



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

CIlr Natalie Warren-Green Longstanton Ward

Annual Report
2024-2025



Thank You to Longstanton Ward



It's been a pleasure to act as a South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Longstanton Ward including Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick, and Northstowe for another year.

This is an exciting ward to work in and I want to thank residents, parish and town councillors, and members of the many community groups across the ward for being in constant contact with me to solve casework, deal with tricky situations to manage, and to keep energy and momentum up across a ward that is experiencing a lot of development, and which has regularly reached national levels of interest for the government and media alike.



South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)

This presentation acts as my report for the year, including looking at what SCDC has achieved across the entire district, the focus for this ward and the future Corporate Plan for SCDC for 2025-2030.

A new website launched in March 2025 at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/> includes information and contacts for the services of SCDC which include:

- Benefits
- Bins (Waste collection) & Recycling (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)
- Climate & Environment
- Community & People
- Cost of Living Support
- Council tax collection & support
- Business support and development
- Health & Wellbeing
- Environmental Health
- Housing
- Licensing
- Planning Services (a shared service with Cambridge City Council)





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Looking Back 2024-2025



Looking back at 2024-2025

It's good to have this opportunity to look back at 2024-25, to celebrate and recognise the key moments of success and development we've seen over the past year.

Given that South Cambs is responsible for many different services, the next few slides give snapshot of key moments and successes for SCDC.

Longstanton Ward Parish and Town Councils, Community Groups, Businesses and residents alike, have drawn down on many of the opportunities arising from these.

Thank you all for your very active engagement.



April and May 2024

- Beginning of our 50th Anniversary Year
- Launched Community Growing Grant Scheme
- Launched Northstowe Community Activation Fund
- Rail and Ale Trail launched
- Update on Six Free Trees project showed 750 saplings delivered through the scheme
- Community Chest funding supports projects in Fowlmere, Swavesey, and more!



June and July 2024

- General Election (successfully run by our incredible electoral services team)
- Council debates Four-Day Week trial showing positive results and the Four-Day Week continues
- Launched the Greater Cambridge Housing Strategy
- Bourn Airfield planning permission issued following Water Scarcity Group work
- Launched Youth Enterprise Market Challenge, to support young (16-25) entrepreneurs
- Worked with 'Let's Cook Project' to deliver free family cooking events
- Funded electrification of the mobile food hub



August & September 2024

- Neighbourhood plan consultation launched for Pampisford, and Thriplow and Heathfield
- GCSPS awarded funding for “Planning Supersquad” by Government
- 6th Year of Zero Carbon Communities Grants - £125k
- £100k small business grant scheme launched
- Histon and Impington (and Orchard Park) by-election
- £900k in Rural England (REPF) Grants - 19 projects
- “Help Shape our Priorities” Consultation Launched
- SCDC receives White Ribbon Accreditation



October 2024

- Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee hold away day at Comberton Village College
- LGA Peer Challenge praises SCDC for 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches'
- £345,000 pledged by SCDC to support Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire
- £200,000 "Improving the High Street" grant scheme launched
- South Cambs' Annual Climate Action Conference held in Cambourne
- South Cambs Connect launched
- Council tax on second/ empty properties doubled to bring empty homes back into use.



November and December 2024

- SCDC signs Anti-Racism Charter with UNISON
- Community Chest grant given to support community mobility equipment scheme in Shelford
- Best Value Notice lifted
- Council uses LIFT to contact hundreds of SCDC residents who should be claiming Pension Credit
- SCDC passes motion supporting Climate and Nature bill
- SCDC receives Menopause Friendly Accreditation
- South Cambs Christmas Market
- £360,000 Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme Launched
- Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan consultation
- 4,500 new homes approved at Waterbeach new town



January and February 2025

- Four Day Week consultation launched
- Neighbourhood Plan consultation for Harston launched
- Council opens bidding period for faith land in Northstowe
- Corporate Plan adopted setting vision for the next five years
- Government's new planning target comes into affect for Greater Cambridge (from 1,526 to 2,309 homes per year)
- SCDC extends cost of living support to March 2026 with a £151,000 package
- New contract in place to boost recycling of blue bin waste from March 2025



