

CLLR FIROUZ THOMPSON

INFLATION ADDS TO COUNCIL COSTS

The County Councils Network and the Society of County Treasurers have revealed that spiralling inflation has left forty of England's largest councils with £729M of additional unfunded costs since they set their budgets in March. To balance their budgets—as they are legally required to—and control costs, councils warn they face a winter of 'difficult decisions'. The increased costs nationally include

- £428M for adult social care services
- £72M for children's social care
- £397M for capital projects
- £107M for energy prices
- £136M for external contract and labour costs
- £77M for school transport services
- £259M for staff pay

These inflationary costs far outstrip any increases in Government funding or council tax.

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Decentralisation: The Council's Strategy & Resources Committee has agreed the policy framework and design principles for its programme of decentralisation and has approved the next steps and pilot approach to put it into place. The principles are that

- A greater proportion of the Council's resource (workforce and budget) will be invested through decentralised approaches and structures.
- We will involve communities in our decision making, design, and activity.
- We will deepen relationships with voluntary and community sector organisations, District, Parish and Town Councils, other public sector partners, and community groups—working together through our democratic roles and most suitable governance structures to deliver the best outcomes for communities.
- Social, economic and environmental impacts will be given equal consideration in our decision-making processes.
- Our local presence should seek to be navigators and reference points for all local public services. Opportunities to apply this approach should be pursued by the Council's land and property functions.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Care reform costs: The cost of the Government's adult social care reforms could be a minimum of £10Bn higher than currently estimated, according to the County Councils Network. The reforms include a more generous means-test, a cap on care costs of £86,000, a move towards a 'fair' cost of care, and the ability for people who arrange and fund their own care to ask their council to do it on their behalf.

The higher costs could create a further workforce crisis in social care, with over 5,000 extra staff projected to be required to carry out extra care and financial assessments for those seeking to benefit from the reforms. Councils in rural areas could face the greatest challenges.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council's Children & Young People Committee received on 5 July a report on the strategy to deliver more SEND school places. It will also be asked to amend the specification of new build primary schools to include 55m2 of additional SEND space per up to two forms of entry. This report was approved unanimously.

Summer Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme: The Cambridgeshire HAF programme offers holiday scheme places for free during the Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays to primary and secondary school children receiving income-related free school meals. Eligible children can attend a participating summer holiday scheme for up to 64 hours for no charge. Every holiday scheme will provide a healthy lunch and snacks along with a variety of fun experiences. Please note Ukrainian children are also welcome. Click on link below and if you have any questions please email: HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://tinyurl.com/yknfnsgu>

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

Just Transition Fund: The first spending from the Council's new Just Transition fund has been agreed. £2.175M over four years has been awarded for a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. And £1.7M has also been awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

Resourcing Net Zero: The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee is moving ahead to implement its ambitious climate change strategy. The Committee is being asked on 7 July to approve a business case for the first phase of a three-phase approach to getting Cambridgeshire to Net Zero Carbon by 2045. The first phase will use the £2.175M awarded by the Strategy & Resources Committee (see above) and will involve eight workstreams.

- Gaining professional technical competence in carbon across the Council.
- Gathering data and intelligence.
- Refreshing Council policy, governance and decision making on carbon.
- Maximising the finances to support decarbonisation activity.
- Enabling more low carbon purchasing.
- Upskilling the Council workforce and enabling understanding of carbon.
- Developing a forward strategy.
- Supporting services in moving their existing knowledge into action.

Carbon pricing: Progress is being made in implementing internal carbon pricing at the County Council. This is a way of assessing the financial value of carbon emissions or carbon reductions, to help inform decisions about projects on environmental as well as financial grounds.

Nature & Climate Declaration and Climate & Ecology Bill: The chair of the Environment & Green Investment Committee has asked on 7 July to recommend to the Full Council that it sign the Nature & Climate Declaration and endorse the Climate & Ecology Bill. The Nature & Climate Declaration asks the UK Government to deal with key climate risks by

- Fulfilling the UK's fair share of emissions reductions to ensure that the average global temperature increase will not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius
- Halting and reversing biodiversity decline by 2030, and
- Delivering a more ambitious and integrated environmental protection and decarbonisation plan.

The cross-party Climate & Ecology Bill is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate change and nature crisis in line with the most up to date science.

Energy retrofits: Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership is a collaboration between the County Council and Cambridgeshire's district councils. It is currently delivering energy efficiency projects in over 500 homes across the county with the poorest energy efficiency and lowest incomes, using over £9M of Government grant. The Government has indicated that it will continue to make funding available to councils for this work until 2025, and the partners are looking to use a contract 'framework' to maximise success in attracting this funding, both for council schemes and also to enable private households to secure a 'trusted contractor' if they can afford to privately fund their own home retrofit works.

Flooding and nature restoration: The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee is being asked on 7 July to agree to spend the £1.7M awarded by the Strategy & Resources Committee (see above) on

- A natural flood risk management project in the town of March
- Designing a number of 'shovel ready' flood mitigation projects
- Community-led nature restoration and environment schemes

Waterbeach waste facility: Preparations are happening at the Amey waste park at Waterbeach in advance of major works to reduce odour emissions. The works will allow district councils to continue to deliver collected waste to Waterbeach for transfer to alternative processing sites and to landfill from August while the odour emission works are done. These are necessary to comply with new legal requirements. Updated operating procedures for the transfer station use have been submitted to the Environment Agency for their approval. A planning application has been submitted to the Council's Minerals and Waste Planning team seeking approval for the works proposed for the black bag waste facility.

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND INCLUSION (CoSMIC)

Household Support Fund: The Government has confirmed that it is extending the Household Support Fund for six months of 2022/23 and has allocated £3.58M of grant funding to Cambridgeshire for this. The Fund is intended to provide support to households through free school meals for eligible children during school holidays, and for payments to people in need. In order to meet the Joint Administration's commitment to provide free school meals in the holidays throughout the year, and to have a direct support scheme that is comprehensive, the Strategy & Resources Committee has allocated a further £1.87M to supplement this locally.

Library@home award: Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers are one of three voluntary groups in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. It aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. The award was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2 June, the anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

The Library@home service provides books and audiobooks to residents who find it difficult to get to a library through disability, illness or caring responsibilities. Volunteers visit once a month to bring and return library books and to have a chat. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/accessibility>

Think Communities Summer newsletter: The newsletter covers and a link is below:

- Community engagement events – including Northstowe Day
- Support for Ukraine
- Connecting Communities
- Cultivate Cambs Funding

<https://sway.office.com/Quzu1xCNPzyH7wCf?ref=Link>

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

A new Highways IT system is on the cards for the County Council—but officers have been asked to do more work on their proposals after a report to the Strategy & Resources Committee was sent back. It was proposed the delay not only so that more information could be obtained on the costs, but also for more discussion with Highways & Transport Committee councillors on what we would want to see from such a system.

CENSUS

Cambridgeshire has seen one of the UK's biggest population increases over the past ten years, data just published from the 2021 Census shows. Overall, the number of people living in the county rose by more than 57,000 in the last decade to 678,600. This 9.2% rise is higher than the East of England average, in a national picture which saw the East grow faster than any part of the UK.

The figures confirm the County Council's contention that previous Office of National Statistics figures—on which the government bases its grant allocations—under-estimated the size of the county's population. Included within the Cambridgeshire Census figures is an overall 26% rise in the number of Cambridgeshire people aged 65+, against an 18.6 per cent national average rise—with a high percentage increase of people in the 70 to 74 age band in all districts.

While the more urban areas of the county like Cambridge have seen population growth across all age ranges, its more rural areas have seen small or no growth in the youngest age groups (0-19) but large increases in older populations. Last year's census took place in March 2021 and data from the census will be published in stages over the next two years. Future releases will include figures on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Also, for the first time, there will be information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity. www.ons.gov.uk/census

ICS – Integrated Care System

1 July was the first official day of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS). It is also the day CCG staff transition to be employed by NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (new ICB). Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are partnerships of organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined up health and care services, and to improve the lives of people who live and work in their area. There are now 42 ICSs across England.

Although ICS launched in July, voluntary sector organisations, NHS providers, local Councils and other partners have been working together acting as an ICS for some time now. All are aligned in their purpose to promote, support and improve the health and wellbeing of almost a million people living locally. The shared vision is to make a real difference to the lives of local people and communities. To do this they will need to work together, better. Together the focus on reducing health inequalities, creating a system of opportunity, giving people more control over their own health and wellbeing, and delivering world-class services enabled by local research and innovation. ICS will do all of this whilst being environmentally and financially sustainable with a resilient workforce.

With a strong Board and Executive team led by John O'Brien as Chair, and Jan Thomas as Chief Executive Officer. ICS have recruited an excellent senior leadership team for NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, who will together lead the new partnership approach to improving the health and wellbeing of local people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. You can also keep up to date on latest news and developments of the ICS by visiting the new ICS website www.cpics.org.uk that is packed full of helpful information

Monthly Division Reports

Highways

- **B1050 Roundabout:** CCC's Road Safety Audit Stage 1 (Concept and Stage), 2 (Detailed Design) have been completed, the final Stage 3 (Post Construction) is yet to completed and CCC will meet with Homes England and Sisk to get this over the line. Road safety audits are carried out on all significant County Council and developer promoted highway schemes. This is to ensure adequate levels of safety are maintained and that problems previously identified at similar sites are avoided in new works. The Traffic Management was reinstated back in May to enable final works to be completed safely. These works have been agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council Highways team and when completed will enable the opening of the roundabout junction.
- **A14 Bar Hill Bridge - Ramps:** Patching took place 4 nights in June and during that time CCC specialist team also carried out the ground investigations and testing, which will be discussed with National Highways who built the A14. CCC Highways team did also inspect the area over the A1307 leading to B1050 and are creating Traffic Management plan for it to be also repaired.
- **A14 Trees:** Following our motion at Cambridgeshire County Council, we are now liaising with National Highways, they are carrying out a survey which will be finished by the end of May, analysis

will take a few weeks after. We met with National Highways on 22 June to discuss the survey analysis and next steps and the action plan and will share with you when available.

Other:

- **Northstowe Education Campus:** we continue to liaise with Homes England and their contractor Sisk regarding the completion of Rights of Ways (paths/cycleways/bridleway) from the Busway and Rampton Drift. No dates of completion have been given.
- **Stagecoach:** Following the Quarterly meeting on 9 June I posted updates on their new ticket pricing on social media. I also stood at Longstanton Park & Ride for 1 hour during peak time on 27 June with Stagecoach Operations Manager to see how the service was running and all went well. Following two social media posts, I have given all feedback received to Stagecoach from the residents, the posts that reached over 8,600+ people and comments/engagement were over 130+.

Longstanton

- **Wilson's Road Bridleway South and North:** feedback has been received from the Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum members which includes the British Horse Society, Ramblers, Cycling UK, Cam Cycle and Longstanton Parish Council. This feedback will go back to the Highways & Transport Committee.
- **Hattons Road Pond/Cycle Path B1050:** a meeting was held on 22 June with CCC, Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Planning, L&Q, Longstanton Parish Council and local Councillors. Key points from a planning perspective were set out:
 - Construction of the Hattons Road Ponds was initially secured by the outline planning permission for Northstowe Phase 1 (S/0388/12/OL) and the detailed design was approved in a subsequent reserved matters approval (S/0038/15/RM). Various amendments have since been made to the approved drawings, although some discrepancies remain compared with the as-built situation.
 - L&Q Estates has been invited to submit a retrospective application for a further amendment to bring the approved plans up to date. Once the application has been received, the planning authority will carefully consider the detail and any implications before making a decision.
 - Should the application be approved, this would regularise the as-built design and allow any outstanding landscaping works to be completed as required by the Section 106 agreement associated with the outline planning permission. Should the application be refused for any reason, formal enforcement action would need to be considered.
 - Linked to this outstanding issue is the B1050 cycleway project, which due to its proximity to Hattons Road Ponds is likely to affect the land transfer arrangements and to some extent the landscaping around the ponds. The planning authority is therefore keen to see any uncertainties resolved so that the abovementioned application can be prepared and submitted as soon as possible.

L&Q informed us that they are discussing with alternative bodies such as Anglian Water regarding the long-term management for Phases 1 and 2. Next steps to be confirmed.

- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:**
[Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Footway maintenance: Prentice Close, Full estate, footway resurfacing, completion date 2022/23 (£150k).
 - Carriageway maintenance: School Lane, from village to B1050, carriageway resurfacing, budgeted 2024-2027 (£250k)
 - Footway Slurry Seal: Haddows Close and Spiggots Close, completion date 2022/23.

Northstowe

- **Green Bin Wheelie Day 2 July:** Thank you to everyone who came out to Northstowe on to promote the sustainable modes of travel, such as Stagecoach, Greater Anglia Trains, Police Community Support Officers, Enterprise e-club cars, Decathlon, Cambridge University ICAN Northstowe Research team, Outspoken and Kingsley Pre-loved Cycles. Despite not hosting this event for the past two years, we had a good number of people (140+) from Northstowe and the residents from the nearby villages attend our event on the day.

I would like to thank you Prajina Baisyet for all her hard work on Northstowe Phase 1 and more recently Phase 2 projects and wish her the very best as she starts her new role at CCC at a different capacity: Active Travel Strategy Lead Officer in Transport Strategy and Funding.

Any queries for Smart Journeys, please contact: northstowe@smartjourneys.co.uk

- **Police:** Following various Anti-Social Behaviours and illegal parking around school in Northstowe, Cllr Richard Owens and I met with South Cambs Police Officer on Thursday 7 July, advice was to report all incidents by calling 111 or online or 999 (if life threatening – such as fires/threatening behaviours with knives). Links to ways of reporting [Report a crime or incident | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk), [What to report | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk), [Antisocial behaviour | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.police.uk). Please also note that the residents can have their say on what our neighbourhood policing team should be tackling - <https://bit.ly/3ldqB6k> and also there is an **online meeting on 9 August** to have your say and find out more: <https://bit.ly/3a5FYIW>

- **Links to Longstanton Park and Ride to Northstowe Phase 1:** after several years of not knowing how this link was going to be provided, we are really pleased to say that a contractor has been appointed and a budget agreed for the construction of the link road between Longstanton Park and Ride and the road within Northstowe Phase 1. As part of these works the contractor is also going to construct the path link into the waterpark from the park and ride site.

The appointed contractor is now undertaking some site investigation and clearance and is doing final details of the construction and design and finalising the cost. The project manager at CCC is hoping that they should be on site in September with all the works completed for the new year. The CCC team have requested that the link to the waterpark is built as early as possible to provide this link as soon as possible.

This also means that there will be a lit route between the park and ride and Northstowe this winter which will be very pleasing to all those who walk and cycle this route.

We would like to thank the CCC team, specifically Tam Parry who has worked long and hard to find money that was not available.

- **Guided Busway link to Northstowe/Rampton Drift:** improving visibility will require vegetation to be cut back, and the speed of the buses to be reduced to 30mph. The scope of the other works is to improve the surfaces on either side of the crossing place. Unfortunately, it is not possible to remove the stepped nature of the crossing as the Guided Busway is on a curve and needs to be guided at this location. The County team are awaiting quotes from Highway's maintenance contractors to level either side of the busway. Also, additional costings are being drawn up to see whether lighting columns just on the Northstowe side of the crossing can be made sufficient to light the crossing point to enable the electric requirements to tap into the existing connection for the pumping station. Pleased to say that Homes England have committed to supplying this. We are currently waiting for a drawing for lighting column location. We hope that the above costs will then be covered under S106 for phase 2 Northstowe, therefore we are having conversations with the main builders for Phase 2 regarding this funding. Timelines are currently difficult to commit to until the order is in with the contractor to do the works. The future plans for leaving Northstowe to go towards Cambridge are on the busway will be via the busway through the town centre and out of Northstowe just north of Oakington when this road opens.

Oakington & Westwick

- **A14 Legacy Fund:** Proposed TRO (Reference Number PR0786) - Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Station Road, Oakington and Westwick. Proposed speed cushions and road humps in Cambridge Road, Water Lane and Station Road in Oakington and Westwick. This fund was successful for the speed calming in Oakington, A14 Legacy team and Highways England handed over this scheme to County Council in July as the A14 team struggled to resource. Consultation with residents closed in March and no objections were received.
It was agreed between CCC and Oakington & Westwick Parish Council that A14 Legacy speed cushions and road humps and **zomph scheme** (not including Westwick) and **Westwick footpath** resurfacing will all be delivered at the same time. Timelines are based on CCC producing a design and then formally consult on the proposal. This consultation would likely be from mid-July through to Mid-August all being well. This would mean the A14 Scheme would likely begin around this time if the suggested approach were agreeable, and the zomph signs / lines would be tagged on to this project.
- **New development on the corner of Cambridge Road:** Cook & Cook the builder of this development have informed Parish Council that they will be resurfacing the whole section of the footpath from the corner of the crossroads (full width) to the bus stop. CCC have confirmed that Cook & Cook has not been in any discussion with CCC highways, and no agreements are in place, therefore they will not have the permission to work on the highway. They have also not contacted CCC regarding the legal process for the area to become public highway. Our Local Highway Officer has been asked to contact Cook & Cook.
- **Potholes** on Station Road will be filled between 13-15 July and following we will repaint the white lining around Oakington Crossing. One Network link; <https://one.network/?GB129449357>
- **Longstanton Road Culvert:** the local gully drainage connections was surveyed but the main access manholes were jammed so we are planning to go back so we can survey the main culvert. Report was shared with Parish Council on 4 July and it stated that there was too much silt in the system to continue, once we have the bigger picture we can look at jetting etc if needs be. We are awaiting dates from the CCTV drainage survey company and as soon as we have them and share any further reports.
- **Shared- use Path Improvements Oakington to Girton:** In July, CCC finished the Phase 1 of widening the shared-use path along Oakington Road, between Brook and Gatehouse Road to benefit walking and cycling. We also tightened the junction at Gatehouse Road to improve visibility for path users and carried out some improvements to the pinch point into Oakington to improve the flow along the paths. This was funded by Highways England, as mitigation for the A14 works.
Phase 2 will look to primarily be widening the path from Gatehouse Road to Oakington, subject to design. This will be funded by S106 money from Northstowe. The design has been developed and the cost estimate for construction is more than funds remaining. However, the scheme is still being championed by our project board, and it's looking promising that we will find additional money. We should be able to widen the path from the New Road junction up to the first houses, and we are hopeful we can stretch this past Mansel Farm. Whether we can widen the path in front of the main stretch of houses up to the crossroads is more uncertain at the moment.
In the meantime, work cannot start until the Autumn due to birds nesting in the hedges, therefore, CCC are using this time to finish the design, apply for flood and water consent and purchase a small strip of land adjacent to the New Road junction.
- **New bus stops outside Garden Centre on either side of the road:** Stagecoach are in the final processes of planning to install the flags, we are waiting for dates of when these will be completed.
- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:**
[Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Footway maintenance: Station Road, Westwick, from bridge to nursery, footway resurfacing and widening, completion date 2022/23 (£35k). Included alongside A14 legacy and zomph

Over

- **Stagecoach:** I would like to thank Cllr Geoff Twiss, for his very comprehensive document outlining all the busway issues with ticket pricing anomalies, which highlighted the terminology, fare differences, ticket price anomalies and issues, child fares, zoning of busway fares. Stagecoach have informed me that it has been an extremely helpful document.
- **Capital Highway Maintenance Programme:**
[Appendix 1 Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2022 to 2024 v2 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Carriageway maintenance: Station Road, Traffic calming to Church End, carriageway resurfacing, budgeted 2024-2027 (£380k)
 - Footway Slurry Seal: Websters Way, complete.

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.

Firouz Thompson, County Councillor for Longstanton, Northstowe, Over and Oakington & Westwick
Email: firouz.thompson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For those on social media we have highly active Facebook groups:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/libdems3rdMay18> - Over & Willingham