

County Council – 15th July 2025

Chair's Announcements

People

Maureen Byrne and Sarah Oldfield

It is with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent deaths of Maureen Byrne, Business Officer, and Sarah Oldfield, Family Worker, in the Children, Education and Families Directorate. The Council's thoughts are with their family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

Service Director: Adult Social Care

Amy Brock has been appointed as Cambridgeshire County Council's new Service Director: Adult Social Care. Amy joined Cambridgeshire in June 2025 from West Northamptonshire Council where she was an Assistant Director Adults Services.

Service Director: Adult Social Care

Akua Agyepong has been appointed as Cambridgeshire County Council's new Service Director: Adult Social Care. Akua will be joining Cambridgeshire on 12th August from Kent County Council, where she is the Assistant Director Adult Social Care Countywide Services. Akua is currently on Secondment to the Care Quality Commission, supporting their Local Authority Adult Social Care assessment programme.

Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning

Chris Bush has been appointed as Cambridgeshire County Council's new Service Director: Strategy and Commissioning. Chris will be joining Cambridgeshire on 18th August from the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council, where he is the Commissioning Director: Children's and Adults Care and Support.

Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston has announced Simon Megicks as his preferred candidate to take up the role of Chief Constable for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Mr Megicks, who was born in Cambridgeshire, spent the majority of his policing career with the Constabulary before moving on to becoming Deputy Chief Constable for Norfolk Constabulary. A start date will be agreed with Mr Megicks should the Police and Crime Panel recommend that he is appointed.

Awards

'Outstanding Contribution to Emerging Technologies' award

The Cambridgeshire Open RAN Ecosystem (CORE) project, led by Connecting Cambridgeshire on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, won the "Outstanding Contribution to Emerging Technologies" award at the [Small Cell Forum Mobile Network Awards 2025](#) on 3 June 2025.

This award recognises the successful deployment of the UK's first city-centre Open RAN 5G network - trialled earlier this year in Cambridge through a series of exciting public events at the Corn Exchange, including Augmented Reality experiences and live music streamed over 5G.

Libraries Connected Awards

Mary Burgess, Cambridgeshire Libraries' Local Studies Librarian was awarded first runner up in the Information and Digital category at this year's Libraries Connected Awards. The Libraries Connected Awards celebrate the achievements of public library staff who have had an exceptional impact on their library service, users or their local communities. A passionate advocate for libraries and local history information, Mary was awarded first runner up for creating new ways to make Cambridgeshire's collections accessible to the public.

Local Government Chronicle Awards

The council was shortlisted as a finalist in four categories of the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards. The LGC Awards celebrate the very best in local government, highlighting councils across the country that demonstrate outstanding leadership, creativity, and impact in serving their communities. Connecting Cambridgeshire reached the final in two categories, Innovation and Future Places and the Domestic Abuse Service in the category of Health and Social Care. The Communities Service won the category of Community Involvement for the Fenland Youth Network, bringing services closer to communities.

Outstanding Achievement Award

Cambridgeshire County Council's High Impact Use team (HIU) has won the Partnership Award at the North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust Outstanding Achievement Awards. The Partnership Award celebrates a team or individual that demonstrates outstanding collaboration skills. The HIU team was praised for its innovative, approachable, and collaborative approach

Service Developments

Cambridgeshire Skills and Learning and Development Ofsted inspection

The council's adult learning services, delivered by Cambridgeshire Skills and Learning and Development, received a full inspection from Ofsted at the end of April 2025. The service was awarded an overall judgement of Good, with one area deemed to be Outstanding by the inspectors who noted that learners and apprentices thrive due to the warm, nurturing and inclusive learning environment and substantial new knowledge and skills they learn.

Learning disabilities week 2025

16 to 22 June was Learning Disability Week, a national campaign which takes place each year and shines a light on the experiences, challenges and contributions of people with learning disabilities. The theme for 2025 was "Do you see me?" which aimed to ensure people with a learning disability are seen, heard, included, and valued in all aspects of life. To celebrate, the Council shared some of the ways it is supporting adults with learning disabilities across Cambridgeshire.

Coproduction week 2025

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)'s Co-production Week took place from 30 June – 4 July, a celebration of the power of co-production to design and develop better ways of doing things in social care. This year's theme is 'Innovation through co-production' and will be showcasing innovative projects supporting unpaid carers, including projects supported by the Department of Health and Social Care's Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF).

Messages

The Mott Sermon at Holy Trinity Church

The Chair attended the Mott Sermon, one of Cambridge City's four annual civic church services at the Holy Trinity Church, Market St, Cambridge.

Memorial Day Ceremony at Cambridge American Cemetery

The Chair attended and laid a wreath at Cambridge American Cemetery to commemorate the memory of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

Pride Month Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the flag at New Shire Hall for Pride Month alongside Councillor Sarah Caine and Councillor Luis Navarro.

Refugee Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the flag at New Shire Hall for Refugee week alongside Chief Executive Dr Stephen Moir, Councillor Alex Bulat, Councillor Lorna Dupré, Councillor Peter Fane and Councillor Geoffrey Seeff. The theme for this year is 'Community as a Superpower'. Refugee Week is the world's largest arts and culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Proclamation of Midsummer Fair

The Chair attended the traditional proclamation of Midsummer Fair which dates back to a Royal Charter granted by King John in 1211.

The Right Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter, The Acting Bishop of Ely's Garden Party

The Chair attended a garden party hosted by the Acting Bishop of Ely, The Right Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter.

Honorary Fellowship for alumna the Right Honourable Diane Abbott MP at Newnham College

The Chair attended Newnham College for their celebratory event as they conferred an Honorary Fellowship on alumna the Right Honourable Diane Abbott MP.

Armed Forces Day Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the flag at New Shire Hall for Armed Forces Day alongside invited dignitaries - Deputy Lieutenant Mr Jeremy Newsum DL, Station Warrant Officer WO Mark Hooper representing RAF Wyton, three representatives from the Royal British Legion Brampton branch, including Clive Wood, the Chairman of Brampton branch. Chief Executive Stephen Moir was also in attendance with many Councillors.

Conferment of Honorary Degrees at the Senate-House

The Chair attended the congregation in the Senate-House for the Conferment of Honorary Degrees.

Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Dinner

The Chair attended a Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Dinner held in Queen's College to say 'Thank You' to our wider Armed Forces family in Cambridgeshire and also to strengthen the connection between employers and Defence.

Independence Day at RAF Alconbury

The Chair attended an Independence Day event at RAF Alconbury which resembled a family event with a carnival and fireworks.

Visit to Great Fen

The Chair formed part of a line up to welcome His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visiting Great Fen Reserve and Rothchild Bungalow in Woodwalton Fen.

Afternoon Tea at Wisbech Castle

The Chair attended The Mayor of Wisbech, Councillor Janet Tanfield's Afternoon Tea at Wisbech Castle.

80th Anniversary of VJ DAY at Ely Cathedral

The Chair attended Ely Cathedral to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VJ day at Ely Cathedral. The Chair joined the parade and attended the refreshments after the service in the Lady Chapel. Mrs Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire was in attendance alongside Military and Civic Dignitaries, Royal British Legion, Families of FEPOW's and Youth Organisations.

Citizenship Ceremonies

The Chair attended three Citizenship Ceremonies at New Shire Hall.

The British Racing School Showcase

The Vice-Chair attended a morning with the Newmarket Pony Academy and Riding a Dream Academy to showcase the charitable work of the British Racing School supporting children and young people aged 8 – 24.