

COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

17th March 2026

Red Kite Room,
New Shire Hall,
Alconbury Weald,
Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

Cambridgeshire County Council Notice of Meeting

The meeting of the County Council will be held in the Red Kite Room, New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon PE28 4YE on Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at 10.30a.m.

Agenda

Apologies for Absence

1. Minutes – 10 February 2026 and Motions Log (pages 10-29)
[available at [County Council meeting 10/02/2026](#)]

2. Chair's Announcements (oral)

3. Declarations of Interests (oral)
[\[Guidance for Councillors on declaring interests is available here\]](#)

4. Public Question Time (oral)

To receive and respond to questions from members of the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1
[Chapter B1 \(Participation in Meetings\)](#).

5. Petitions (oral)

To receive petitions from the public in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2 [Chapter B2 \(Petition Scheme\)](#)

6. Items for determination from Staffing and Appeals Committee (oral)

- a) Senior Employee Pay Data and Chief Officer Pay Policy Statement

To consider the following recommendation arising from the Staffing and Appeals Committee on 24th February 2026:

To recommend the Transparency Data and the Chief Officer Pay Policy Statement to Full Council in March for approval subject to the exclusion of the Assistant Director of Education in the Tier 3 data, as this post sits in Tier 4 and therefore should not be reported.

b) Pay Gap Reporting

To consider the following recommendations arising from the Staffing and Appeals Committee on 24th February 2026:

- i) Recommend the Pay Gap Report to Full Council in March for approval; and
- ii) Recommend the Pay Gap Summary Publication to Full Council in March for approval and publication.

Note: a copy of the report discussed by the Staffing and Appeals Committee is available via the following link [Staffing and Appeals Committee 24/02/2026](#)

7. Constitution and Ethics Committee recommendations – (pages 30-34)
Proposed changes to the Constitution
8. Motions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10 (oral)
 - a) Motion from Councillor Elisa Meschini

This Council notes that:

- Humphries Way junction in Milton is classified as a “cluster site”
- 531 residents have to date signed a petition calling for safety improvements at Humphries Way junction in Milton
- a Section 106 Agreement was reached with Urban & Civic (U&C) whereby they would partially fund the works at the junction, the trigger point for the start of those works being the occupation of 250th dwelling
- U&C have stated in an e-mail sent to county council officers on 23 April 2025 that they are willing to release funds ahead of this occupation trigger, but investigations have identified increased costs owing to gas pipes at the site
- Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is legally obliged to deliver the junction, failure to do so would mean CCC would breach the legal duty set out in the Section 106 agreement
- the index linked Section 106 funding for this project is expected to be £422,729 from U&C and £178,500 from Cambridge Research Park, leaving a funding shortfall as the project is expected to cost upwards of £1.2m to deliver

This Council accepts:

- residents’ concerns and the poor track record of collisions on the A10 corridor from Ely to Cambridge and area around Waterbeach and Milton in particular. These works should not be delayed further

This Council resolves to:

- allocate funding from Road Safety Small Capital Projects and the Delivering Transport Strategy Aims Programme to this project
- further allocate funding to this project from the £20m capital pot approved at the meeting of Full Council on 10 February 2026 for 2027/28 as part of the 2026-31 business plan
- bring a report to the next meeting of the Highways and Transport Committee updating the committee on this decision, including a date by which works will start

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

b) Motion from Councillor Alex Bulat

This Council notes:

- the United Nations has designated 2025 as the International Year of Co-operatives in recognition of the economic and social impact of member-owned enterprises underpinned by shared ownership, democratic governance and mutual benefit.
- the work of the International Co-operative Alliance in supporting around three million co-operatives worldwide, celebrates the contribution of UK co-operative retail societies to local communities and national economic life, contributing an estimated £179.2 billion to the UK economy; and recognises the importance of efforts to grow and strengthen the UK co-operative sector in order to build a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy.

This Council welcomes that:

- the co-operative model provides a sustainable way of providing local government services that empower residents, service users and employees, giving them a fair share and an equal say.
- local councils up and down the country have already put these values into practice in a number of ways, for example developing the co-operative sector, resident and employee-owned companies and co-operative schools and colleges.
- the Council's Procurement and Commercial Strategy does recognise that alternatives including communities is considered at the start of procurement planning,
- there is an opportunity to "choose co-operative" when considering the future of local services, giving residents and communities more of a say in their area, although to date it has not selected this option.

This Council resolves to:

- reinforce the need for commissioners and contract owners to consider and evidence consideration of incorporating alternatives, and make it clearer in the Procurement Strategy signed off by Executive Directors that it should include co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local Co-operatives, social enterprises, credit unions local and residents. It is accepted this may not be practical in all cases but officers should evidence they have considered this option.
- scrutinise the Council's engagement with the co-operative and mutual sector in Cambridgeshire and in doing so look to make further recommendations for its potential growth.
- request that officers consider how to improve engagement with local co-operatives, for example through stakeholder events and engage with the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network (CCIN).
- request officers to explore in developing the planned Community Asset Transfer Policy, the setting up of a community asset transfer fund, so that local communities can own and protect their own assets, although recognising funding for this would need to be identified as part of that consideration.
- using existing procurement resources undertake a pilot audit of a small sample of contractors and suppliers, possibly around the adults and children's care provider market, on how many meet the FairTax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and continue with and expand our social value and ethical procurement policies and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships. If this pilot identifies savings or improvements in practice that warrant a more detailed look then a paper be brought back to Assets and Procurement Committee to explore how a full roll out of this approach could be funded, including the potential for self-financing from the audits themselves.
- ask that through the Strategy, Resources and Performance and Asset and Procurement Spokes meeting this is discussed to look at what more the Council could do.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

c) Motion from Councillor Edna Murphy

This Council notes:

- The Home Secretary is planning to merge the 43 police constabularies of England and Wales into a smaller number of larger regional forces.
- The need for strong, visible, community-based policing and with local accountability being essential.
- Evidence that local policing builds trust and confidence locally, improves crime prevention, and ensures responsiveness to community needs.

- Police forces already achieve economies of scale through joint procurement of vehicles, shared ICT systems, and collaborative cross-border operations to tackle issues such as county lines drug dealing.

This Council believes:

- Merging police forces into “mega-forces” would weaken local accountability and reduce the visibility of officers in our communities.
- Investment should focus on modernising technology, improving data sharing, and strengthening community policing—not structural mergers.

