The Government has published updates to the 'How to Rent', and 'How to Let' guidance. The updates include information for tenants and landlords in the Private Rented Sector to help them understand their rights and responsibilities.

How to let guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-let>

How to rent guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent>

Housing disrepair online signposting tool

The Ministry of Justice is promoting its housing disrepair online signposting tool. This has been developed for private rented sector tenants with housing disrepair issues. The tool gives users the information and guidance they need to resolve their housing disrepair issues before they worsen. It asks users a series of targeted questions before providing them with tailored information, guidance, and signposting to relevant advice and support.

This helps them understand their rights and responsibilities and identify an appropriate next step when trying to resolve their housing disrepair issues.

<https://check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-home.form.service.justice.gov.uk/>

Community Safety Partnerships review and Antisocial behaviour powers consultation

On 27 March the government launched a consultation on the relationship between community safety partnerships (CSPs) and police and crime commissioners, and the expansion of antisocial behaviour powers. This consultation forms part of the government's Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, which was also launched yesterday. This consultation forms part one of the CSP review, which was announced in 2022 following the conclusion of part two of the police and crime commissioner (PCC) review. The purpose of the consultation is to:

- seek views on the relationship between CSPs and PCCs, with the aim of enhancing the accountability model of CSPs
- consider how CSPs and PCCs work together to tackle antisocial behaviour, with the aim of strengthening this co-operative working

This consultation also considers the expansion of antisocial behaviour powers, and whether amendments are required to ensure they are being used effectively. It is targeted to those with experience working in or with CSPs, as well as those with interest in antisocial behaviour powers. **The consultation will run for 8 weeks and will close at 11:59pm on 22 May 2023.**

Consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-safety-partnerships-review-and-antisocial-behaviour-powers>

Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-action-plan>

Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/action-plan-to-crack-down-on-anti-social-behaviour>

CSP Review: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-07/HLWS647>

COUNCILS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY GOVERNMENT FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

If you have a problem or concern do not worry too much about who can solve it just ask the question and we will endeavour to signpost to the right person. The organisational structure of Cambridgeshire is complex, but it is important to identify where responsibility lies.

<p>County Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, - Waste management, Maintaining their estate.</p> <p>Some of these services are shared between Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council but any concerns should be directed to the county council.</p>
<p>District Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning.</p>
<p>Parish/ Town Council</p> <p>Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters.</p>
<p>Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)</p> <p>'The local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government worth up to £500 million over 15 years, to vital improvements in infrastructure (decarbonising transport), supporting and accelerating the creation of 44,000 new jobs, 33,500 new homes and 420 additional apprenticeships.'</p> <p>Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge.</p>
<p>The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor</p> <p>'A combined authority (CA) is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries.'</p> <p>What our mayor does – Business support, skills, housing, transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research, and strategy. New homes.</p>
<p>Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough</p> <p>To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.</p>
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority</p> <p>The Fire Authority is the governing body responsible for delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.</p>

CONTACT DETAILS

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the above, or any other matters.

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Northstowe, and Oakington & Westwick

Email: cllr.warrenngreen@scambs.gov.uk

For those on social media we have a highly active Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/> - Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe