



Cambridge City Council Notice of Council

Date: Thursday, 16 July 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Downing Place United Reform Church, 4 Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EL

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of Cambridge City Council will be held in the Downing Place United Reform Church, 4 Downing Place, Cambridge, CB2 3EL on Thursday, 16 July 2026 at 6.00 pm and I hereby summon you to attend.

Dated 8 July 2026

Yours faithfully

Robert Pollock

Chief Executive

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026 and reconvened meeting held on 1 June 2026 (Pages 17 - 42)
- 4 Mayor's announcements
- 5 Public questions time
- 6 Petition

A petition has been received containing over 500 valid signatures stating the following:

Title: Introduce fair limits and control the spread of HMOs in Cambridge

Statement:

We the undersigned petition the council 1. Amend the Local Plan to set a clear '10% HMO threshold within a radius of 100m', across Cambridge, to prevent harmful over-concentration. (So if a property owner wants to convert an existing house into a HMO and at least 10% of the properties within a 100m radius of that house are already HMOs, the planning application is likely to be refused.) 2. Introduce Article 4 Directions in Cambridge requiring property owners to seek planning permission to convert an existing home into a permanent 'small' HMO for three to six people. (At the moment property owners only need to apply for planning permission to convert an existing property into a 'large' HMO for seven occupants or more.)

Justification:

Cambridge is an outlier among major university cities. While places like Oxford, Manchester and Bristol have defined thresholds which limit the percentage of houses of multiple occupation (HMOs) in a neighbourhood as well as Article 4 Directions which enable planners to control their spread, Cambridge has neither.

This lack of safeguards is allowing family homes to be rapidly converted into HMOs without proper oversight, leading to growing concentrations in some neighbourhoods. National planning guidance and councils across the UK recognise around 10% as the tipping point where too many HMOs begin to harm local communities - affecting parking, waste management, housing quality and neighbourhood stability.

In areas like Petersfield and Romsey in central Cambridge, that threshold has already been exceeded, with detrimental impacts on

long-standing residents and HMO tenants alike.

The Cambridge Local Plan recognises the harm to local communities that can be caused by an over-concentration of HMOs in a neighbourhood. But at the moment in Cambridge, property investors do not need to get planning permission to convert a family home into a 'small' HMO - defined as a property for six unrelated people or fewer. There is also no clear numerical definition of what an "over-concentration" actually means.

We are calling for two practical, widely-used planning measures to address this:

1. Amend the Local Plan to set a clear '10% HMO threshold within a radius of 100m', across Cambridge, to prevent harmful over-concentration. (So if a property owner wants to convert an existing house into a HMO and at least 10% of the properties within a 100m radius of that house are already HMOs, the planning application is likely to be refused.)
2. Introduce Article 4 Directions in Cambridge, for example in Petersfield and Romsey, requiring property owners to seek planning permission to convert an existing home into a permanent 'small' HMO for three to six people. (At the moment property owners only need to apply for planning permission to convert an existing property into a 'large' HMO for seven occupants or more.)

Both of these measures are standard tools used by dozens of councils across the UK. They provide clarity for planners, reduce speculative conversions, and protect balanced, sustainable communities - while still allowing HMOs where they are needed.

Cambridge City Council has the power to act. This petition calls on

them to do so.

- 7 To deal with oral questions
- 8 To consider the recommendations of Committees for adoption
- 8a Civic Affairs & Audit Committee - Constitution Updates (Pages 43 - 50)
- 9 Reports to Note
- 9a Update report on the Development Corporation (Pages 51 - 58)
- 9b Local Government Review (Pages 59 - 68)
- 10 To consider the following notices of motion, notice of which has been given by:
- 10a Councillor Hauk: Improving Accountability and Transparency on Unadopted Residential Developments

Council notes:

That many residents move into new developments expecting to become part of established communities yet can spend many years living with unresolved issues such as roads awaiting new markings or safety features, waiting for adequate street lighting, lack of facilities and upkeep of open spaces, play areas, drainage, signage and other community infrastructure such as health provision, community spaces and libraries.

That responsibility for such infrastructure is often divided between developers, management companies, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other public bodies. As a result, residents can face considerable difficulty in identifying who owns or maintains particular assets, who is responsible for resolving issues, whether infrastructure is intended for adoption, and what barriers remain to adoption.

Council recognises that adoption of highways, open spaces and other infrastructure can only occur where the relevant standards have been met and the responsible authority is satisfied that legal and technical requirements have been fulfilled.

That lengthy periods of uncertainty and unclear accountability can delay the resolution of problems, reduce confidence in the stewardship of developments and undermine trust in the planning and delivery of new communities.

Council believes:

That residents should be able to understand who is responsible for the places in which they live, how issues can be reported, and what progress is being made towards long-term management and adoption arrangements.

That improving transparency, accountability and communication on existing developments will help build public confidence in the delivery and stewardship of future developments and demonstrate that growth is accompanied by clear responsibilities and effective community engagement.

That Cambridge is a growing city that will continue to see significant housing and infrastructure development in the coming years, and in future that this is proposed to be the responsibility of a Development Corporation.

Council therefore requests that the Leader works with relevant officers to make clear and timely representations to the Development Corporation on behalf of the council, as the Dev Co establishes itself and its role in larger developments, to ensure that any proposals include:

1. Working with developers, management companies, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service to improve, for residents, transparency, accountability and coordination between the relevant responsible organisations.
2. Exploring the establishment of a code of engagement for developers and management companies operating occupied developments within the city;
3. Considering mechanisms to ensure residents have access to clear and publicly accessible information on:
 - ownership and maintenance responsibilities for community infrastructure;
 - adoption intentions and adoption status;
 - clear signposting to routes for addressing issues;
 - barriers preventing adoption or transfer to public or private bodies; and
 - expected timescales for resolution where known.
4. Exploring mechanisms to improve visibility of progress on issues, including response and progress monitoring, making use of existing reporting systems wherever possible.
5. Considering how successful elements of any code could be incorporated into future planning policy, planning conditions, management arrangements or Local Plan policies for major developments.

In addition, in the near term, Council requests that the Leader works with planning officers, and with relevant cross party ward and planning members to:

1. Identify opportunities to reduce unnecessary delays in the current adoption of infrastructure by the relevant public and private bodies and to highlight any barriers that may require further action by local government, developers or management companies;
2. To remind developers of their responsibilities to maintain positive engagement throughout the development of new sites and once these are established;
3. To consider planning guidance and conditions to bring this forward;
4. To report back to Council within six months with an update on progress on all of the above.

10b Councillor Toye Scott: Rights of the River Cam 2026

1 Introduction (not part of active motion)

The Green Group proposes the following motion to address resident concerns over the state of our rivers and chalk stream. We regard the river as an integral part of the life of our city. Threats to our rivers are threats to us all.

The purpose of this motion is to:

- *state our city's aspirations for our river and chalk streams ("the declaration of the Rights of the River Cam")*
- *petition the organisations responsible for our river to improve their performance to help save our river and its tributaries.*

- *recognise the limits placed by the critically depleted state of our river on future growth in buildings and infrastructure.*
- *publicise the immediacy of the water crisis, creating awareness of the need to reduce water use.*

Active Motion

1 Declaration of the Rights of the River Cam

This Council declares that the River Cam and its tributaries should have the following rights arising from their existence in nature:

- The right to flow and be free from over-abstraction
- The right to perform essential functions of flooding, moving sediment, recharging groundwater and sustaining biodiversity
- The right to be free from pollution
- The right to feed and be fed by sustainable aquifers
- The right to native biodiversity
- The right to restoration
- The right to maintain connections with other streams and rivers

This Council undertakes to assess the impact of all its decisions on the health of the river and ensure that all its decisions support these rights.