This Council resolves to:

- Oppose any proposals to merge our local police force into a regional or national entity.
- Call on the Government to prioritise:
 - o Increased funding for community policing teams.
 - o National standards for vetting and technology upgrades to improve efficiency.
 - o Enhanced rural crime support and local police desks in community hubs.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary and local MPs to express this Council’s opposition to force mergers and support for local policing responsive to the local community and its needs.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

d) Motion from Councillor Geoff Seeff

This Council notes that:

- In response to the announcement by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) on 14th January 2026 seeking competitive bids for towns across the UK to be named as the UK Town of Culture 2028, expressions of interest (EOIs) for the towns of St Neots and Huntingdon were submitted by the Neotists Community Interest Company and Huntingdon Business Improvement District (BID)/Huntingdon Town Council respectively.
- On the basis of the EOIs, the DCMS will draw up a shortlist of towns which it wishes to take full bids forward and the Accountable Bodies of each of the towns selected will receive a grant of £60,000 towards the preparatory work. A decision will be made on shortlisting in late spring 2026.
- Full bids are to be submitted by Autumn 2026 and, following an evaluation process, the nomination will be made in early 2027.
- The nominated town will receive DCMS funding of £3 million towards the costs of presenting a 12-month programme of cultural activities and two runners up will each receive funding of £250,000 for less ambitious programmes.

This Council understands that:

- The definition of Culture for the purposes of this Government initiative is very broad. It embraces all the genres of the professional and amateur performing and visual arts but also includes inter alia local history, literature, architecture, crafts, gardens and nature. In short, any aspect of a town's life that gives it its vibrancy and is potentially of interest to residents and prospective visitors.
- If shortlisted either or both organisations will take responsibility for or form a Delivery Body, in terms of the process, to take responsibility for the bid preparation. If nominated the Delivery Body will take responsibility for the delivery of the planned programme.
- If shortlisted, there will be benefits to the organisations in submitting a full bid in that it will bring together the various sections of their local communities to collaborate in a common cause and help them identify cultural needs and generate new ideas for cultural development outside the competition.
- If ultimately successful in the competition and the delivery of the programme is well managed, the potential benefits to the nominated town are immeasurable. It is to be expected that, where appropriate, additional funding will be leveraged from private sector partners participating in some of the projects, there will be additional employment opportunities for artists and those associated with events, the local visitor economy will experience growth and there will be a permanent legacy of enhanced facilities and civic pride.

Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

- if shortlisted, offer support with preparatory works, including the offering of physical facilities in the St Neots and Huntingdon libraries for meetings and research, including access to the archives, and to make available access to officers with expertise and information in the relevant fields that would assist their submissions.
- channel any requests for support through the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, and offer to appoint one Elected Member to liaise with the Delivery Body for St Neots and one Elected Member to liaise with the Delivery Body for Huntingdon, with substitutes to be permitted.
- further provide such support as required and within the competence of the Council if either St Neots or Huntingdon is awarded the title of UK Town of Culture 2028.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

e) Motion from Councillor Bryony Goodliffe

This Council notes:

- that there are around 25,000 children in Cambridgeshire who qualify for the support from Pupil Premium (also known as free school meals) and many of these children are living in poverty, struggling following years of austerity and the Cost-of-living crisis. Pupil Premium funding entitles a child or young person to a free school lunch during term time and additional funds to support their education to help reduce the attainment gap of children and young people living in poverty.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has shown its commitment to assisting families who have an extremely low income through a very successful voucher programme which gave those families entitled to Pupil Premium funding vouchers for major supermarkets during each full week of school holidays.
- that a report to Children and Young People Committee in 2023 showed the value of these vouchers and that comments from recipients indicates the great need for the support the voucher scheme has offered their children and young people.
- that in May 2025, the Cambridgeshire independent poverty strategy commission report was published, and a countywide multi-agency officer delivery group subsequently established to address the recommendations.

This Council resolves:

- to request that the Anti-Poverty Strategic Lead officer and the poverty strategy delivery group consider funding for an ongoing holiday voucher scheme for families who experience financial shock (as set out in the Crisis and Resilience Fund guidance) within the CRF delivery plan.
- to use a proportion of the £5.3million pa Crisis and Resilience Fund allocation, subject to approval by Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, to pay for the scheme which should begin in the autumn of 2026 and last for the duration of the local government settlement, reviewed in line with DWP national guidance.
- that this scheme is prioritised in the use of Crisis and Resilience Fund due to the lifelong impact of growing up in poverty on children and the impact it can have upon their physical health, mental health, educational attainment and life chances.
- that a scheme is considered which is cost effective, value for money and can be communicated to the majority of families who qualify for Pupil Premium and live within Cambridgeshire County Council boundaries.
- that financial management and prevention advice are also offered to these families upon receipt of support.
- that updates regarding this Motion should be provided to Spokes of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee.

[The Monitoring Officer advises that the motion relates to a matter for the Council to determine and that the motion is therefore in order as drafted]

9. Questions

- (a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 10.1) (page 35)
- (b) Questions on Fire Authority Issues (pages 36 to 41)
Report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.
- (c) Written Questions (Council Procedure Rule 10.4) (oral)
To note responses to written questions from Councillors submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.4.

Dated 9 March 2026

Emma Duncan
Service Director:
Legal and Governance

(Monitoring Officer)

The County Council is committed to open government and members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting. It supports the principle of transparency and encourages filming, recording, and taking photographs at meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites to communicate with people about what is happening, happens. These arrangements operate in accordance with a protocol agreed by the Chair of the Council and political Group Leaders which can be accessed via the following link or made available on request: [Filming, recording and photos of meetings](#)

The Council does not guarantee the provision of car parking on the New Shire Hall site. Information on travel options is available at: [Travel to New Shire Hall](#)

This meeting is streamed to the Council's website: [Council meetings Live Web Stream - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

For more information about this meeting, please contact Nick Mills at the County Council's Democratic Services on Cambridge (01223) 699763 or by email at: nicholas.mills@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Full Council Motion Log

This is the updated Motion Log as of 2 February 2026. It captures the actions arising from motions agreed at meetings of Full Council and updates Members on the progress in complying with delivery of the necessary actions.

Motions from Full Council on 19 July 2022

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
87 e)	Councillor Alex Beckett Pavement parking	Executive Director of Place and Sustainability	Highways and Transport Committee to assess the impact of this trial [a group of pilot areas in Cambridge City for TRO implementation] upon its implementation.	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>A trial pavement parking scheme is being developed on East Road in Cambridge. This is being funded through a Local Highway Initiative approved for delivery by the Highways and Transport Committee in October 2024. The scheme design is currently being developed and will include formal consultation with stakeholders.</p> <p>Following the design process, a formal Traffic Regulation Order will be required and advertised. It is possible that a co-ordinated implementation with planned road resurfacing could occur in Autumn 2026, but this would be subject to the design being agreed and the above legal approvals being in place.</p>	Ongoing

			<p>If successful, the highways department should expand this work and bring a further paper to Highways and Transport Committee for all urban areas within Cambridgeshire with informal pavement parking, when it is appropriate to do so (mindful that Civil Parking Enforcement powers are needed to locally enforce the TRO).</p>	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>Once the East Road scheme has been implemented, the project will be evaluated and next steps will be considered and agreed, if the trial proves to be successful.</p> <p>On 8 January 2026, the Department for Transport (DfT) provided a response to its much earlier 2020 consultation on pavement parking. Of note in the national data within the response was that 92% of local authorities thought that pavement parking was an issue in their area and 83% of individuals thought the same. 41% of individuals responded to say they would leave their home more often if there was no pavement parking, highlighting the concerns of residents.</p> <p>The DfT plans to provide, in due course, powers to local authorities through secondary legislation to enforce unnecessary obstruction of the pavement. This is not a total ban but would allow fines to be issued by the Council's parking enforcement teams where paths are being blocked. This power would only apply in Cambridgeshire where Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers are in place, notably Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. Fenland District Council is currently progressing with CPE, while East Cambridgeshire has said it will not be seeking CPE powers.</p> <p>A national pavement parking ban, similar to that seen in London, has not been progressed by the DfT. A devolved approach has been taken, vesting</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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				<p>the power to the ‘strategic authority’ or where there is not one to the ‘highest tier of local government in the area’. At this stage, it is not clear where this power may sit in Cambridgeshire. The DfT is looking to enable these powers at ‘the next legislative opportunity’.</p> <p>Existing powers remain to make one-off Traffic Regulation Orders, however these require extensive signage, which is a reason for local authorities to prefer collective measures across areas.</p>	
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Motions from Full Council on 21 May 2024

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
222 a)	Councillor Alex Beckett Artificial Intelligence	Executive Director of Finance and Resources	Present long-term Technology Impact Assessment, as part of business planning, reports to each Policy and Service Committee to inform members’ awareness of the potential opportunities and risks, new technologies (including but not limited to autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence / Machine Learning, renewable energy generation / storage, Internet of Things) may present to our ways of working with and in our communities over the short, medium and long (20+year) -term. This should consider the financial	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Officers continue to develop solutions through the work of the Digital, Data and Technology Programme aligned to the Change Strategy of the Council. For example, a pilot has recently started on the use of Artificial Intelligence to assist with processing Education, Care and Health Plan (EHCP) submissions.</p> <p>In addition, officers are working with local government and university partners to look at innovation across sectors, and the refresh of the council’s digital strategies will involve this. However, with the impact of Local Government Reorganisation, there will be a need for the future</p>	Ongoing

			costs and gains, environmental impacts, economic opportunities, social changes, and potential security risks.	shadow authorities to determine this going forward when they and the subsequent successor councils are established.	
			Use the assessments to continually refresh the Council's Digital Strategies and the action plans that support their delivery, as well as the Council's business plan. This should be reported annually alongside the Business and Budget Plan to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee.	Update: 2 February 2026 The Council is working on a refresh of its digital strategies based on the needs of the Digital, Data and Technology programme, aligned to the Council's Change Strategy and work on Local Government Reorganisation. The refreshed strategies, including a new AI Strategy, will be presented to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee in early 2026.	Ongoing
			Work with the Combined Authority to create a technology forum to foster collaboration with local universities, technology companies, research institutions, and other local authorities in order to explore the challenges and opportunities technology can bring to our area. A member technology champion would assist in supporting this Forum.	Update: 2 February 2026 Officers have been working with local government and university partners as part of AI@Cam and are part of the innovation programme. Officers are looking at how the work with AI@Cam could assist the future planning for local government reorganisation. Cllr Alex Beckett has been appointed the Council's Digital Member Champion.	Ongoing

Motions from Full Council on 10 December 2024

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
254 a)	<p>Councillor Bryony Goodliffe</p> <p>Trauma</p>	Chief Executive	<p>Ask the Chief Executive and the Corporate Leadership Team to develop an action plan to introduce a Trauma-Informed framework across Council services, with a report to be received by the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee as part of the business planning process for 2025/26.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>A cross service strategic group within Children, Education and Families is developing the trauma-informed action plan. This is being coordinated with work that the Adults, Health and Commissioning directorate is undertaking to avoid duplication and support an all-age approach.</p> <p>The strategic group will co-ordinate the development of a co-produced framework, which will allow the Council, each service and each team to create an action plan detailing how they will become trauma-informed in-house within the internal culture, as well as becoming trauma-informed service providers with statutory duties.</p> <p>Each team and service will map out their learning journey using the framework. For example, some teams may only need to be trauma-aware / informed, whilst other front-facing practitioners will need to have more in depth knowledge and skills, including trauma-responsive practice. Some teams or services will have a mixture of requirements.</p> <p>The Council will ensure employees have the learning opportunities and professional development to support them on their journey to</p>	Ongoing

				<p>becoming trauma informed. Teams in the Children, Education and Families directorate have already had success with the use of core concepts and related language, such as the use of the 3 R's (Regulate, Relate, Reason), based on work by Dr Bruce Perry. This could be expanded to support the work of the wider services.</p> <p>Trauma-informed practice is now part of the Children Social Care Practice Approach (THRIVE), and the Principal Social Worker for Adults will review the adult social care Practice Principles to ensure trauma-informed practice is explicitly referenced.</p>	
			<p>Introduce essential learning for councillors and all staff, including e-learning modules, that enables Cambridgeshire County Council to become a truly Trauma-Informed organisation</p>	<p>Update: 8 December 2025</p> <p>The Council is developing a roadmap for the implementation of trauma-informed practice in the Adults, Health and Commissioning directorate, which will include training for all Members and officers. A target date for training to commence has been set for June 2026.</p>	Ongoing

Motions from Full Council on 18 March 2025

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
274 a)	Councillor Alex Bulat Flooding	Executive Director of Place and Sustainability	A dedicated online flood risk resource for Cambridgeshire similar to The Flood Hub will be created that provides detailed advice and guidance to householders, businesses, landowners and community groups.	Update: 9 March 2026 The Local Resilience has advised it cannot incorporate the flood risk information on its webpage due to restrictions on text length. Instead, the Council will now explore alternatives, such as updating its own website or producing leaflets (including electronic versions), which could be linked on the website and the Local Resilience Forum's website.	Ongoing
274 d)	Councillor Elisa Meschini Buses	Executive Director for Children, Education and Families	The Executive Director for Children, Education and Families provide a report to the Children and Young People Committee covering the uptake of the Tiger passes in the Cambridgeshire geography, highlighting the effect of the Tiger scheme on the Council's Home to School transport budget and exploring how further integration with education transport could improve accessibility and affordability for students, ensuring a collaborative approach through bus franchising can support further improvements.	Update: 2 February 2026 Delivery of two workshops with Members in the Summer of 2025, to explore opportunities which included the England's Economic Heartland and the Travel to Learn plan, which fully exhausts all opportunities for children and young people with SEND to access education by providing appropriate travel support with an emphasis on supporting independence. This will be presented to the Children and Young People Committee in March 2026. Feedback from the workshops with Members is shaping the Travel to Learn Plan and there is ongoing engagement with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Committee. The Council is also actively engaging	Ongoing

				with the Combined Authority to explore greater integration opportunities.	
274 e)	Councillor Nick Gay Neurodiversity	Chief Executive	Task officers with reviewing the County Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy's Action Plan to ensure it contains an action to assess the implementation of Universal Design principles across all council directorates and provide an update on this, highlighting areas for improvement, as part of the six monthly monitoring report received by the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee on the EDI Action Plan.	Update: 2 February 2026 This review requirement has been incorporated to the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy Action Plan. The Council is developing a self-assessment for services to identify where there are gaps in their service and how to embed the universal design principles. This will include guidance on understanding what the universal design principles are. This self-assessment has been piloted across 2 council services to date and will inform the refresh of the Strategy for submission the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee.	Ongoing

Motions from Full Council on 15 July 2025

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
27 e)	Councillor Alison Whelan LGBTQ+ Support	Executive Director of Place and Sustainability	Instruct the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee to receive a report on its ongoing equity, diversity, and inclusion work, including a review of partnership opportunities with The Kite Trust and other LGBTQ+ organisations to strengthen our offer of safe spaces and mental health support for young LGBTQ+ people, and to put in place education policies for the protection of LGBTQ+ people.	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>The Council's Communities Service has an established partnership with The Kite Trust, contributing to a successful £1.7m funding bid and helping to connect the charity with local business for practical resources.</p> <p>In 2025, the service achieved the national Rainbow Flag Award for inclusive practice, later guiding local youth providers through the same accreditation to expand safe and supportive spaces across the county.</p> <p>The Communities Service, with The Kite Trust, has researched existing education policies and resources and considered a range of recommendations. A full update will be incorporated into the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion update that is scheduled to be presented to the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee on 25 June 2026.</p>	Ongoing

Motions from Full Council on 21 October 2025

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
38 b)	Councillor Ian Manning	Executive Director for Children, Education and Families	In line with the requirements within the National Curriculum, ask educational institutions to share relevant information about how they promote democracy and the value of using their right to vote to the young people in their care.	<p>Update: 8 December 2025</p> <p>The School Improvement Service has begun collecting information regarding the promotion of democracy in schools and how pupils are taught the value of using their right to vote through pupil voice activities in secondary schools. This will enable the Council to understand how well school activities are supporting pupils to understand the value of using their right to vote and what teaching / school activities have supported this, so it can share examples of good practice. A report based on the information collated by the School Improvement Service will be produced for March 2026.</p> <p>However, it is also of note that the National Curriculum Review, recently published on 5 November 2025, has made citizenship a statutory part of the primary curriculum with new programmes of study to be introduced to cover core concepts such as democracy, participation, law and rights. This will ensure a more consistent approach and an expectation on all schools to ensure that they are covering this effectively. At secondary level, citizenship will remain a statutory national curriculum subject, although the review has confirmed a strengthened subject model, with</p>	Ongoing

				the revised programmes of study to be published in 2027, with the first teaching from 2028.	
			Bring a report back to the Children and Young Person's Committee giving a high level summary of how points 9 and 10 are being enacted across Cambridgeshire educational institutions.	Update: 2 February 2026 Further discussion around this is ongoing and a proposal for a Local Democracy Youth Forum is being drafted, with a workshop being arranged between pupils and elected Members in due course.	Ongoing
38 e)	Councillor Alison Whelan Suicide Prevention	Executive Director for Adults, Health and Commissioning	PTSD Services for Service Veterans and Front-Line Staff: The Council shall work with NHS and voluntary sector partners, to bring forward a proposal to commission or expand specialist PTSD services for veterans and front-line staff. This shall include stigma-free, early intervention and trauma-informed support with a progress report within 1 year.	Update: 9 March 2026 Work is ongoing with the aim of identifying any gaps through the community mental health services review and discussions around the responsibilities within the armed services covenant. The mental health service review has been completed but the implications have not been fully discussed or taken forward in the system.	Ongoing
			Street Triage and Co-Responder Models: The Council shall request the NHS ICB and Police & Crime Commissioner to expand the number of mental health street triage teams and co-responder units across Cambridgeshire, with progress regularly reported to the Health Scrutiny Committee.	Update: 9 March 2026 This has been raised at the systemwide Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership and will be raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner prior to report coming to Health Scrutiny Committee, as part of forward planning.	Ongoing

			<p>Section 136 Review: The Council shall commission a review of Section 136 use in Cambridgeshire, analysing outcomes, demographics, and service gaps, and publish recommendations for improvement, with a clear implementation plan agreed by partner agencies.</p>	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>In Cambridgeshire, the use of the power has been considered through Right Care Right Person (RCRP), led by Cambridgeshire Constabulary with key partners from the Integrated Care Board, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge University Hospitals, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council through RCRP work. A request will be made to the board to present a report to the Health Scrutiny Committee, analysing outcomes, demographics, and service gaps along with its response plan for addressing issues relating to the use of Section 136 across the county.</p>	Ongoing
		Executive Director for Adults, Health and Commissioning	<p>NHS 111 Option 2 Improvement: The Council shall engage with NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough ICB to review NHS 111 Option 2 service standards, identify resourcing and responsiveness issues, and agree a joint improvement plan with key performance indicators reported to the Health Scrutiny Committee regularly.</p>	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>A request has been made for an update on the NHS 111 Option 2 service standard - the update will be provided to the Health Scrutiny Committee in line with its forward plan.</p>	Ongoing

		<p>Executive Director for Adults, Health and Commissioning</p>	<p>Awareness through education: The council shall seek opportunities to coordinate work with local charities, schools and organisations to broaden general awareness around mental health and what we can all do to keep an eye out for and support those who may be struggling, we believe to be in distress, or at high risk to themselves or others.</p>	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>The Council's Public Health team has commissioned a co-produced online mental health toolkit for young people to support friends with their mental health (Help You Help Them) developed with Fullscope, which has now been launched and promoted throughout the county, and is gaining recognition more widely.</p> <p>System partners have refreshed the local online directory (Keep Your Head) for reliable information on mental health and wellbeing for children, young people, adults, professionals and schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p> <p>Public Health continues to commission the Council's PSHE service to deliver extra-curricular support for education settings around conflict resolution, promoting healthy friendships, preventing and responding to bullying, and more recently an overview of childhood anxiety and environmental and emotional barriers to schools attendance (EEBSA), as well as tips and advice on healthy eating and those experiencing challenges with eating or the eating environment. These are delivered across all school-ages and settings.</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Public Health) works as part of the system to support health and wellbeing, everywhere our children and young people learn. This is achieved by providing a 'front door' for schools and settings to signpost to relevant</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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quality assured local services, offer consultation, and develop networks.

Motions from Full Council on 16 December 2025

Minute No.	Motion	Responsible Officer	Action	Update	Status
51 a)	Councillor Bryony Goodliffe Care experience	Executive Director of Children, Education and Families	Children and Young People Committee to consider funding for the appointment of a Care Experienced Champion so that care experienced residents have a single point of contact in the local council. The post-holder will be able to support care experienced residents and guide the council as to best practice in safeguarding care experienced people's rights.	Update: 2 February 2026 Scoping work has commenced, which will also need to involve Legal and Governance advice, and an update will be provided to the Children and Young People Committee Spokes in Spring 2026.	Ongoing
			Work with care experienced people to ensure that their lived experiences are always at the forefront, that voices are heard and care experienced people are consulted with regard to policy, priorities and supported to find housing, employment, health services and education opportunities.	Update: 2 February 2026 Scoping work has commenced and updates will be provided to the Children and Young People Committee Spokes in Spring 2026.	Ongoing

			<p>Listen to care experienced residents, employees and those currently in care in Cambridgeshire by supporting existing council and community networks.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Scoping work has commenced and updates will be provided to the Children and Young People Committee Spokes in Spring 2026.</p>	Ongoing
			<p>Ensure councillors complete corporate parenting training, that their role as a corporate parent is understood as is the ongoing commitment beyond the age of 18 to support care experienced residents in Cambridgeshire.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Scoping work has commenced, which will also need to include the Member Training Panel and Legal and Governance Service, with an update to be provided in Spring 2026.</p>	Ongoing
			<p>Work with our partners and as a future unitary authority to ensure that all care experienced residents can access voluntary and statutory services to meet their basic needs for healthcare, housing and education and are given the highest priority in services. This includes ensuring access to safe housing in their chosen community and giving rough sleepers access to accommodation and support services.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Scoping work has commenced and updates will be provided to the Children and Young People Committee Spokes in early Spring 2026.</p>	Ongoing

		Executive Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning	<p>Improve access to employment for those with care experience providing support for curriculum vitae writing/interview advice. Ensuring that the Council supports care experienced adults into employment and beyond into careers with support and mentoring, and education for employers how to support those with care experience.</p>	<p>Update: 9 March 2026</p> <p>This would be better assigned to the Executive Director of Children, Education and Families, as they support care leavers.</p>	Ongoing
51 b)	Councillor Elliot Tong	Executive Director of Place and Sustainability	<p>The Executive Director of Place and Sustainability works with officers from all district councils, relevant parish councils, and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to determine overall management and delivery arrangements for all bus infrastructure. As part of this review, clarification for the management and commissioning of advertising on bus infrastructure assets will be sought.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>The Council is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in its role as the Transport Authority on a review of all bus shelters.</p> <p>Work to date has created a single matrix of information on bus shelters in the CPCA region, with details such as precise location and shelter facilities plotted, which is something that was previously lacking. The current stage of work, led by the CPCA, is seeking to establish the ownership of the bus shelter assets and where maintenance liability for shelters rests for bus stops in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p> <p>The work will also create a process by which maintenance and improvement of shelters can be better programmed, based on evidence to support prioritisation of works. As part of this work, the CPCA is actively exploring more innovative ways to fund the maintenance programme that is needed. This includes</p>	Ongoing

				<p>consideration of the potential for a CPCA-wide bus shelter advertising contract.</p> <p>In addition, the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee recommended an indicative allocation of £200,000 for the improvement of bus shelter provision to be spent by the end of the 2026/27 financial year. The Council is currently prioritising work to improve bus shelters that are under its own ownership using this funding. As the CPCA led work develops, the Council will work closely with the CPCA on its prioritisation study and will look at the potential to combine resources to maximise funding.</p>	
51 c)	Councillor Rory Clark Culture and arts	Executive Director for Children, Education and Families	Cambridgeshire Culture to create a culture and arts strategy for Cambridgeshire County Council, ensuring that there is focus on children as well as adults.	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Work has commenced to scope the steps required to create the strategy for discussion by Cambridgeshire Culture at the forthcoming meeting in February 2026.</p>	Ongoing
		Executive Director for Children, Education and Families	Review progress on these actions within 12 months at the Children and Young People Committee and consider what further steps may be needed.	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>An item has been added to the Children and Young People Committee's forward plan for November 2026.</p>	Ongoing

51 d)	Councillor Alison Whelan Relationships with the European Union	Executive Director of Finance and Resources	<p>Ask that the Combined Authority, working with the county council, district councils, business groups (such as the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce and National Farmers' Union), universities, and trade unions, to assess the ongoing impacts of Brexit on the Cambridgeshire economy – for instance, by updating the Brexit impact surveys for the tech sector and agriculture, and gathering testimony from local businesses, farmers, and public service providers on specific challenges they face. This evidence will be used to make the case for policy changes and support needed from Government.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>The Executive Director of Finance and Resources has written to the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority to seek the support of the CPCA for the proposed further work with local groups and farmers.</p> <p>A response is awaited.</p>	Ongoing
			<p>Support the Combined Authority in its approaches to international trade and place marketing to strengthen cultural and economic links with EU countries as part of its overall approach to support long term growth in the region. This includes welcoming European initiatives: Participating in networks of European regional governments and municipalities where possible, to share best practices and signal that Cambridgeshire remains an outward-looking, internationally engaged community and economy.</p>	<p>Update: 2 February 2026</p> <p>Discussions have been held with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to look at how the Council can provide support and will continue aligned to the recently published Local Growth Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the work of the Business Board.</p>	Ongoing

		Chief Executive	Use its existing communications channels to highlight success stories of European cooperation in Cambridgeshire (such as successful local businesses exporting to the EU, or EU-funded research breakthroughs at our universities) and to inform residents and businesses about any new opportunities that arise from changes in UK-EU relations.	Update: 9 March 2026 This work is being scoped at present, and an update will be provided to Council by the next meeting.	Ongoing
			The Chief Executive to report back on progress on actions taken and any Government responses received regarding this motion.	Update: 9 March 2026 Updates on the actions taken in response to this motion are set out in the Motion Log. The Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, HM Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for EU Relations, has responded to the authority and this correspondence was shared with Members.	Complete
51 e)	Councillor Ros Hathorn Busways	Executive Director of Place and Sustainability	Bring a policy for design on new busways, which allows for immediate modification during delivery stage of new busways if safety requirements alter in response to dialogue with the regulator, to Highways and Transport Committee.	Update: 2 February 2026 The Council, as the Highway Authority and the accountable body for the Greater Cambridge Partnership, has statutory responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 which dictates that any modifications required by the Health and Safety Executive must be actioned. The Council's 'Designing a Guided Busway for Safe Operation' document reflects its statutory duties and this will be reviewed to ensure it	Ongoing

				reflects this motion. An update will be included in the next update on the Guided Busway to the Highways and Transport Committee in June 2026.	
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Constitution and Ethics Committee recommendations - Proposed changes to the Constitution

To: Council

Meeting Date: 17 March 2026

From: Service Director of Legal and Governance

Outcome: To present to Full Council for consideration and approval proposed changes to the Council's Constitution recommended by the Constitution and Ethics Committee on 3 March 2026.

The current Constitution is on [the Constitution page](#) of the Council's website.

Recommendation: Full Council is recommended to approve the following changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to Full Council:

- (i) The removal of the limit on the number of motions at a Council meeting;
- (ii) The introduction of a total debate time for motions; and
- (iii) An amendment to the scope of motions, requiring them to only be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility.

Officer contact:

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires all local authorities to have a constitution that contains the standing orders and the code of conduct, as well as any other information that the authority considers appropriate. Changes to the Council's Constitution are considered by the Constitution and Ethics Committee before being recommended to Full Council for approval.

2. Constitutional Changes

Motions

- 2.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2026, Full Council approved the following recommended by Constitution and Ethics Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2026:

- (i) Amendments to the requirements for giving notice of motions;
- (ii) Amendments to the word count of motions; and
- (iii) Amendments to the timing of speeches for motions and amendments to motions.

- 2.2 Full Council did not approve the following proposed option for giving notice of motions:

No limit to be placed on the submission of motions, as follows (removals in strikethrough):

- 12.2 Other than at the annual budget meeting, for which no notices of motions shall be accepted, ~~a maximum of five~~ motions shall be accepted for debate at an ordinary meeting of the Council under this standing order.

It agreed instead to refer this recommendation to the Constitution and Ethics Committee under Council Procedural Rule 13.1(d) for further consideration.

- 2.3 Whilst it was acknowledged at Full Council that an unlimited number of motions did have benefits, it also had risks in terms of the popularity of the motions process and how many motions could start to appear on council agendas impacting on the length of meetings and consideration of other business if each motion was to be given time to be debated properly and fully. The majority of Members felt that there needed to be safeguards to balance all of these factors.

- 2.4 The Constitution and Ethics Committee, at its meeting on 3 March 2026, considered the following safeguards:

- i) Total Debate Time – The proposal to have a maximum of two and a half hours for debate on motions. In the event a motion has not been voted on at the meeting for which notice has been given, that notice of motion shall then be void.

ii) Scope – The Constitution states that motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affect the county. It is proposed to delete “or which affect the county” to focus on motions which relate to the Council’s powers or duties. Motions therefore must not include declaratory statements relating to matters outside the ambit of the Council. Motions should either address Council duties directly or call for action in cases where the Council has general responsibilities.

2.5 Some Members expressed concern that if a large number of motions were proposed for a meeting, the imposition of an overall time limit could encourage Members to speak on earlier motions to prevent later motions from being able to be considered. There were also concerns raised about the voided motions potentially never getting heard due to a consistently high number of motions submitted for each meeting.

2.6 The Committee supported the proposal to amend the scope of motions, requiring them to only be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, noting that this would not have had a significant impact on motions that have previously been considered by the Council. It was also confirmed that officers would work with Members to try and bring proposed motions within the amended scope if they were deemed to be outside.

2.7 One Member also suggested that the proposed change did not provide a mechanism for urgent or timely motions to be guaranteed consideration at a Council meeting, although it was acknowledged that the current process did not do this either.

2.8 The Committee reconsidered various alternative approaches to overcoming the issue with motions, including setting a limit based on political proportionality, although ultimately the majority supported the proposal to remove the limit and implement the proposed safeguards. It was agreed that the Constitution Working Group would review how the changes had impacted motions at Full Council after they had been in place for three Council meetings.

3. Source Documents

3.1 [The Council’s constitution](#)

3.2 [County Council meeting 10/02/2026](#)

3.3 [Constitution and Ethics Committee 27/01/2026](#)

3.4 [County Council meeting 10/02/2026](#)

3.5 [Constitution and Ethics Committee meeting 03/03/2026](#)

12. Motions on Notice

Notice and Procedural Requirements

- 12.1 Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Rule 13, written or electronic notice of motions for discussion at Council meetings, excluding extraordinary or special meetings and the annual budget meeting of the Council or the first annual meeting of a new Council, must be delivered to the proper officer not later than 12.00 noon 14 days before the date of the meeting. The proper officer will maintain a public record of all motions submitted. Any councillor may give notice of not more than one motion for consideration at any ordinary meeting.
- 12.2 Other than at the annual budget meeting, for which no notices of motions shall be accepted, ~~a maximum of five~~ motions shall be accepted for debate at an ordinary meeting of the Council under this standing order.
- 12.3 A Member intending to give notice of a motion must consult the Executive Director with responsibility for the subject matter of the motion, or their nominee, to determine the context and possible consequences for what is proposed prior to submitting the motion. Consultation can be via telephone or email. The Member intending to give notice must provide details of how the consultation requirement has been satisfied and a summary of the feedback they have received from the consultees when they submit their motion. A template will be provided by Democratic Services for this purpose.
- 12.4 The Monitoring Officer, or their representative, is authorised (in consultation with the proposer and seconder of the motion) to revise the wording of a motion to clarify its purpose and to ensure it is aligned with the Council's powers and duties.
- 12.5 If the proper officer receives notice of two or more motions which have similar subject-matter, the Monitoring Officer, or their representative, may ask the proposers to work together to compose a single motion. If this does not prove possible, the Monitoring Officer, or their representative, shall accept the motion that was submitted first and any other related motion (or motions) shall be rejected.

Motion Set out in Agenda

- 12.6 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice of the full written motion in its draft form was received, unless the Member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.
- 12.7 The total length of time for debate on motions at a Council meeting will not exceed two and a half hours. In the event any motion has not been voted on at the meeting for which notice has been given, that notice of motion(s) shall then be void.

Scope

12.78 Motions:

- (a) Must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, ~~or which affect the county~~;
- (b) May propose an addition or change to a policy framework provided that the addition or change could not reasonably have been raised when the policy framework was originally approved;
- (c) May not raise the competence or performance of a councillor or officer;
- (d) May not raise any matter involving exempt information or normally considered confidential;
- (e) May not make any abusive or defamatory comments; and
- (f) May not be related to a planning application, or any other quasi-judicial matter, that will or could be determined by the authority, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NCIPS), or for which it is a statutory consultee.
- (g) Must be no longer than 800 words. Amended Motions must be no longer than 880 words.

Agenda Item No.9a)

Reports from Constituent Council Representatives on the Combined Authority



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY
PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

The following meetings have taken place in February 2026

Staffing Committee, 16 February 2026

Councillor Nethsingha

Decision Summary Link: [Staffing Committee \(February\)](#)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH FIRE AUTHORITY UPDATE

TO: Cambridgeshire County Council

FROM: Chair, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

DATE: 17 March 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 As we have moved into 2026 at pace I wanted to start my first report to Council of the year by reflecting on what was achieved by Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) in 2025, a year full of both challenges and triumphs.
- 1.2 Our crews attended more than **8,000** incidents across the county including **430 road traffic collisions, 160 animal rescues** and **79 co-responding medical incidents** with ambulance service colleagues. Our Community Safety Officers and fire crews visited **8,800 vulnerable residents** across the county to deliver home fire safety visits, a staggering increase of **1,800** more than last year! Our Fire Protection Officers and crews also delivered safety advice to more than **800 businesses** and **4,070 hydrants** were checked and serviced by the Hydrants Team. A total of **13 Fire Break schemes** were run meaning over **120 vulnerable children and young people** aged between 12 and 16 were supported across the county (further information can be found at Paragraph 5 below).
- 1.3 If that was not enough, the Service has welcomed **40 new firefighters** thus keeping the establishment at a level that means we will be able to grow future leaders and ratified the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Fire Officer, finalising the structure of the strategic leadership team (details were provided in the October 2025 report to Council).
- 1.4 As the one of the lowest cost per head funded fire and rescue services in one of the fastest growing areas in the country, these figures are quite simply outstanding; the resilience and community spirit shown by everyone across the organisation has been truly inspiring to Members of the Fire Authority.

2. Fire Control Anniversary

- 2.1 Last year our Fire Control colleagues received **19,000 calls** and 2026 sees them mark the 40th anniversary of the separate Service Controls at Peterborough and Cambridge coming together under one roof. The single control function went 'live' in February 1986 within Service Headquarters in Huntingdon where it remains today.

- 2.2 Colleagues from across the Service visited Control to celebrate the anniversary with the on-duty watches. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on how the function has evolved and to recognise the dedication of past and present colleagues who have shaped the first class, highly professional service provided to our communities. Often unsung, they are the first point of contact when someone is in desperate need of help, providing a reassuring and calm voice in their chaos and panic.
- 2.3 In recent years Control colleagues have faced significant challenges with record numbers of calls in a day, thanks to heatwaves, floods and extratropical cyclones such as Storm Babet; one of many occasions when they not only dealt with incidents within Cambridgeshire but also supported control colleagues in different counties. They endured the prolonged uncertainty of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's departure from the 14-year combined control collaboration whilst successfully implementing a new mobilising system. Throughout everything, the team have been the shining stars in our response, continuing to demonstrate unrivalled commitment, professionalism and dedication to ensure the day job is done, and that whatever happens, our communities receive the very best service we can give. The Fire Authority is immensely proud to have them!

3. Annual Excellence and Long Service Awards Evening

- 3.1 As you'd expect from the statistics above, there was a lot of excellent work and exemplary service to celebrate at the annual Excellence Awards evening. The ceremony, held at the Delta Hotel by Marriott in Huntingdon at the end of January, not only recognised the outstanding accomplishments of colleagues throughout the previous year but also celebrated the tremendous commitment and dedication of those serving for 20 years or more, including retired employees and leavers.
- 3.2 The Chief Fire Officer presented the (internal) excellence awards whilst Mr Christopher Walkinshaw DL, Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire presented six Long Service and Good Conduct medals (under Royal Warrant for members of the uniformed service after completing 20 years of long and meritorious service to the fire and rescue service and the public) and three Long Service presentations (20 and 30 years service). The Fire Authority Chair's Award (an award made to retired employees and leavers that have completed at least 25 years service) was made to four colleagues.
- 3.3 The Silver Axe presentation (for each new recruits course, a firefighter who has demonstrated high levels of skill and leadership or managed their personal journey exceptionally is chosen by the training team to win the award) was presented to On-Call firefighter Rob Fox from Gamlingay fire station for being the stand out On-Call recruit of the year.
- 3.4 In addition to 16 internal awards, nominated by colleagues and whittled down from 60 by a judging panel, the Service recognised colleagues who had received external awards throughout the year (these were covered in my reports to Council in March and October 2025).

- 3.5 This year we also launched a new award, the Chief Fire Officers Special Recognition Award which went to Dan Hall for exemplary leadership and decision making at a challenging persons reported incident involving arching cables at a farm.
- 3.6 Congratulations to all who received an award and our grateful thanks to all those who work so hard for the residents of Cambridgeshire 24/7!



4. Celebrating LGBT+ History Month

- 4.1 February rolled around again and with that we looked forward, as always, to supporting LGBT+ History Month. Council will know that each year it follows a theme, to celebrate the rich and diverse history of the LGBT+ community and highlight LGBT+ historical figures; this helps to rebuild a lost past of contributions due to The Hays Code, Section 28 and decades of illegality. This year, the theme was *'Science'*, and to kick off the month it was decided to highlight a man with ties to Cambridgeshire and one of the UK's most important scientific figures, Alan Turing. Turing was a man who was, amongst other things, a homosexual, atheist, eccentric, marathon-running mathematician.
- 4.2 As an organisation, we are members of the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (ENEI). Council may recall from previous reporting that the Service holds a Silver Talent Inclusivity and Diversity Evaluation (TIDE) award from the

ENEI. Every year, we complete ENEI's national external benchmarking process which involves providing evidence against their equality, diversity and inclusion framework. Our entry is then considered alongside other private and public sector organisations. Membership of ENEI opens the door to a plethora of resources and everyone is encouraged to access them by visiting enei.org.uk or lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk.

- 4.3 Throughout the month of February and into March the Service has supported colleagues and those within the wider community observing Ramadan with for example, flexible working and kitchen safety advice as cooking is undertaken later at night. We wish everyone Eid Mubarak for (around) 19 March 2026. The advice relating to kitchen safety was also shared with Chinese communities throughout Cambridgeshire as they celebrated the Chinese New Year on 17 February 2026. I know Authority Members and Service colleagues enjoyed the month, accessing the resources and learning something not previously known regarding the LGBT+ community; we are proud to be an inclusive organisation, building a workplace where everyone feels valued, respected and included and can bring their whole self to work.

5. Community Safety Activities 2025 - Overview

- 5.1 It has been a successful year for road and water safety, arson reduction input and children and young person support.
- 5.2 As stated in Paragraph 1 above, the Service has delivered 13 Fire Break schemes and supported over 120 vulnerable children and young people aged between 12 and 16. Working with partners such as Fenland District Council we have also been able to host 'Safety Zone' sessions at Wisbech, March and Whittlesey fire stations, delivering important safety advice to over 600 primary school children.
- 5.3 Our talented team continues to deliver a whole range of safety advice to the various secondary schools and colleges across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; subjects include water safety, road safety and arson reduction. The Service recently implemented a new recording mechanism to ensure it can monitor its delivery in these areas. The statistic for engagement is over 7000 young people in 2025!
- 5.4 During the year the Service recognised that attendances at its Biker Down sessions had flatlined so Officers took the session "on the road" and delivered from a number of fire stations. The increased take up has been very pleasing with 137 people attending the 16 sessions that have been delivered.
- 5.5 After a period of personnel changes in both the Constabulary and our team, we recommenced the Older Driver Workshops. This is a great initiative, previously reported to Council in October 2024. The workshops continue to grow but during 2025 a mix of 22 in face and on line workshops to a total of 259 older drivers were delivered; a great achievement.
- 5.6 Further details on any of these schemes can be found on the Service website.

6. Fire Authority Budget 2026/27 and Related Financial Matters

- 6.1 Not surprisingly, the budget and future finances have continued to dominate our discussions and meetings. As detailed in my report to Council in October 2025, the Authority and Service submitted a joint response to the Governments 'Fair Funding Model for Fire and Rescue Services' consultation. The population figures used by Government to allocate funding have finally been updated meaning we will benefit as the figures were 10 years old and we all know the county has grown significantly in that time! I would like to take the opportunity to thank our local Members of Parliament who supported our lobbying for fairer funding and hope the Authority can continue to enjoy their support on this matter moving forward.
- 6.2 Our proposed financial settlement was received just before the seasonal break; a mixed bag for the sector but reasonable for Cambridgeshire with the Government confirming our funding levels for the next three financial years. Whilst this is positive news, there remains little the Service can do around further monetary savings without impacting our core service delivery. We will continue to challenge contract terms and scrutinise contract renewals, checking they are still fit for purpose and give us value for money, continue to improve our working practices and processes, which include the non-response work the crews can undertake whilst on shift, both wholetime and On-Call, and review where our professional support staff are best placed to provide the most effective support.
- 6.3 For 2026/27 the precept increase of £4.95 has enabled us to grow our operational and support establishment slightly, necessary to continue to deliver our services to a good standard in a growing county and to continue meeting operational and administrative demands. As part of the budgeting process, we conduct scenario planning to better understand what impact a change in funding and/or inflation would have and what might need to be done to mitigate the financial burden. Business continuity planning reviews were also conducted as part of the budget setting process to analyse what cuts could be made if funding was reduced.
- 6.4 The budget has been built to include an assumed, on average, 3% inflationary increase in costs. The actual annual increase on pay will not be determined until after the budget has been set, this is outside of our control, and so there is a risk that this could be greater than that budgeted.
- 6.5 Taking all of this into consideration and after much discussion, at the February 2026 meeting, the Authority unanimously approved the budget book including the following recommendations;
- an Authority budget requirement of £44,610,000,
 - an Authority precept of Authority Tax from District Authorities and Peterborough City Authority of £29,071,500,
 - an Authority Tax for each band of property, based on the number of Band D equivalent properties notified to the Fire Authority by the District

Authorities and Peterborough City Authority (315,446) ranging from Band A at £61.44 to Band H at £184.32.

6.6 The Authority also approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2026/27; full details of all the related documents can be found on the CFRS website.

7. Finally

7.1 Having hosted inspectors before and after the seasonal break, I look forward to sharing the outcome of our latest His Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services inspection in my next report to Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Fire Authority Minutes 2025/26 - various	Hinchingbrooke Cottage Brampton Road Huntingdon	Michelle Rowe 01223 699180 Michelle.rowe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk