

1. Councillor Tong

To the Leader

With local government reorganisation across our city now being reviewed, residents deserve to know how much of their money has been invested into this process so far. Factoring in the use of officer time, approximately how much council tax has gone towards reorganisation locally?

Response:

During 2025/26 and 2026/27 the council has spent a net total of £227k on local government reorganisation.

During 2025/26, the council spent £230k on local government reorganisation, including staff and consultancy costs to develop the Option B proposal and the supporting evidence base, as well as initial preparatory work for reorganisation. The council received a £56k grant from Government, so the total net expenditure was £174k.

During 2026/27, the council has spent £42k directly on programme management costs for local government reorganisation, including staff costs. Since June, programme management staff costs have been shared equally with South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Earlier in 2026, 6 councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough agreed an initial joint LGR Implementation Fund of £785k, primarily for a joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough programme management team. Cambridge City Council's contribution to this fund will be £52k (6.6%). From March to September 2026, a total of £166k costs have been incurred, of which Cambridge City Council's contribution is around £10,500.

Stage 1 (Discovery) of the HRA review carried out cost £111,000 which is split across South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council (£55,500 share).

Following the Government's announcement of a pause in the local government reorganisation programme, officers are compiling a compensation claim to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This claim will identify the unavoidable ongoing monthly cost of the LGR programme, including the costs of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough central programme management team and programme management teams in individual councils.

2. Councillor Flaubert

To the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Skills

Trumpington Population, Housing Growth and Demographic Data Background

Trumpington has experienced substantial population and housing growth over the past 10–15 years, with significant further development either underway or planned. The character of the ward has also changed considerably as new communities have developed, and it encompasses a wide range of socio-economic groups and household circumstances. I have previously sought up-to-date information on Trumpington's population, demographic profile and housing growth, but have found it difficult to obtain a single, current and comprehensive picture of the information held by the Council. Given the scale of development and the importance of ensuring that local services and infrastructure reflect the community as it exists today, it would be helpful to have a consolidated and up-to-date position.

Question

Could the Council provide, or commit to providing, a consolidated report setting out the current and projected population and housing-growth position in Trumpington, including the latest available demographic and socio-economic information, the sources and dates of the data used, how frequently it is updated, and how and when this information is communicated to the organisations responsible for transport planning?

Response: The Trumpington area is not unique as a location within the City experiencing change. The Council and our delivery partners employ a range of data sources to help us both understand and respond to pressures or trends arising from the data that we collect. Many of these data sources are available online on the excellent Cambridgeshire Insight website. We rely upon a number of these and other data sources and we provide published data reports such as “State of the City” which aims to provide an overview of key environmental and socio –economic trends across the City. The most recent State of The City report was considered by Cabinet in September.

As part of the LGR programme, the Council has also been working with public sector partners on the consolidation of data sources to improve data insights further across the potential “new” unitary Council areas. The LGR programme has been recently paused by Government. Given this

existing, albeit paused work, it would at this time be premature to commit to an alternative programme of work to generate a ward specific report for Trumpington. Once we have clarity on the LGR programme and the partnership working which should create opportunities for enhanced data insights we can revisit what “local” responses might be appropriate to complement that work and assist the Council and its Councillors in local decision making.

3. Councillor Tong

To the Cabinet Member for Housing

Will the council guarantee that the redevelopment of Ekin Road will not proceed if it fails to secure the funding from Homes England necessary to build at least the number of affordable homes (or/and cheaper) previously agreed at Housing Scrutiny Committee?

Response: This Council was one of only three councils outside London that were successful in securing a Strategic Partnership with Homes England winning £96m.

The Strategic Partnership will finance more council homes and more at social rent.

In fact, winning the bid also unlocks a £584m funding package previously committed by the council to deliver a bigger programme of nearly 3,000 new homes by 2036, 1,400 of which will be new council homes with at least 60% of these at social rent.

In the next few weeks, we can drawdown this funding to help pay for the delivery of council housing.

This Strategic Partnership will fund council homes that meet the eligibility criteria.

That is, planning approval and homes additional to that captured by S106 obligation.

If Ekin is approved by planning committee, the viability assessment submitted with this planning application will mean the s106 agreement will have a lower affordable home percentage due to decanting costs.

This in turn will mean that any council homes above the s106 obligation will be funded.

Residents may have concerns about the viability assessment that is being considered as part of the planning application, as some people have understood this to mean that we're rowing back on our commitment to build 78 new council homes.

We're not, the planning application is clear – we will build 78 council homes with Homes England funding.