March 2025

- Council announces 60 empty homes on track to be brought back into use
- Groundbreaking ceremony for Northstowe Unity Centre
- £8 million awarded to SCDC to improve energy efficiency of Council homes
- South Cambs new website launched
- Plans for Weekly Food Waste Collections announced
- Disabled Facilities Grants Top-Up increased from £15,000 to £30,000
- Allotment Improvement Grants launched
- Council debated Local Government Reorganisation
- Added 111 new houses to our affordable housing stock, the most ever in a single year.



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

Protecting the Environment

- Longstanton and Oakington & Westwick Parish Councils continued to take up the opportunity to plant more trees under the six free trees initiative
- Voi Bikes and Scooters initiative has been supported by Northstowe and Oakington & Westwick with the trial getting underway and engaged with in March 2025
- As mentioned above re: planning, LEGG, whose membership includes Parish Council members, continues to work with SCDC to resolve groundwater issues
- Engagement across the Ward regarding the plan to develop a solar farm in Longstanton has been strong and continues into the coming year
- The community allotment in Northstowe is thriving and some of the produce has been distributed by the food bank (e.g. Pumpkins in October)



What have we been up to in Longstanton Ward?

Northstowe: Facilities

- I continue working as part of the Delivery Group and with the Town Council and Communities Team and Community Network to support the development of facilities
- Examples of progress made in 2024-25 includes:
 - ☐ Full use of the Interim Community building by many community groups and some healthcare services
 - ☐ Groundbreaking of the Permanent Community Centre
 - ☐ Launch of the Sports Pavilion
 - ☐ Continuation of the Market
 - ☐ Opening of Social Housing (Council apartments) in Stirling Fields





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Corporate Plan 2025-2030



Our vision for South Cambridgeshire

Our vision is for a fairer, kinder, and greener South Cambridgeshire, where all residents will be equal partners in their communities.

We aspire to create a better district to the benefit of everyone in our communities. We recognise the many challenges that face the district and will continue to work to overcome these to help realise its full potential.



Challenges facing South Cambridgeshire

Over the next five years our communities and residents will face a range of challenges, which we will seek to address through this Corporate Plan.



Challenges facing South Cambridgeshire

Our area faces significant issues associated with **rural isolation**.

As a **nationally significant area for growth**, we need to plan for the delivery of additional floorspace for employment.

We are experiencing a national **housing crisis**, which is being felt acutely in South Cambridgeshire.

We are currently facing an **ecological crisis**, and we must protect and enhance nature and biodiversity across the district.



As a Council we have committed to support the district in halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050 as part of our commitment to tackling **climate change**.

We must be prepared to handle the uncertainties around proposed **local government reorganisation** to ensure residents continue to receive high quality services.

As our local economy grows our **businesses need a skilled workforce**, ready to make the most of future opportunities.



Our residents experience above average **income inequality** compared with the rest of England.

Local Authorities across the country must be resilient to **financial challenges** such as the Fair Funding Review and reductions in central government funding.

Greater Cambridge faces significant challenges with **water scarcity**, which threatens both our precious environment and the ability to deliver much-needed housing.



Our priorities

- Healthy and supported communities
- Sustainable homes and vibrant places
- Being green to our core
- Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire
- Financially secure and fit for the future



Healthy and supported communities



Supporting and engaging with our communities is key to tackling the challenges we face as a district. Our diversity is our strength and helping everyone live freely and independently is essential to promoting healthy and supported communities.



Healthy and supported communities



Our ambition

We want to create a district where people feel safe, supported, and confident in their communities. Together, we'll focus on what delivers for residents, enabling healthier, more independent lives for everyone.