This Council calls on all residents and organisations to act as guardians of the River Cam and engage with the river in a relationship of respect and stewardship.

2 Responsibility

This Council notes that the responsible bodies are:

- Environment Agency – general oversight, including preventing environmental damage to water and associated biodiversity
- Cambridge Water – ensuring adequate water supply
- Anglian Water – management and treatment of sewage

The Council proposes to write to all three bodies to share its concerns over the state of the river and call upon them for their assistance.

The Council further notes that there are other bodies and institutions whose actions have significant impacts on the health of the river, and particularly highlights the importance of:

- The University of Cambridge and its associated colleges, through the maintenance of their assets and the management of their activities

The Cambridge Development Corporation –

The Council proposes to write to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and the Chief Executive and Chair of the Cambridge Development Corporation to share its concerns over the state of the river and call upon them for their assistance.

3. Interaction with the Council's own actions and the growth of the city

The Council proposes to set up a small cross-party group to draw up a plan for the actions that it can specifically undertake to contribute to protection of the river. This will include:

- considering the impact of future growth in buildings and infrastructure in the city on the depleted state of our river
- recognising the limits that may be necessary to respect the

rights of the river

- reporting back to full Council preferably prior to updating the Local Plan.

The group will consult with the various environmental organisations currently actively involved in working for the improved health of the river. For the avoidance of doubt, it is intended that this group will supplement rather than displace the work of existing scrutiny committees.

The Council proposes to initiate a publicity campaign to create wide awareness of the current water crisis and the urgent need to address both the increasing over-abstraction of water and the decreasing quality of water.

The Council will actively publicise the Environment Agency's recommendations to take early action (e.g, water companies to reduce leakage as a priority, and initiate actions required under their drought plans), and encourage the public to do all it can to use water wisely.

End of Active Motion

Background Notes (not part of active motion):

- 1 In late 2025 the Environment Agency announced (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drought-prospects-for-spring-2026/executive-summary-and-acknowledgements-drought-prospects-for-spring-2026>) that, unless we have average rainfall or more this winter, there will again be drought this year, with the area including Cambridge highlighted as being particularly vulnerable.*

- 2 On 22 June 2026, the Environment Agency announced that the Cam and Ely Ouse catchment has been declared in an area of Prolonged Dry Weather, after East Anglia received only 37% of the long-term average rainfall over the past three months.
- 3 On Midsummer's Day in 2021, Friends of the River Cam made the first public declaration in the UK of the rights of the River at Jesus Green, linked to the Universal Declaration of River Rights: <https://www.rightsofrivers.org>
- 4 The declaration is repeated on Midsummer's Day each year and is repeated in the text of this motion.
- 5 The declaration of rights is supported by many of our local environmental and community groups including CPRE, FeCRA, Cambridge Friends of the Earth, Save Honey Hill, Keep Waterbeach Rural, Friends of Logan's Meadow, Friends of Cherry Hinton and Coldhams Brooks, and many others.
- 6 In 2023 Lewes District Council passed a Rights of Rivers Motion to protect the River Ouse in East Sussex. Momentum has been growing globally to extend legal rights to nature and in some cases specifically to rivers.

<https://democracy.leweseastbourne.gov.uk/documents/s27490/Motion%20-%20Rights%20of%20the%20River.pdf>
- 6 Councillors Toye-Scott and Nicmanis wish to thank the Friends of the River Cam and representatives from a number of local environmental groups for their help in putting this motion together. Any errors or omissions are of course our own.

10c Councillor Ashton: Darwin Nurseries and Farm Shop

This Council would like to express its dismay at the announcement made by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust that it will stop providing services at the site in April 2028.

This Council notes:

- For over 27 years this 7.5-acre site has been providing training, therapeutic horticulture, animal husbandry and retail work for adults with learning disabilities and mental health challenges who are known as co-workers.
- There are currently 50 co-workers and 12 staff.
- Cambridgeshire County Council currently contract the service to the Trust and in April 2028 the Trust will no longer run the contract.
- The County Council will then have to be responsible for the well-being of the co-workers who love working at the site.
- The 2025, 10 Year NHS Health Plan (Fit for the Future) aims to shift from a system focused on treating sickness to one that prioritises prevention, encouraging healthier lifestyles and early intervention.

This Council calls:

- Cambridgeshire County Council to do all it can to keep the service on the current site.
- Request that the Council Leader write to the Chief Executive of

the Trust Steve Grange to raise our concerns.

- Write to the MPs for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to see what can be done to keep the service on the current site.
- The support from the local community for this much-loved service has been an encouragement to its staff, co-workers and volunteers. The Council now adds its voice to the campaign and doing what it can to secure the services future.

10d Councillor Baigent: Planning Arrangements

This Council resolves that in line with its aspirations to achieve the highest quality and most affordable homes in Cambridge, from the date of this resolution being agreed that no residential development in which the Council has an ownership interest, financial interest or development role shall proceed unless it achieves the following standards

- on all sites of 10 or more dwellings that at least 40% of the homes shall be affordable homes, with rents set as follows:
 - social rent: 40% of the median market rent
 - affordable rent: 60% of the median market rent

Furthermore, this Council resolves that on any development that this council has an ownership interest, financial interest or development role:

1. All homes shall be developed to the highest recognised sustainability standard at the time that they are built.
2. No single aspect homes shall be built.

3. All sites shall have disabled parking, by right.

4. Subject to the provision of disabled parking, all developments shall be designed as car free by default. Where car parking is considered necessary, it shall be provided in a separate stand-alone car park (so that in due course this can gradually be used for building more homes).

5. No council land, or property, shall be sold without the approval of the full Council.

11 Written questions

No discussion will take place on this item. Members will be asked to note the written questions and answers document as circulated around the Chamber.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm sounding all persons should vacate the building by way of the nearest escape route. The Duty Officer will assume overall control during any evacuation, however in the unlikely event the duty Officer is unavailable, this responsibility will be assumed by the Committee Chair.

Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak in person. You must contact Democratic Services democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.

The full text of any public question must be submitted in writing by noon two working days before the date of the meeting or it will not be accepted. All questions submitted by the deadline will be published on the meeting webpage before the meeting is held.

Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL

21 May 2026
11.00 - 11.05 am

Present: Councillors Cleminson, Davison, Sage, Nicmanis, Haithcock, Tove Scott, Fisher, Whitmore, Grimwood, Taylor, Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Clough, Dalzell, Davey, Dryden, Flaubert, Gardiner-Smith, Gawthorpe Wood, Glasberg, Griffin, Hauk, Hossain, Illingworth, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Porrer, Sheil, Smart, Swift, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Wade and Young

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

26/26/CNL To consider the following recommendation of the Civic Affairs & Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 May 2026: Appointment of Honorary Councillors

Resolved (unanimously):

- i. To appoint former Councillors Richard Robertson, Anna Smith and Baiju Thittala as an Honorary Councillor.

The meeting ended at 11.05 am

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL

21 May 2026
11.08 am - 4.00 pm

Present: Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Cleminson, Clough, Dalzell, Davey, Davison, Dryden, Fisher, Flaubert, Gardiner-Smith, Haithcock, Gawthroe Wood, Glasberg, Griffin, Grimwood, Hauk, Hossain, Illingworth, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Nicmanis, Porrer, Sage, Sheil, Smart, Swift, Taylor, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Toye Scott, Wade, Whitmore and Young

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

26/27/CNL To elect a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27

Councillor Thornburrow proposed, and Councillor Dryden seconded the nomination of Councillor Ashton as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Dalzell proposed, and Councillor Bick seconded the nomination of Councillor Taylor as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Bennett proposed, and Councillor Tong seconded the nomination of Councillor Cleminson as Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

As more than one nomination was received, Members proceeded to vote on each candidate. The results were as follows:

Councillor Ashton	18 votes
Councillor Taylor	11 votes
Councillor Cleminson	12 votes

As Councillor Taylor received the lowest number of votes, their nomination was withdrawn. Members then voted on the remaining two candidates, with the following results:

Councillor Ashton	18 votes
Councillor Cleminson	23 votes

Resolved (23 votes to 18) that:

Councillor Clemison be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Cleminson then made the statutory declaration of acceptance for the Office of Mayor.

26/28/CNL To elect a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27

Councillor Dalzell proposed, and Councillor Davinson seconded the nomination of Councillor Taylor as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Resolved that:

Councillor Taylor be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Taylor then made the statutory declaration of acceptance for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

26/29/CNL To Pass a Resolution of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor

Resolved (unanimously) on the proposal of Councillor McPherson, seconded by Councillor Bird:

This Council expresses its appreciation of the manner in which the duties of the Mayor and Mayor's consort were discharged by former Councillor Dinah Pounds and consort Adam Pounds during their period of office, 2025/26.

26/30/CNL Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Payne.

26/31/CNL Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Reason
Ashton	All	Personal: Paid council tax; voted in local elections; had never worked for the Ministry of Justice or the Red Cross.
Baigent	All	Personal: Member of Cam Cycle
Tong	All	Personal: Member of Cam Cycle
Whitmore	All	Personal: Member of Cam Cycle

Griffin	All	Personal: Member of Cam Cycle
Illingworth	All	Personal: Member of Cam Cycle
Nestor	All	Personal: Trustee of Cambridge Museum

26/32/CNL Minutes of the meeting held on:

26/33/CNL 26 February 2026

The minutes of the meetings on 26 February 2026, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

26/34/CNL 19 March 2026

The minutes of the meetings on 19 March 2026, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

26/35/CNL To note the Returning Officer's Report that the following have been elected to the Office of Councillor

Maria Cleminson	Abbey Ward
Sefira Davison	Arbury Ward
Alex Sage	Castle Ward
Russ McPherson	Cherry Hinton Ward
Sarah NicManis	Coleridge Ward
Sarah Haithcock	East Chesterton Ward
Martin Smart	King's Hedges Ward
Katie Porrer	Market Ward
Eleanor Toye Scott	Newnham
Kathryn Fisher	Petersfield
Amanda Taylor	Queen Edith's
Jacqui Whitmore	Romsey
Olaf Hauk	Trumpington
John Grimwood	Trumpington
Richard Swift	West Chesterton

26/36/CNL To elect from among the Members of the Council Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2026/27

Resolved (unanimously) to:

Appoint Councillors Dryden, McPherson, Illingworth and Grimwood, Bailiffs of the City for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

26/37/CNL Election of Leader of the Council

Councillor Davey proposed, and Councillor Gardiner-Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor Thornburrow as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

The nomination was lost by 17 votes to 23.

*Councillor Dryden did not take part in this vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm. Upon reconvening, Councillor Davey proposed, and Councillor Gardiner-Smith seconded, the nomination of Councillor Thornburrow as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

The nomination was lost by 17 votes to 22.

*Councillor Hossain did not take part in the vote.

Councillor Davison proposed an adjournment to the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Bennett.

Resolved (22 votes to 0 with 17 abstentions) that the meeting be adjourned until 1 June at 6:00 pm to reconsider this item and the remaining business on the agenda.

26/38/CNL Notification of Cabinet Member Portfolios

This item was postponed.

26/39/CNL Appointments to Committee Places and Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Committee's

This item was postponed.

26/40/CNL Appointments to outside bodies & working groups

This item was postponed.

26/41/CNL Municipal Meeting Calendar 2026/27

This item was postponed.

26/42/CNL To Consider recommendations from Committees**26/43/CNL Civic Affairs & Audit Committee - Constitutional Updates**

This item was postponed.

26/44/CNL Civic Affairs & Audit Committee - Annual Civic Affairs & Audit Committee report

This item was postponed.

26/45/CNL Employment Committee - Termination agreement over £100k

This item was postponed.

26/46/CNL To note the officer decision - Capital Budget - Demolition of Council Owned Buildings

This item was postponed.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNCIL

1 June 2026
6.00 - 8.06 pm

Present: Councillors Ashton, Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Bird, Blackburn-Horgan, Cleminson, Clough, Dalzell, Davey, Davison, Fisher, Gardiner-Smith, Gawthroe Wood, Glasberg, Griffin, Grimwood, Haithcock, Hauk, Hossain, Illingworth, Martinelli, McPherson, Moore, Nestor, Nicmanis, Payne, Porrer, Sage, Sheil, Smart, Swift, Taylor, Thornburrow, Todd-Jones, Tong, Toye Scott, Wade, Whitmore and Young

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

26/47/CNL Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Dryden and Flaubert.

26/48/CNL Declarations of Interest

No new declarations were declared.

26/49/CNL Election of Leader of the Council

Councillor Bennett proposed, and Councillor Tong seconded the nomination of Councillor Sefira Davison as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

Councillor Davey proposed, and Councillor Gardiner-Smith seconded the nomination of Councillor Katie Thornburrow as Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

As more than one nomination was received, Members proceeded to vote on each candidate. The results were as follows:

Councillor Davison:	12 Votes
Councillor Thornburrow:	16 Votes

Resolved (16 votes to 12 votes with 12 abstentions) that:

Councillor Thornburrow be elected Leader for the Municipal Year 2026/27.

26/50/CNL Notification of Cabinet Member Portfolios

Councillor Katie Thornurrow

Leader of the Council | Cabinet Member for Strategy, Planning and External Partnerships.

Councillor Rosy Moore

Deputy Leader of the Council | Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Environment.

Councillor Martin Smart

Cabinet Member for Nature, Open Spaces and City Services.

Councillor Mike Todd-Jones

Cabinet Member for Communities.

Councillor Gerri Bird

Cabinet Member for Housing.

Councillor Jenny Gawthrope Wood

Cabinet Member for Finance.

Councillor Antoinette Nestor

Cabinet Member for Economy and Resources.

26/51/CNL Appointments to Committee Places and Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Committee's

Councillor Thornburrow proposed and Councillor Moore seconded the following amendments to the Committee membership:

- i. The addition of one seat on the Services, Climate and Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee for the Conservative Group, to be allocated to Councillor Hossain,
- ii. The allocation of one extra seat on the Planning Committee for the Member representing Your Party, Councillor Baigent.

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the additional seat on the Services, Climate and Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee and the Planning Committee.

Councillor Bennett proposed herself as Chair to the Performance, Assets and Scrutiny Committee for municipal year 2026/27, seconded by Councillor Davison.

Councillor Bick proposed Councillor Young as Chair to the Performance, Assets and Scrutiny Committee, seconded by Councillor Martinelli.

As more than one nomination was received, Members proceeded to vote on each candidate. The results were as follows:

Councillor Bennett: 12 Votes

Councillor Young: 27 Votes

Resolved (27 votes to 12, with 1 abstention) that:

Councillor Young be elected Chair of the Performance, Assets and Scrutiny Committee for 2026/27.

Councillor Bennett proposed and Councillor Tong seconded Councillor Toye Scot as Vice Chair to the Civic Affairs and Audit Committee.

Councillor Bick advised of the withdrawal of Councillor Dalzell's nomination for Vice-Chair of the Civic Affairs and Audit Committee.

Resolved that:

Councillor Toye Scott be elected as Vice Chair of the Civic Affairs and Audit Committee for 2026/27.

Councillor Bennett then proposed and Councillor Davinson seconded Councillor Sage as Vice Chair to the Licensing Committee for municipal year 2026/27.

Councillor Bick proposed Councillor Blackburn-Horgan as Vice Chair to the Licensing Committee, seconded by Councillor Dalzell.

As more than one nomination was received, Members proceeded to vote on each candidate. The results were as follows:

Councillor Sage:	12 Votes
Councillor Blackburn Horgan:	27 Votes

Resolved (27 votes to 12, with 1 abstention) that:

Councillor Blackburn-Horgan be elected Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee for 2026/27.

Councillor Thornburrow proposed and Councillor Moore seconded Councillor Smart as Vice Chair to the Planning Committee for municipal year 2026/27.

Councillor Bennett proposed and Councillor Tong seconded Councillor Fisher as Vice Chair to the Planning Committee for municipal year 2026/27.

As more than one nomination was received, Members proceeded to vote on each candidate. The results were as follows:

Councillor Smart:	12 Votes
Councillor Fisher:	27 Votes

Resolved (27 votes to 12, with 1 abstention) that:

Resolved (39 votes to 0, with 1 abstention) to:

- i. Agree the appointments to city council committees and joint partner bodies and appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs below (vacant seats to be updated) as set out below:

Performance, Assets & Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Membership: 8 + 6 alternates (3 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem (1tbc (green or Labour))

Group	Councillor
Labour	Gardiner-Smith (Vice)
Labour	Griffin
Labour	Davey
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Green	Bennett

Green	Clough
Green	Whitmore
Green Alternate	Toye-Scott
Green Alternate	Nicmanis
Lib Dem	Young (Chair)
Lib Dem	Dalzell
Lib Dem Alternate	Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Martinelli

Services, Climate and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Membership: 10 + 6 alternates (4 Labour + 3 Green +2 Lib Dem + 1 Conservative)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Haithcock
Labour	Davey
Labour	Griffin
Labour	Gardiner-Smith
Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	TBC
Green	Glasberg (Chair)
Green	Davison
Green	Sage
Green Alternate	Whitmore
Green Alternate	Toye-Scott
Lib Dem	Martinelli (Vice)
Lib Dem	Hauk
Lib Dem Alternate	Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Blackburn-Horgan
Conservative	Hossain

Civic Affairs and Audit Committee

Standards Sub Committees will be set up on an ad hoc basis as and when required comprising three members each on a politically proportionate basis.

Membership: 7 + 6 alternates (3 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Labour	McPherson (Chair)
Labour	Wade
Labour	Ashton
Labour Alternate	Sheil
Labour Alternate	TBC

Green	Toye-Scott (Vice-Chair)
Green	Davison
Green Alternate	Bennett
Green Alternate	Clough
Lib Dem	Dalzell
Lib Dem	Taylor
Lib Dem Alternate	Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Blackburn-Horgan

Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Committee / General Purposes and Licensing Committee

Licensing Sub Committee will be set up on an ad hoc basis as and when required comprising three members each.

Membership 10 (nb. 10 is the statutory minimum number for a Licensing Committee) +6 alternates (6 Labour + 3 Green + 3 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Labour	McPherson (chair)
Labour	Bird
Labour	Wade
Labour	Moore
Labour Alternate	Swift
Labour Alternate	TBC
Green	Sage
Green	Clough
Green	Bennett
Green Alternate	Davison
Green Alternate	Fisher
Lib Dem	Blackburn-Horgan (Vice-Chair)
Lib Dem	Grimwood
Lib Dem	Hauk
Lib Dem Alternate	Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate	Taylor

***Planning Committee (these members will also sit on Development Control Forums and Pre-application Developer Briefings as required)**

Membership 9 +6 alternates (if req per group) (4 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem (1 seat tbc between Labour & Green) + 1 Your Party

Group	Councillor
Labour	Smart (vice-chair)

Labour	Griffin
Labour	Todd-Jones
Labour	Dryden
Labour Alternate	Nestor
Green	Fisher
Green	Clough
Green Alternate	Bennett
Green Alternate	Flaubert
Lib Dem	Porrer (Chair)
Lib Dem	Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate	Blackburn-Horgan
Lib Dem Alternate	Grimwood
Your Party	Baigent

Employment Committee

Membership 7 + 6 alternates (3 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib dem) – Must include 1 Cabinet member

Group	Councillor
Labour	Moore (Chair)
Labour	Wade
Labour	Nestor
Labour Alternate	
Labour Alternate	
Green	Sage
Green	Bennett (Vice-Chair)
Green Alternate	Toye-Scott
Green Alternate	
Lib Dem	Taylor
Lib Dem	Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Martinelli
Lib Dem Alternate	Illingworth

Joint Staff Employer Forum

Membership 7 + 6 Alternates (1 Cabinet Member + 2 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Cabinet Member (ex-officio)	Nestor
Labour	Wade
Labour	Bird

Labour Alternate	TBC
Labour Alternate	Moore
Green	Nicmanis
Green	Toye-Scott
Green Alternate	Fisher
Green Alternate	Whitmore
Lib Dem	Taylor
Lib Dem	Bick
Lib Dem Alternate	Hauk
Lib Dem Alternate	Martinelli

Employee Appeals Sub Committee (nb No requirement for a Cabinet Member to sit on this Sub Ctte)

Membership 6 (2 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Wade
Labour	Gardiner-Smith
Green	Sage
Green	Toye-Scott
Lib Dem	Martinelli
Lib Dem	Illingworth

Chief Officer Appointments Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership to be drawn from Employment Committee on ad hoc basis

Investigating and Disciplinary Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership 5 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem) to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

Chief Officer Appeals Sub Committee (nb must include one Cabinet member)

Membership 5 (4 Labour + 1 Lib Dem) to be drawn on ad-hoc basis from membership of whole council

26/52/CNL Appointments to outside bodies & working groups

Resolved (39 votes to 0, with 1 abstention) to:

- i. Agree the appointments to Outside Bodies, and Working Group for the municipal year 2026/27 as set out below, to be updated:

Housing Advisory Board (Advisory Board to Cabinet) – Final numbers TBC()

Membership: 6 + 6 elected tenant/leaseholder reps should Leader wish to follow proportionality

Group	Councillor
Labour	Wade
Labour	Haithcock
Labour Alternate	
Labour Alternate	
Green	Davison
Green	Tong
Green Alternate	Fisher
Green Alternate	Whitmore
Lib Dem	Martinelli
Lib Dem	Blackburn-Horgan
Lib Dem Alternate	Dalzell
Lib Dem Alternate	Porrer

Inclusion and Equity Panel (TBC following AGM)

Membership 4 (1 Cabinet Member 1 Labour + 1 Green + 1 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Cabinet Member	Moore
Labour	Haithcock
Labour Alternate	
Green	Flaubert
Green Alternate	Davison
Lib Dem	Grimwood
Lib Dem Alternate	Porrer

PARTNERSHIP BODIES/COMMITTEES

Appointed by Council

Combined Authority Board – (these members cannot sit on the CPCA O&S and A&G Ctte but can sit on a CPCA ‘Thematic Committee’)

Membership: One member (Leader) and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (1 Labour)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Thornburrow
	Moore

Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (nb. Proportionality set by the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer, these members cannot sit on the CPCA Board or ‘Thematic Committees’)

Membership Two members (1 Labour and 1 Green) and Alternate members

Group	Councillor
Labour	Gawthroe-Wood
Labour Alternate	TBC
Green	Clough
Green Alternate	Sage

Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee (nb. Proportionality set by the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer, these members cannot sit on the CPCA Board or ‘Thematic Committees’)

Membership One member and one alternate (1 Labour)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Todd-Jones
Labour Alternate	TBC

The following CPCA committees are appointments made by the Leader.

Combined Authority Skills Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (TBC)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Davey

Combined Authority Growth Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Combined Authority Transport Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Combined Authority Funding Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Combined Authority Staffing Committee

Membership One member and one alternative member: 1 + 1 (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly-this is a Council Appointment

Membership 3 (1 Labour + 1 Green +1 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Labour	TBC
Green	Davison
Lib Dem	Illingworth

Joint Development Management Committee – this is a Council Appointment (these members will also sit on JDMC Development Control Forums and Pre-application Developer Briefings as required)

Membership 6 + 6 Alternates (2 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Cambridge City Council Chair 2026/27 (TBC)	
Labour	Smart
Labour	Griffin
Labour Alternate	Nestor
Labour Alternate	
Green	Flaubert
Green	Fisher
Green Alternate	Bennett
Green Alternate	Clough

Lib Dem	Illingworth
Lib Dem	Porrer (Chair nominee)
Lib Dem Alternate	Blackburn-Horgan
Lib Dem Alternate	Grimwood

Cambridge Joint Area Committee

Membership 6 + up to 4 Alternates per group (2 Labour + 2 Green + 2 Lib Dem) –

Group	Councillor
Labour	Wade
Labour	Bird
Labour Alternate (x 4 if wish)	
Green	Nicmanis
Green	Davison
Green Alternate (x 4 if wish)	Clough/Cleminson
Lib Dem	Taylor
Lib Dem	Illingworth
Lib Dem Alternate (x 4 if wish)	Blackburn-Horgan/Hauk

Appointed by a Cabinet Member

Cambridge Community Safety Partnership

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board

Membership 1 + 1 Alternate (TBC)

Group	Councillor
Lib Dem	Bick
Labour Alternate	Thornburrow

Advisory Council - Cambridge Growth Company (Homes England)

Membership 1 TBC

Group	Councillor
TBC	

OTHER APPOINTMENTS BY CABINET MEMBERS -proportionality need not apply

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors

Membership 1

Group	Councillor
Lib Dem	Grimwood

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board

Membership 1 TBC

Group	Councillor
Labour	

Clay Farm Advisory Board

Membership 1 TBC+ 1 TBC

Group	Councillor
Lib Dem	Hauk
Lib Dem	Grimwood
Green	Flaubert

Cambridge Investment Partnership

Cab Mem for Housing and Cab Mem for F&R

Group	Councillor
Cabinet Member for Housing	
Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources	

East West Main Line Partnership Board

Membership 1 (1 TBC + 1 reserve)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

EWR Eastern Section Board'

Membership 1 (1 TBC + 1 reserve)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Water Resources East Strategic Advisory Group

Membership 1 (1 TBC + 1 reserve)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Flood & Water Partnership (CPFloW) (County Council)

Membership 1 (1 TBC + 1 reserve)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

The Junction

Membership 2 (1 TBC + 1 TBC)

Group	Councillor
TBC	
TBC	

Cambridge BID

Group	Councillor
TBC	

East of England Local Government Association

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Health Scrutiny Committee (County Council)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

OxCam

Group	Councillor
Leader	

LGA General Assembly

Group	Councillor
The Leader	

Local Government Information Unit

Group	Councillor
TBC	

District Councils Network (DCN)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Recycling in Cambridge and Peterborough (RECAP)

Group	Councillor
TBC	

Joint Local Planning Advisory Group (joint with South Cambs DC)

5 (2 Labour + 2 Green + 1 Lib Dem)

Group	Councillor
Labour	Wade
Labour	Griffin
Labour reserve	
Labour reserve	
Green	Bennett
Green	Clough
Green reserve	Fisher
Green reserve	Flaubert
Lib Dem	Porrer
Lib Dem reserve	Bick

Cambridge Airport consultative Committee

1 (1 TBC)

Group	Councillor
Green	Bennett

Members' support:**Health & Safety Representative (Internal liaison with Kathy Brown)**

Group	Councillor
Labour	
Lib Dem	
Green Group	

Member Training Champion (Internal liaison with Kathy Brown)

Group	Councillor
Labour	
Lib Dem	
Green Group	

Group Secretary (for general liaison in the year if required)

Group	Councillor
Labour	
Lib Dem	
Green Group	

26/53/CNL Municipal Meeting Calendar 2026/27

Resolved (39 votes to 0, with 1 Abstention) to:

- i. Approve the meeting calendar for the municipal year 2026/27.

26/54/CNL To Consider recommendations from Committees**26/55/CNL Civic Affairs & Audit Committee - Constitutional Updates**

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the following changes to the Constitution following the meeting of Civic Affairs and Audit Committee on 9 March 2026:
 - The updated member/officer protocol
 - The limited power for Cabinet to make supplementary estimates – additional revenue and capital expenditure up to a threshold, with provision to allow for reporting of decisions to Full Council.

- ii. Approve minor revisions to the terms of reference for the Equalities Panel to be renamed the Inclusion and Equity Panel.

26/56/CNL Civic Affairs & Audit Committee - Annual Civic Affairs & Audit Committee report

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve the draft Annual Civic Affairs & Audit Committee Report shown in Appendix 1 of the Officer's report.

26/57/CNL Employment Committee - Termination agreement over £100k

Resolved (unanimously) to:

- i. Approve that an individual termination cost over £100k be approved as a result of the Senior Management Review due to contractual severance.

26/58/CNL To note the officer decision - Capital Budget - Demolition of Council Owned Buildings

The decision was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.06 pm

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank

CIVIC AFFAIRS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 June 2026
5.35 - 6.42 pm

Present: Councillors McPherson (Chair), Toye Scott (Vice-Chair), Ashton, Bick (Alternate), Davison, and Taylor

In Attendance: Councillors Bennett and Flaubert

Officers:

Chief Financial Officer: Jody Etherington

Chief Audit Executive: Jonathan Tully

Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer): Dan Kalley

Democratic Services Officer: Matthew Hussey

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: Constitutional Updates:

Recommendations of the Civic Affairs & Audit Committee, which met on 22 June 2026, are outlined below:

The Committee **resolved unanimously** to approve the recommendations on to Full Council.

Accordingly, Council is recommended to:

Approve the following amendments to the Constitution following the meeting on 22 June 2026:

- As set out at Paragraph 4.1 to the report
- Additional wording to the Glossary: Main Oppositions Parties to include -
For the purposes of Cabinet speaking rights and participation in governance arrangements, any formally constituted opposition political group comprising three or more councillors shall be treated as an Opposition Group.'
- That Full Council be requested to include explicit detail on Financial Allowances in the Constitution

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TITLE: Constitution Updates

To:

Civic Affairs & Audit Committee (22 June 2026)

Report by:

Dan Kalley, Head of Governance & Democracy (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Email: dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

N/A

Director Approval: The Monitoring Officer confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the committee for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	That the Civic Affairs & Audit Committee recommend to Full Council changes to the Constitution as listed in section 4.1 of the report.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	This report outlines some minor amendments to the Constitution around speaking rights for Group Leaders at Cabinet and the guillotine in relation to formal meetings of the Council including Full Council.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	The recommendations are being presented to committee as part of agreements made between the Liberal Democrats and Labour Group in order to enable a minority administration. Full Council need to agree any changes to the Council's Constitution.
4.	Background and key issues

4.1	Details of the suggested changes are highlighted below. These are intended to acknowledge the council is in no overall control and that there is an important role to play for all opposition groups. The proposals are relatively minor and would: • extend the rights of main opposition group to the Liberal Democrat Group in addition to the Green Group, which enables speaking rights at Cabinet. • exclude breaks and Mayoral business (including speaking time of Mayor's Chaplain) from the operation of the full council guillotine. Addition to Glossary in Constitution: Main opposition parties: Where the Council operates under a minority administration, any opposition political group whose membership comprises at least 20% of the total number of councillors shall be recognised as a Main Opposition Group and shall be treated as such for all purposes relating to the Council's governance arrangements, decision-making structures, and constitutional provisions Changes to Constitution's Executive procedure rules in track changes: 4.14. Speaking Rights at Cabinet Meetings (pg 149) 4.14.1 The following have the right to speak at Cabinet meetings: a. the Leader and Cabinet; b. the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer in respect of the discharge of their statutory duties; c. the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of a report by that Committee; d. the Leader's of the Opposition Groups to the Council. 4.14.2 The person presiding may allow other persons, including other Councillors, to
-----	--

	speak at Cabinet only in relation to an item of business on the agenda. The Cabinet may take into account verbal representations made at its meeting when making decisions but must not consider any additional documentation submitted without compliance with the Access to Information Rules set out in this Constitution. 4.14.3 The person presiding has discretion to determine or limit the amount of time, and the number of times, that any member may speak on a particular item. Standing orders – Guillotine changes tracked 1.9. Duration of meeting 1.9.1 If the business of the meeting has not been concluded within three hours after the start of the meeting (excluding any period of adjournment , speaking time allocated to the Mayor’s Chaplain and Mayors Announcements at Full Council meetings), the Mayor will indicate that the time has expired and any member speaking must immediately sit down. The Mayor will call for a vote immediately on the item under discussion unless a motion to continue the meeting is moved and seconded. A motion to continue the meeting will be voted on without discussion. If the motion is passed by the majority of Councillors present, the meeting will continue for a further 30 minutes. At the end of the further period, the Mayor will indicate that the time has expired and call for a vote immediately on the item under discussion. The vote will be taken in the usual way without any further discussion.
5.	Corporate plan & vision
5.1	Changes to the constitution are made to ensure the Council’s plans and vision are carried out.
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	Civic Affairs & Audit Committee are part of the consultation process ensuring all parties have the opportunity to comment before recommendations are passed to Council for agreement.

7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	The anticipate outcomes will allow for more collaborative working between parties by extending speaking rights to all opposition group leaders at Cabinet. The excluding of breaks from the guillotine allows members further time to debate items on the agenda as part of the formal business of the Council.
8.	Implications
	Relevant risks
8.1	There are none.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
8.2	None applicable in lead up to LGR.
	Financial Implications
8.3	There are none.
	Legal Implications
8.4	None, Council can amend constitution with regards to its processes and procedures for Cabinet meetings.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	None.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications

8.6	None applicable.
	Procurement Implications
8.7	None.
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	None.
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	Constitution of Cambridge City Council.
10.	Appendices
10.1	None.
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Dan Kalley, Head of Governance and Democracy (Deputy Monitoring Officer) dan.kalley@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED GREATER CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

To:

Cllr Katie Thornburrow, Leader

Council, 16 July 2026

Report by:

David Kidston, Head of Strategy and Policy

Tel: 01223 457043 Email: david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Chief Executive Robert Pollock confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	It is recommended that Council notes the report.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	This report provides a short update for all councillors on the proposed Cambridge Development Corporation.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	No alternative options were considered, as the report relates to public consultation by government on proposals for a Greater Cambridge Development Corporation
4.	Public consultation on proposals for a Development Corporation
4.1	In February 2026 government published proposals for a centrally led Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge. The stated aim of the proposed Development Corporation is to accelerate economic growth. It is proposed to have powers and

	resources to address key constraints, including housing affordability, transport congestion and wider infrastructure capacity. The government's full proposals for a Development Corporation are published here: Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK
4.2	The government ran a consultation on the establishment of a Development Corporation between 4 February and 1 April 2026. The consultation drew 773 responses, mostly from people living or working in Greater Cambridge.
4.3	On 3 June 2026 the government published its analysis of the responses. The analysis focussed on 745 out of the total 773 responses, including responses from the following categories: 617 individuals, 40 local government bodies, 52 private sector/professional bodies, and 36 interest group/voluntary organisations. 28 responses sit outside the analysed categories. Government published its analysis here: Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK
4.4	The consultation revealed strong consensus on the scale of existing challenges. Respondents widely agreed that infrastructure delivery has been fragmented, slow and unable to keep pace with population and economic growth, particularly in transport, water, energy and social infrastructure. Housing affordability emerged as a critical issue, with supply failing to match demand despite relatively high delivery rates, particularly for social and affordable housing. Overall, there was a shared view that these constraints could undermine quality of life, limit economic potential, and threaten the area's global competitiveness, while future growth must also protect the environment, heritage and character of the region.
4.5	Overall a majority of respondents (59%) "opposed" or "mostly opposed" the creation of a centrally led Greater Cambridge Development Corporation, while 26% were "supportive" or "conditionally supportive". It is not possible to identify the percentage of people who were "conditionally supportive", as government combined "supportive" and "conditionally supportive" into a single category in the published responses
4.6	There were contrasting views on the proposed Development Corporation between different groups:

	• 49% of individuals, 47% of interest groups and voluntary organisations and 60% of local government respondents were opposed. Only 25% of individual, 25% of interest groups and voluntary organisations and 23% of local government respondents were either supportive or conditionally supportive. This was due to concerns about reduced local democratic accountability, governance complexity, and environmental risks. • 67% private sector organisations were supportive or conditionally supportive and only 8% were opposed. They tended to see a Development Corporation as a mechanism to coordinate infrastructure, unlock investment and deliver a long-term growth strategy.
4.7	Across all groups, even among supporters, there were consistent conditions: the need for strong local representation, transparency, meaningful community engagement, and clear environmental safeguards. There was also broad agreement that infrastructure-led development, sustainability, and inclusive growth should sit at the heart of the corporation's objectives.
5.	Cambridge City Council response to Development Corporation consultation
5.1	The Council submitted a response to the consultation. This was discussed at Council on 19 March 2026 and at Cabinet on 24 March prior to submission. The papers for these meetings can be viewed here: • Report to Council 19 March 2026 • Summary of comments made by Councillors at Council 19 March 2026 • Report to Cabinet 24 March 2026 • Minutes of Cabinet 24 March 2026
5.2	The Council welcomed the government commitment to additional investment in Greater Cambridge to tackle key infrastructure challenges including water scarcity, sewage capacity, electricity supply, housing affordability and transport issues. However, the Council expressed several key concerns about the proposed Development Corporation:

	• Despite the award-winning performance of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, the Development Corporation is being given exceptional powers over planning and development across a very large and mixed geography. • A lack of evidence to justify the proposal to give the Development Corporation spatial plan-making powers after the conclusion of the current emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. • A lack of evidence to justify setting the proposed threshold for the Development Corporation to determine planning applications for development of 'strategic sites' at the relatively low level of 250 or more homes or 5,000 square metres or more for new commercial buildings. • A democratic deficit. Most of the members of the Development Corporation board will be appointed by government rather than elected locally, which risks undermining local democratic oversight over where new homes and jobs come forward and reduces the ability of local people to shape the future of the area through their local councils.
6.	Government decision and next steps
6.1	In response to the consultation, the government concluded that the challenges facing Greater Cambridge require a "step change" in infrastructure delivery and confirmed its intention to establish the Development Corporation. It argued that existing arrangements cannot provide the scale of coordination, powers, and long-term investment needed, and that a centrally led body will combine national influence with local input to accelerate infrastructure and housing delivery.
6.2	The government has committed to strengthen community engagement, embed environmental and equality considerations, and ensure local leaders are represented, while maintaining that the corporation will be essential to enable sustainable, infrastructure-first growth and developing the region's national economic potential.
6.3	On 4 June 2026, the government laid a statutory instrument, The Greater Cambridge Development Corporation (Establishment) Order 2026. This order identified the 'red line' boundary as the whole of Greater Cambridge, named the urban development corporation as the 'Greater Cambridge Development Corporation' and noted that it will be governed

	by Schedule 26 to the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. The Order was scrutinised by a House of Commons committee on 8th July and will be considered by the House of Lords before it rises on 23 July. The Order is expected to come into force on 23rd July 2026. Further legislation will follow in the Autumn to provide the ‘Powers and Functions’ the Development Corporation will require to operate, including conferring plan-making and development management powers.
6.4	The Council has used the relatively limited influence it has during the parliamentary process to raise our concerns about the establishment of the Development Corporation: • The Leader met the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Matthew Pennycook in June, along with the Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, to raise concerns. • The Council has briefed peers and MPs from all parties to raise the Council’s concerns through the parliamentary process. Lord Andrew Lansley tabled a non-fatal Regret Motion in the House of Lords¹ on 10 June.
6.5	Officers continue to liaise with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Cambridge Growth Company about the impact of the Development Corporation on the shared Planning Service and will monitor the development of the further legislation expected in the autumn.
6.6	Following a public recruitment process, David Hill has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. David’s background and the announcement can be found here: David Hill appointed as new CEO to lead Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. This appointment is expected to be confirmed by the Interim Board of the Development Corporation at its inaugural meeting.

¹ [Motion of Regret on a Statutory Instrument - House of Lords Business - UK Parliament](#).

6.7	The Development Corporation may hold an interim Board meeting once the Order comes into force, expected on 23 July, in order to put in place essential governance arrangements (finance, legal etc., interim Board members).
7.	Vision and Corporate Plan
7.1	The establishment of a Development Corporation links to the following elements of the council's Vision: • Decarbonisation and sustainability are central to prosperity • Innovation benefits people and planet • Development is sustainable and inclusive • Democratic accountability is genuine and accessible It also links to these priorities in the Corporate Plan 2022-2027: • Leading Cambridge's response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies and creating a net zero council by 2030 • Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness
8.	Consultation, engagement and communication
8.1	See 4.2 – 4.7 in this report for a summary of the responses to the government consultation on the establishment of a Development Corporation
9.	Implications
9.1	Relevant risks
	No direct risks from this report. As noted at 5.2 above, if the Development Corporation is established by Parliament as an entity, and subsequent legislation is introduced in the Autumn, plan-making powers (following the conclusion of the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan) and the ability to determine planning applications for 'strategic sites' (250 or more homes) will transfer from Greater Cambridge planning authorities to the Development Corporation. This will impact on the council's ability to directly shape where homes and jobs come forward in Cambridge and will negatively affect the capacity and capability of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service in future.

	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
9.2	No direct implications. A Government decision on which proposal for unitary councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be implemented is expected before the Commons recess on 16 July 2026. Any new unitary council that includes Cambridge will need to work closely with the Development Corporation in future. The consultation notes that if a new unitary for Greater Cambridge is established on a different geographical footprint than the current proposed Development Corporation, the Development Corporation's geography may need to be adjusted to bring it into line.
	Financial Implications
9.3	No direct impact from this report. The establishment of a centrally led Urban Development Corporation with planning powers could have potentially harmful effects on the financial sustainability and resilience of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.
	Legal Implications
9.4	No direct impact from this report.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
9.5	No direct impact from this report. Responsibility for completing an EQIA rests with MHCLG.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
9.6	No direct implications from this report.
	Procurement Implications
9.7	No direct implications from this report.
	Community Safety Implications
9.8	No direct implications from this report.
10.	Background documents

10.1	• MHCLG Consultation paper Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK • MHCLG analysis of consultation responses: Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK • Report to Council 19 March 2026 • Summary of comments made by Councillors at Council 19 March 2026 • Report to Cabinet 24 March 2026 • Minutes of Cabinet 24 March 2026
11.	Appendices
11.1	None
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact David Kidston, Head of Strategy and Policy, tel: 01223 457043, email: david.kidston@cambridge.gov.uk



REPORT TITLE: Update on Local Government Reorganisation

To: Council, 16 July 2026

Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor Katie Thornburrow, Leader of the Council

Report by:

Rachel Kamall, LGR Implementation Lead

Email: Rachel.kamall@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected: None

Director Approval: The Chief Executive confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Council for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	It is recommended that Council: 1. Notes the progress made since the Council's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposal was submitted to the Secretary of State. 2. Notes the arrangements now in place to support preparation, programme assurance and transition planning. 3. Notes that a report will be brought in September 2026 with more detail on the legislative process to implement LGR, including the establishment of Joint Committees
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a concise update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) work since the Option B proposal was submitted in November 2025. No substantive decision is sought at this stage. The report summarises current discovery workstreams, programme mobilisation, onboarding of key capacity, early work to feed into government requests regarding the

	Structural Changes Order (SCO), and the forward look to September 2026. It is intended as a high-level briefing for all Councillors, including those who have been recently elected and therefore have not previously been involved in LGR discussions.
3.	Background and key issues
3.1	Cambridge City Council has previously considered reports on LGR on 17 March, 24 July and 20 November 2025. These reports set out the context for Government's invitation to submit proposals, the options being developed across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the Council's preferred proposal.
3.2	In December 2024, the Government published its White Paper on English Devolution, which requires all remaining two-tier local government areas to reorganise into unitary authorities. A unitary council is responsible for both city/district-level services, such as housing, planning, waste collection and environmental health, and county-level services, such as adult social care, children's services, education, highways and waste disposal. The government's intention is to create stronger local councils, that are better able to drive economic growth, improve local public services, and empower local communities.
4.1.3	On 5 February 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution invited councils to develop proposals to establish unitary authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. On 28 November 2025 the 7 existing councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted 4 different proposals to government to create unitary authorities in the area. Cambridge City Council (along with South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire District Councils) supported the 'Option B' proposal, which would create two new unitary councils: • A Greater Cambridge unitary council, covering the current geography of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District. • A North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough unitary council, covering the current geography of Peterborough City and the districts of East Cambridgeshire, Fenland

	and Huntingdonshire. As part of the proposal development the public and business were consulted and provided extensive feedback. More than two thirds of respondents, 69%, supported a new unitary council for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (read the report, or the highlights).
4.1.4	Government carried out a statutory public consultation on all four options from 5 February to 26 March 2026, including consultation with stakeholders and residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The final decision on which option will proceed will be made by the Secretary of State (SoS). The implementing legislation will be subject to Parliamentary approval. The SoS is expected to announce his decision before recess on 16 July 2026.
4.1.5	Since the submission of proposals, the focus of the Council's work has moved from proposal development to implementation readiness. This does not pre-empt any Government decision. It is intended to ensure that the Council understands the practical implications of LGR, can plan responsibly with partners. The key principle for transition is that it must be as seamless as possible for residents: statutory services must continue and must remain safe and legal.
4.1.6	The next stages in the LGR process are: • Preparation of the Structural Change Order (SCO) in autumn 2026 - the Parliamentary legislation that will create the new unitary councils. • Approval of the SCO by Parliament in early 2027 • Shadow authority elections in May 2027 • Vesting day on 4 April 2028, at which point all current Councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be abolished and the new unitary councils will begin operating. More information can be found at MHCLG Implementation Guidance (See background documents)
4.2	Implementation Programme mobilisation

4.2.1	Work has begun to establish a proportionate LGR implementation programme across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in line with best practice. This includes programme governance arrangements, reporting lines, risk management, dependencies and routes for Member oversight.
4.2.2	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils recruited a joint LGR Programme Director (Sarah Reed), who started in post in March 2026. She has established a Programme Management Office (PMO) to help deliver the collective LGR programme on behalf of all seven councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and reports to a Board made up of all CEOs, which is overseen by council Leaders. The PMO will coordinate reporting functions across the different LGR workstreams, strengthen programme governance, and align work with partner authorities. Staff have recently been recruited on secondment from partner councils to fill 9 programme management posts to provide capacity to support the implementation programme.
4.2.3	Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have also appointed a joint LGR Programme Implementation Lead (Rachel Kamall) to coordinate and manage the transition programme across the two councils. The joint Implementation Lead is working closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LGR Director and PMO.
4.3	Discovery workstreams
4.3.1	Discovery work is underway to establish a clear picture of the current services provided by the existing councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and identify the main issues that would need to be addressed as part of implementing new unitary authorities. The 9 workstreams currently active are: • Adult's services – including commissioning. • Children's services – including commissioning. • Communications and engagement – both internal and external. • Finance, contracts, assets, pensions, audit and trading companies. • Governance, democracy, civic and elections. • Housing and communities.