Healthy and supported communities



What we will do

- We will help our residents, including older, disabled and vulnerable people, to live safely in their own homes.
- We will collaborate with partners and work to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour, and environmental health issues, promoting a safe and healthy community.
- We will support the improved health and wellbeing of residents and work with community groups, the voluntary sector and individuals to help to tackle issues within their communities.
- We will support the most vulnerable people in our communities to ensure they have access to the resources and opportunities needed to lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



A home is more than a roof over your head, it is the foundation on which people build their lives. An affordable home is essential for people to live happy, fulfilling lives. In light of the housing crisis, we are committed to strengthening our communities by delivering sustainable, affordable homes and vibrant places to live.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



Our ambition

Building environmentally sustainable places is fundamental to our work - helping people live near their work, shops, schools, leisure, and healthcare, with affordable and reliable public transport. High-quality, affordable housing in the right places is essential. We'll continue increasing our council housing stock and bringing empty homes back into use to ensure everyone has a place to call home.



Sustainable homes and vibrant places



What we will do

- We will continue to deliver new, high quality council homes and work with partners to improve the availability and affordability of housing stock across the district.
- We will work closely with partners and local communities to ensure that new homes are delivered alongside supporting infrastructure and amenities. modern standards.
- We will invest in our housing stock and improve the energy and cost efficiency of housing across the district - ensuring homes meet modern standards.
- We will work with partners to support healthy and connected communities, with access to green space.



Being green to our core



Being green is at the heart of everything we do. We're tackling the climate and ecological crises head-on, ensuring our district is ready for the challenges of climate change.



Being green to our core



Our ambition

We will consistently promote a cleaner, greener, zero carbon future for our communities. We recognise the climate and ecological emergencies and are playing our part by achieving 75% operational emissions reduction by 2030 and supporting the district to halve emission by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. We must safeguard and enhance the natural world for future generations and help our communities do the same. We shall strive to be among the most sustainable places to live and work in the country.



Being green to our core



What we will do

- We will work with partners to ensure that proposed development plans safeguard and where possible enhance the local environment and nature.
- By 2030 we will reduce emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 75% from 2018-19 levels.
- We will support households and businesses to reduce consumption and waste, while promoting reuse and recycling.
- We will support others (including parish councils, local communities and businesses) to respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, with the ambition of halving emissions by 2030, putting us on the path to net zero by 2050.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



Already recognised as a nationally significant area for development, helping local businesses thrive is key to the development of our district - bringing new jobs and opportunities into people's communities.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



Our ambition

We will support local businesses as they start up and grow and as we transition towards a sustainable economy. Working with partners we are helping our residents develop the skills they need to take full advantage of local opportunities. Our area is already truly world leading and we will work to strengthen this position, whilst being mindful of the inequalities that exist and which access to work will go some way to address.



Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire



What we will do

- We will provide support to help businesses to start up and grow within South Cambridgeshire.
- We will work with partners to promote apprenticeships and support the economically inactive back into work.
- We will work with partners to promote the vibrancy and health of South Cambridgeshire high streets, markets and commercial areas.
- We will work with partner organisations and through the planning service to make South Cambridgeshire an even more attractive place to do business.



Financially secure and fit for the future



We have a duty to provide high quality cost-efficient services. Being open, transparent, and inclusive and letting evidence guide our decisions is critical to putting residents first.



Financially secure and fit for the future



Our ambition

We will make it easier for residents to engage with our services and democratic processes. We will make smart financial decisions to safeguard our services for the future and invest in our staff to ensure they remain equipped to deliver for our district's needs. Tackling fraud and continuing to deliver good value for money are both essential to the continued sound financial management of the council.



Financially secure and fit for the future



What we will do

- We will ensure our services are delivered smoothly, focussing on ease of access for our customers, making it easier to engage with decision-making, and making best use of technology to provide 24/7 services.
- We will be an employer of choice, attracting and retaining the best talent and investing in the development of our staff and councillors.
- We will continue to explore ways of increasing income to help support services.
- We will make best use of Council resources, including through the identification of fraud and error.



**Please send questions to:
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