	• ICT / Digital and customer services. • Place (environment, transport, regulatory). • Workforce and people.
4.3.2	Each workstream is being led by one of the council Chief Executives, with senior officer representatives from all of the 7 councils. Senior officers are leading the Communications and Engagement, and the Governance, Democracy, Civic, and Elections workstreams.
4.3.3	Each workstream has developed and progressed a programme for the initial discovery phase. Once a decision on the geography of the new unitary authorities has been made the workstreams will begin work to define and development outline implementation plans.
4.4	Structural Change Order (SCO)
4.4.1	The Structural Change Order (SCO) is the legislation that the Secretary of State will use to create the new councils and set out the transition arrangements. The SCO is expected to cover local authority names, boundaries, electoral arrangements, vesting day, abolition of predecessor councils, establishment of joint committees, shadow elections, appointment of executive and statutory officers, and transfer of staff, assets and liabilities. In Cambridgeshire the estimated date for the draft SCO to be issued is September 2026 and it is expected to be approved by Parliament in early 2027.
4.4.2	As in previous reorganisations, Government intends to issue directions under section 24 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to ensure that existing councils make decisions that are in the best interests of the new councils and residents and do not undermine the financial position of the new councils. This is known as a 'Section 24 Order'. It is likely to come into force at the same time as the SCO. It could affect major decisions about assets, land disposals, procurements and contracts, but it would not affect statutory services, routine operational spending or existing programmes.
4.5	Transition periods and implementation bodies
4.5.1	It is likely that there will be two statutory transition periods, with the detailed arrangements set out in the area's SCO:

	• Joint Committees will be established in each of the future unitary areas to make decisions on the transition to the shadow authorities. The Joint Committees would be in place from the SCO coming into force to inaugural elections. Representation on the Joint Committee will be set out in the SCO. For Greater Cambridge, the working assumption is that a Joint Committee could include 4 County Councillors, 2 South Cambridgeshire District Councillors and 2 Cambridge City Councillors. • Shadow Councils/Shadow Executives would be established after the inaugural elections in May 2027 and would make transition decisions through until vesting day – the reorganisation date. The Shadow Councils will be made up of councillors elected at the inaugural elections.
4.5.2	In practice, the timing of the SCO and the inaugural elections mean that formal Joint Committees may only exist for a short period. Consequently, MHCLG's expectation is that predecessor councils will establish voluntary Joint Committees before the SCO comes into force, mirroring the governance arrangements that will later be required. An additional paper will be brought forward through the appropriate governance route in September for agreement on the Terms of Reference for the voluntary joint committees. These voluntary committees will become the Joint committees soon after the SCO is approved by Parliament and are expected to be established to steer transition until shadow authorities are elected.
4.5.3	Predecessor councils (including Cambridge City Council) will continue to operate in parallel to the voluntary Joint Committees, formal Joint Committees and Shadow Councils. The predecessor councils will retain their legal powers and responsibilities for business-as-usual service delivery up to vesting day, while preparing to transfer all assets, functions and staff to the unitary councils on vesting day
5.	Corporate plan and Council Vision
5.1	LGR has potential implications for all Council priorities because it could change the structure through which local services are planned, funded and delivered. Officers will

	ned to consider the implications for the Corporate Plan and Council Vision as part of the work happening across the region to establish the new unitary councils.
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	A communications and engagement plan is being developed as part of the programme. This will set out how Members, staff, Trade Unions, partners, residents and businesses will be kept informed as the programme moves from the discovery phase into more detailed planning.
6.2	MHCLG carried out public consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LGR options from 5 February until 26 March 2026. Since the submission of the Option B LGR proposal, local engagement has focused on officer mobilisation, programme planning, Member briefing and partner authority discussions. From July onwards officers will provide monthly all member briefing sessions for Cambridge City Councillors
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	The immediate outcome of this report is that Members have a shared understanding of the current LGR position, the expected national timetable, and the work underway locally. The wider intended outcome is that the Council is prepared to respond to Government decisions, maintain safe and legal services, understand risks and opportunities, and represent Cambridge's interests through any transition process.
8.	Implications
8.1	Relevant risks
	The main risks at this stage are uncertainty about the Government's decision on the geography of future unitary councils and the implementation timetable; pressure on officer capacity; dependencies with partner authorities; incomplete or inconsistent baseline data; potential constraints from any future Section 24 order; and the need to maintain business-

	as-usual delivery throughout transition planning. These risks are being captured through programme governance and will be reported in more detail in September.
	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
8.2	This report is directly concerned with LGR. It does not commit the Council to any further decision beyond noting current progress. Future decisions required may include any appointments to joint committees or responses to SCO consultation, which will be brought forward through the appropriate governance route.
	Financial Implications
8.3	There are no direct financial decisions arising from this update report. Discovery work will include assessment of transition costs, programme resourcing, reserves, assets, liabilities, contracts, pensions, audit, trading companies, potential savings or benefits and financial risks. Finance colleagues are being engaged through the relevant programme workstream.
	Legal Implications
8.4	There are no direct legal decisions arising from this report. Legal input is required for the SCO workstream, any Section 24 implications, joint committee arrangements, shadow authority arrangements, transfers of staff/assets/liabilities and future Council decisions.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.5	No decision is being sought that directly changes services or policy at this stage. Equalities and socio-economic impacts will need to be considered throughout the programme, particularly where future work may affect service access, customer journeys, democratic representation, workforce matters or community engagement
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications

8.6	There are no direct environmental implications from this update report. Future work will consider implications for environmental services, estates, transport, procurement and climate commitments where relevant.
	Procurement Implications
8.7	There are no direct procurement implications from this update report. Discovery may identify contracts and procurement activity that could be affected by LGR, including any decisions that may require consent under future transition arrangements. Once Government issues the Section 24 Order, the Council's ability to enter into contracts will be constrained and may require written consent from the Shadow Authority. It is expected that the threshold will be £1,000,000 for capital and £100,000 for non-capital (whole life costs).
	Community Safety Implications
8.8	There are no direct community safety implications from this report. Future work will consider any implications for community safety partnerships, regulatory services and emergency planning as appropriate.
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
9.1	• Cambridge City Council, Local Government Reorganisation, Extraordinary Council, 17 March 2025. • Cambridge City Council, Update on Local Government Reorganisation, Council, 24 July 2025. • Cambridge City Council, Local Government Reorganisation Proposals, Council and Cabinet, 20 November 2025. • Option B proposal for Local Government Reorganisation, submitted to the Secretary of State • MHCLG: Local government reorganisation: implementation guidance

10.	Appendices
10.1	None
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Rachel Kamall, LGR Programme Implementation Lead, rachel.kamall@cambridge.gov.uk